



# Santa Cruz County Seniors Commission

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## Meeting Minutes

DATE: Tuesday, June 18, 2024

TIME: 12:30 PM

LOCATION: Elderday Adult Day Health Care, 501 Main St., Watsonville, CA 95076

PRESENT: Dena Taylor (1<sup>st</sup> District), Suzanne Doty (Chair - 1<sup>st</sup> District), , Lois Sones (3<sup>rd</sup> District), Alicia Rodriguez (3<sup>rd</sup> District), Katie Limas (Vice Chair -4<sup>th</sup> District), Carol Childers (5<sup>th</sup> District)

EXCUSED: Mark Johannessen (2<sup>nd</sup> District), Patricia Fohrman (4<sup>th</sup> District)

ABSENT: Antonio Rivas (2<sup>nd</sup> District)

STAFF: Kaite McGrew (Commissions Manager)

GUESTS: No members of the public were present.

1. Call to Order/Roll Call/Agenda Review

Meeting convened at 12:38 PM.

2. **Motion to Approve April 16, 2024 Meeting Minutes**

Minutes revised to add clarifying language and eliminate a typo.

Motion to approve minutes as amended.

Motion/Second: Taylor/Childers

**Motion passed unanimously.**

3. Public Comment: None

4. New Business/Action Items:

**4.1. Consider Advocacy Opportunities for Meals on Wheels (MOW) CORE Funding**

Commission discussed recent changes to the way CORE funding carve-outs are being handled – Sones reported that MOW was defunded from the main budget and retroactively included in a carve-out, however the new carveouts do not include any safety net programs, including MOW. This development will result in extreme hardship to an already overburdened program. Meals on Wheels is unique in that they not only deliver food to homebound seniors, but also perform wellness assessments while there to ensure that residents needing additional care management are timely referred to appropriate services before their situations become life threatening. Santa Cruz County is one of the few Counties that have not needed a wait list yet.

**Motion authorizing the Chair to send a letter advocating with the Board to include Meals on Wheels in funding carved out for safety net programs and that these carveouts remain consistent.**

Motion/Second: Sones/Taylor

**Motion passed unanimously.**

**4.2. Solutions Summit Follow-Up**

Commission discussed the upcoming Solutions Summit. Sones reported that the County is planning to take over management of the Solutions Summit process from the Area Agency on Aging, effectively shifting it from a community event that included the County as one of many participants to a County event managed by County staff. There are concerns that this change

will negatively impact the effectiveness of the event to achieve its stated goals because The County does not serve seniors exclusively or even primarily.

#### **4.3. Master Plan for Aging Update**

Commission discussed the overlap between the Solutions Summit and the Master Plan for Aging efforts.

#### **5. District Reports**

##### **5.1. District 1**

Doty attended a successful event at the Market Street Senior Center and reported that they plan to host another in September. Taylor summarized her many recent contributions to the Retired Public Employees Newsletter.

##### **5.2. District 2: No Report**

##### **5.3. District 3:**

Rodriguez shared details about MOW waiting lists in San Benito and two webinars she attended: one related to housing and the other related to the state of the region (three counties). Staff will invite Robert Ratner (County's Housing for Health) to an upcoming meeting.

##### **5.4. District 4: No Report**

##### **5.5. District 5:**

Childers reported that AT&T's plan to eliminate land lines in District 5 is causing some concern and fire season is also concerning. Childers also shared the results of a recent survey of MOW clients which indicated that those served are generally very satisfied.

#### **6. Senior Legislature Report: None**

#### **7. Staff Report:**

Staff reported that the County Auditor and the County Assessor would attend the August meeting to present on two items of interest to seniors.

#### **8. Correspondence: None**

#### **9. Emerging Matters and Commissioner Announcements:**

Chairs will review existing Strategic Action Plan and return to a future Commission meeting with recommended amendments.

#### **10. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 2:14 PM.**

Respectfully submitted by: Kaite McGrew, *Commissions Manager*