



County of Santa Cruz

Accepted and filed
02/06/2018 DOC-2018-98
Board of Supervisors

SENIORS COMMISSION

701 OCEAN ST. RM 510, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95060
(831) 454-2355 FAX (831) 454-3463

LYNN MCKIBBIN, CHAIR

2016-2017 BIENNIAL REPORT

ROLES OF THE COMMISSION

1. Advise the Board of Supervisors on all matters affecting senior citizens and make recommendations to the County Administrative Officer and the Board of Supervisors on any senior citizens program proposal to be considered by the Board of Supervisors.
2. Review the needs of senior citizens in the county, and develop a set of comprehensive goals and objectives for effectively meeting those needs.
3. Monitor the various services made available to senior citizens by public and private agencies in Santa Cruz County to ensure efficient delivery of those services.
4. Communicate with federal and state agencies and commissions serving senior citizens, and assist in the preparation, implementation and review of any regional plan or program designed to serve senior citizens.

MEETING DATES, TIMES AND LOCATIONS

Seniors Commission meetings were held on the third Tuesday of every other month (February, April, June, August, and October) from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Regional Transportation Commission offices at 1523 Pacific Avenue, Santa Cruz or the County Government Center at 701 Ocean Street.

In August of 2017 the Commission held a day long Retreat at the United Way of Santa Cruz County. Items covered during the Retreat included the history of the Commission, Commissioner duties and responsibilities, past activities and brainstorming of goals for 2018 – 2019.

COMMISSION STRUCTURE

The Seniors Commission is composed of ten voting members, two appointed by each of the five Supervisors. There is one *ex officio* member representing the California Senior Legislature (CSL). The Commissioners as of December 31, 2017 were:

- 1st District: Michael Lewis, Lynne Simpson
- 2nd District: Jeana De la Torre, Clyde Lawrence
- 3rd District: Al Walters, Lois Sones
- 4th District: Louis Tuosto, Fred Martinez

SENIORS COMMISSION BIENNIAL REPORT 2016–2017

PAGE 2

5th District: Lynn McKibbin, Carol Childers

California Senior Legislature (CSL): Charles Molnar

The Commissioner(s) that completed their terms, resigned, or were replaced during the 2016-2017 reporting period were Charles Levine, Harold Raphael, George “Bud” Winslow, Audrenne (Audie) Henry, Shirlee Byrd and Belle Pimentel. Charles Molnar resigned from the Commission but continues to be a longterm member of CSL and represents CSL at Commission meetings.

COMMISSION STAFF

The Commission was staffed by Aimee Mangan from the Personnel Department.

ATTENDANCE

Please see attached attendance report.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR 2016-2017

I. Seniors Services

The Commission heard reports from Community Agencies, County programs and other interested entities:

- Area Agency on Aging Updates – Patty Talbott and Clay Kempf, Seniors Council
- California Senior Legislature – Commissioners Molnar
- Metro Services – John Daugherty, Accessible Services Coordinator
- Metro Services – Barrow Emerson, Planning and Development Manager
- TimeBank Santa Cruz – Bonnie Linden, Director
- Regional Transportation Commission Unified Corridor Survey Update – Grace Blakeslee, Spokesperson

Commissioners served as members and/or liaisons to the following Countywide commissions or committees:

- IHSS Advisory Committee - Commissioner Levine
- IHSS Advisory Committee – Commissioner Sones
- Human Care Alliance - Commissioner Levine

SENIORS COMMISSION BIENNIAL REPORT 2016–2017

PAGE 3

Commissioners attended and participated in many community meetings that focus on or relate to issues affecting Seniors. Commissioner Childers is a Meal Site Manager for Meals on Wheels, a former Board member for the Alzheimer's Association, and a volunteer baker who bakes free birthday cakes for underserved populations within the community. Commissioner Childers also participates in Senior Roundtables, the Seniors Council, and the Commission on Long-Term Care. Commissioner Sones is the Program Director for Elderday, and she participates in the Seniors Roundtable and serves on the IHSS Advisory Commission. Commissioner De la Torre participates in AARP, the Human Care Alliance and goes to board meetings at her senior mobile home park. Commissioner Lewis regularly attends the Mobile and Manufactured Commission meetings and provides relevant updates to the Commission. Commissioner Walters is an active volunteer driver for Gray Bears. Commissioner McKibbin serves on the Board of Directors for the Retired Public Employees Association and is active in the Homeless Garden Project. Commissioner Tuosto serves on the Area Agency on Aging Advisory Council.

Commissioners assisted the Seniors Council in distributing senior needs assessments surveys through Gray Bears in geographical locations such as the San Lorenzo Valley to ensure adequate representation throughout the County.

The Commission endorsed the 2017 Solutions Summit that the Seniors Council held in October. Multiple Commissioners participated in the Summit and are continuing to be engaged in work groups that have emerged from the Summit and provide updates on these at Commission meetings.

II. Senior Housing

Mark Trabing with Habitat for Humanity discussed a new pilot program- ADUs (Accessory Dwelling Units) for seniors that are on limited incomes within the City of Santa Cruz. He distributed brochures titled "The Keys to Aging in Place" that provide information about this pilot program.

The Commission also began to discuss aging in place laws and regulations at their Retreat and recently began exploring age friendly communities.

III. Transportation

The Commission wrote a support letter to the Board of Supervisors for the Regional Transportation Commission's Transportation Improvement Plan (TRIP) with maximized

SENIORS COMMISSION BIENNIAL REPORT 2016–2017

PAGE 4

funding for essential services for seniors.

Multiple Commissioners attended Metro hearings in 2016 to advocate for senior services.

Commissioner Levine continued efforts to get low income and vulnerable populations free to low cost transportation.

IV. Legislative Review

- A. Charles Molnar, member of the California Senior Legislature (CSL), participated in the Seniors Commission as an ex officio member and provided reports on the progress of the CSL top priorities and provided information on the legislative committee hearings on Senior legislation.

V. Nutrition

- A. The Commission wrote a support letter to Governor Brown for Seniors Nutrition Funding.

VI. Advocacy

- A. The Commission wrote a support letter to Senator Todd regarding SB 202 which will increase the personal needs allowance for Medi-Cal eligible individuals living in institutional settings from \$35 a month to \$80.
- B. Commissioners met with their Supervisor to advocate for amending the Elder Abuse and Dependent Adult Civil Protection Act.
- C. Commissioners wrote a support letter regarding Financial Elder Abuse (SP-7) to the Board.
- D. Commissioners wrote a support letter to maintain funding for the State Health Insurance and Assistance Program (HICAP) to the Board.
- E. Commissioners wrote to Senator Mitchell and Assemblyman Joaquin Arambula urging them to support the CSL Temporary Funding Request and Carryover Request.

VII. Bylaw Amendments

- A. The Commission approved proposed amendments to their by-laws in December 2017.

SENIORS COMMISSION BIENNIAL REPORT 2016-2017

PAGE 5

VIII. Outreach

- A. Commissioners actively recruited to fill vacancies on the Commission. In person orientations were provided to new Commissioners to enhance their efficacy and understanding of the Commission and their role.
- B. The Commission updated their brochure.

FUTURE GOALS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- ❖ The Commission will perform outreach and advocacy activities within the community through participating in local events relating to the purpose and scope of the Commission to increase visibility of the Commission and awareness of issues that impact seniors.
- ❖ The Commissioners will engage with elected officials at least once annually to create an ongoing dialogue about the challenges and issues that impact seniors through letters, emails, scheduling meetings with their District's Supervisor, and inviting the Supervisors' participation in senior events.
- ❖ Promoting "Age Friendly Communities" will be the primary priority and area of focus for the Commission's activities over the next two years, with various related sub-issues being addressed through sub-committee projects and events, including Housing, Transportation, Public Guardianship, Age in Place Laws, and End of Life Issues. The Commission endeavors to enhance the public's awareness of these issues as they relate to seniors through improved communication, coordination, and collaborations with local organizations and agencies to maximize the impact of their advocacy efforts through collective action and to minimize redundant activities.

The Seniors Commission reviewed this annual report at its meeting on December 19, 2017.

Submitted:



Britt Harmssen, Esq.
EEO Officer

1/29/2018
Date

Santa Cruz County Seniors' Commission Attendance 2016

Name	Feb	May	June	Aug	Oct
Charles Molnar, Dist 1	X	X	X	E	X
Harold Raphael, Dist 1	A	X	X	X	X
Audrenne Henry, Dist 2	X	X	X	X	X
Clyde Lawrence, Dist 2	X	X	E	E	X
Charles Levine, Dist 3	X	X	X	X	X
Shirlee Byrd, Dist 3	X	X	X	E	E
Lou Tuosto, Dist 4	X	X	E	E	X
Vacancy Dist 4					
Lynn Mckibbin, Dist 5	E	E	X	X	X
Carol Childers, Dist 5	X	X	X	X	X
Vacancy, CSL					

Santa Cruz County Seniors' Commission Attendance 2017

Name	Feb	April	June	Aug	Oct	Dec
Charles Molnar, Dist 1	X	R	No quorum	No meeting (retreat)	-	-
Lynne Simpson, Dist 1					X	X
Harold Raphael, Dist 1	X	X			-	-
Michael Lewis, Dist 1					X	A
Jeana De la Torre, Dist 2	X	X			X	X
Clyde Lawrence, Dist 2	X	X			X	X
Al Walters, Dist 3	-	-			X	E
Lois Sones, Dist 3	-	-			X	X
Lou Tuosto, Dist 4	A	X			X	X
Fred Martinez, Dist 4	-	-			-	A
Lynn Mckibbin, Dist 5	X	X			E	X
Carol Childers, Dist 5	X	X			X	X
Charles Molnar, CSL	-	-			X	X

X= present A= absence E= excused absence dash (-) =not on commission R= resigned