



# Santa Cruz County Seniors Commission

701 Ocean Street, Room 510, Santa Cruz, CA 95060  
P: (831) 454-2772 F: (831) 454-2411 TTY/TDD 711  
commissions@santacruzcounty.us  
www.sccseniors.org

## Meeting Minutes

DATE: Tuesday, June 21, 2022

TIME: 12:30 PM

LOCATION: Remote Meeting

PRESENT: Dena Taylor (1<sup>st</sup> District), Antonio Rivas (*Vice Chair - 2<sup>nd</sup> District*), Mark Johannessen (*2<sup>nd</sup> District*), Lois Sones (*3<sup>rd</sup> District*), Enda Brennan (*3<sup>rd</sup> District*), Patricia Fohrman (*4<sup>th</sup> District*), Carol Childers (*Chair - 5<sup>th</sup> District*), Lynn McKibbin (*5<sup>th</sup> District*)

EXCUSED: None

ABSENT: None

STAFF: Kaite McGrew (*Commissions Manager*), Mitsuno Baurmeister (*EEO Officer*)

GUESTS: Jamie Sehorn (*District 1 Analyst*), Steven Matzie (*LTC Ombudsman Coordinator*), Alicia Morales (*HSD Social Services Division Director*), Corey Azevedo (Senior Network Services) and one member of the public was present.

1. Call to Order/Roll Call/Agenda Review

Meeting convened at 12:32 PM.

2. **Motion to Approve April 19, 2022 Meeting Minutes**

Motion to approve minutes.

Motion/Second: McKibbin/Taylor

**Motion passed unanimously.**

Sones arrived.

3. Public Comment: None

4. New Business/Action Items:

4.1. Live Oak Senior Center Eviction Update

Sehorn reported that Senior Network Services and Meals on Wheels were given six months to move out of their Live Oak facility as of May 2022 so the Live Oak School District could build teacher housing at that location. The County volunteered to partner with the school district to achieve resolution and Supervisor Koenig met frequently with key stakeholders. Senior Network Services will present a proposal to take over liability for building repairs at the next Live Oak School District meeting on June 29, 2022. Commissioners are encouraged to attend.

Brennan arrived.

4.2. Long Term Care Ombudsman Program

Matzie provided an overview of the role of the Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program (Advocacy, Inc.) which received no CORE funding this year, substantially limiting their ability to serve some of the County's most vulnerable residents. The program is extremely effective with a resolution rate of about 65%. Commission discussed potential opportunities for advocacy and support.

#### 4.3. County Social Services Overview

Morales provided an overview of changes to the County's Human Services Department - Adult and Long-Term Care (ALTC) Division providing a continuum of safety net services for older adults and persons with disabilities including the IHSS program, Adult Protective Services (APS), TLC (Transforming Lives Through Care) case management program, Veterans Services office, and recently, the Public Guardian Team.

A Governance Board was established to implement the Master Plan for Aging in the areas of housing, healthcare, inclusion/equity, non-isolation, work, protection, caregiving, and income security. A County-wide needs assessment will be conducted to determine gaps and priorities.

The State is developing a guaranteed income pilot program and additional funding has been allocated for expansion of several programs (APS, full-scope Medi-Cal for seniors 50+ regardless of immigration status, and Cal-Fresh for seniors 55+ regardless of immigration status), as well as a reduction in share-of-cost for seniors and people with disabilities and a permanent backup provider system for the IHSS program.

Emerging issues: the two most critical issues are the increase in homelessness for seniors and the caregiving workforce shortage. Commission discussed potentially participating on the Master Plan for Aging Governance Board subcommittees as appropriate and invited Morales to return with any opportunities to support the ALTC Division's efforts.

Childers and Brennan left meeting

#### 4.4. Consider Advocacy Opportunities Related to Recruiting and Retaining IHSS Caregivers

Commission discussed opportunities to support IHSS Caregiver recruitment and retention.

Morales recommended that the Commission pend their advocacy until clear opportunities to address these complex issues become available at the State and Federal level.

#### 4.5. Assembly Bill 361 Statement of Findings

Commission considered whether to authorize meeting remotely under the provisions of AB 361 at the next meeting.

**Motion to approve statement of findings authorizing the Commission to hold their next meeting remotely under the provisions of AB 361.**

Motion/Second: Sones/Taylor

**Motion passed unanimously.**

#### 5. District Reports:

##### 5.1. District 1:

Taylor attended a variety of meetings related to issues impacting seniors, including the most recent RTC meeting, three California Department on Aging meetings, and the AAA Advisory Commission meeting.

##### 5.2. District 2:

Johannessen reported that several programs essential to seniors are not receiving CORE funding this year (suicide prevention, Meals on Wheels, and Advocacy Inc.). Commissioners are encouraged to attend budgeting meetings to advocate on behalf of these programs.

Sones left the meeting

#### 6. Adjournment:

Meeting adjourned at 1:55 PM for lack of quorum.

Respectfully submitted by: Kaite McGrew, *Commissions Manager*