



# Santa Cruz County Seniors Commission

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## Meeting Minutes

DATE: Tuesday, April 16, 2024  
TIME: 12:30 PM  
LOCATION: United Way, 4450 Capitola Road, Ste 106, Capitola CA 95010  
PRESENT: Suzanne Doty (*Vice Chair - 1<sup>st</sup> District*), Mark Johannessen (*2<sup>nd</sup> District*), Antonio Rivas (*2<sup>nd</sup> District*), Alicia Rodriguez (*3<sup>rd</sup> District*), Patricia Fohrman (*4<sup>th</sup> District*), Katie Limas (*4<sup>th</sup> District*), Carol Childers (*Chair - 5<sup>th</sup> District*),  
EXCUSED: Lois Sones (*3<sup>rd</sup> District*)  
ABSENT: Dena Taylor (*1<sup>st</sup> District*)  
STAFF: Kaite McGrew (*Commissions Manager*)  
GUESTS: Vanessa Segura (*Marketing and Communications Associate, HPC*), John Beleutz (*HPC Executive Director*), Clay Kempf (*AAA/Seniors Council Executive Director*) and no members of the public were present.

1. Call to Order/Roll Call/Agenda Review

Meeting convened at 12:33 PM.

Commission welcomed new District 3 Commissioner Alicia Rodriguez.

Items 4.1 and 4.2 were reordered to accommodate speaker scheduling.

2. **Motion to Approve February 20, 2024 Meeting Minutes**

Motion to approve minutes as written.

Motion/Second: Doty/Johannessen

**Motion passed unanimously.**

3. Public Comment: None

4. New Business/Action Items:

**4.1. Enhanced Care Management (ECM) and Multi-purpose Senior Services Programs (MSSPs)**

Beleutz and Segura explained the care management programs that the Health Projects Center (HPC) administers for Medi-Cal, including MSSP and ECM. MSSP offers various support services (medically tailored meals, home repairs, emergency response devices, and help with financial assistance applications.) to seniors who would otherwise need skilled nursing facilities. ECM is part of the State's Master Plan for Aging to provides comprehensive care management and home and community-based services for eligible Medi-Cal members at no cost. All Medi-Cal recipients now have access to an expanded benefits package, including many MSSP services and a social worker for service coordination. Currently, about 90% of those eligible in Santa Cruz County are not yet enrolled. Additionally, HPC runs the Del Mar Caregiver Resource Center, to support family caregivers with information and resources.

Rivas arrived.

**4.2. Senate Bill 1249 – Older Americans Act**

Kempf outlined Seniors Council opposition to proposed changes to SB-1249 (Older Americans Act). The original act funds support services and mandates an Area Agency on Aging (AAA) in every county. Proposed amendments invite Counties to take over AAAs from NPOs without justification; gives the state control over discretionary funds; and alters the interstate funding formula. The Seniors Council believes these changes could undermine effective senior service and advocacy.

**Motion authorizing the Chair to send a letter advocating with the Board to oppose SB 1249 as proposed.**

Motion/Second: Rivas/Doty

**Motion passed unanimously.**

4.3. Election of Officers

**Motion to Elect Commissioner Doty as Commission Chair**

Motion/Second: Childers/Rivas

**Motion passed unanimously.**

**Motion to elect Commissioner Johannessen as Vice Chair**

Motion/Second: Childers/Johannessen

Ayes: Doty, Johannessen, Childers

Noes: Rivas, Rodriguez, Fohrman, Limas

**Motion failed.**

**Motion to elect Commissioner Limas as Vice Chair**

Motion/Second: Rivas/Limas

Ayes: Rivas, Rodriguez, Fohrman, Limas

Noes: Doty, Johannessen, Childers

**Motion passed.**

4.4. Consider 2025 Meeting Schedule

**Motion to approve the 2025 Meeting Schedule**

Motion/Second: Childers/Rivas

**Motion passed unanimously.**

5. District Reports:

5.1. District 1

Doty sent Mobile and Manufactured Homes Commissioner Jean Brocklebank copies of the Age Well survey for distribution in District 1 senior mobile home parks.

5.2. District 2:

Johannessen shared a draft agenda for the *2024 Solutions Summit* which will be held in both Hollister and Santa Cruz. Rivas announced Watsonville Senior Day and encouraged attendance.

5.3. District 3:

Rodriguez shared additional details about her work with the PACE program which oversees comprehensive care for 300-400 seniors with complex medical needs across three counties.

5.4. District 4:

Fohrmann reported on County efforts to support a local LGBTQ+ youth prom and encouraged Commissioners to take advantage of free public library art and literature programs.

5.5. District 5:

Childers reported that Meals on Wheels hand-delivered 526 Age Well Community Surveys.

6. Senior Legislature Report:

Rivas called for the California Senior Legislature's Henry Mello Award nominations.

7. Staff Report: None

8. Correspondence: None

9. Emerging Matters and Commissioner Announcements:

Staff will try to reserve the new Elderday facility in Watsonville for the June meeting.

10. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 2:18 PM.

Respectfully submitted by: Kaite McGrew, *Commissions Manager*