



Santa Cruz County Seniors Commission

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Meeting Minutes

DATE: Tuesday, December 17, 2024

TIME: 12:30 PM

LOCATION: United Way, 4450 Capitola Road, Ste 106, Capitola CA 95010

PRESENT: Suzanne Doty (*Chair - 1st District*), Dena Taylor (*1st District*), Antonio Rivas (*2nd District*), Mark Johannessen (*2nd District*), Lois Sones (*3rd District*), Alicia Rodriguez (*3rd District*), Carol Childers (*5th District*)

EXCUSED: Patricia Fohrman (*4th District*), Katie Limas (*Vice Chair - 4th District*)

ABSENT: None

STAFF: Kaite McGrew (*Commissions Manager*)

GUESTS: Daniel Chavez (*Executive Director, SCHIO*) and no members of the public were present.

1. Call to Order/Roll Call/Agenda Review

Meeting convened at 12:31 PM.

2. **Motion to Approve October 15, 2024 Meeting Minutes**

Motion to approve minutes.

Motion/Second: Taylor/Sones

Motion passed unanimously.

3. Public Comment: None

4. New Business/Action Items:

4.1. Presentation: *Health Information Exchange, a Primer for Seniors*

Chavez provided an overview of the purpose and services of the Serving Communities Health Information Organization (SCHIO), an electronic health information exchange that allows health care providers and patients to appropriately access and securely share a patient's vital health information electronically. The system prioritizes accuracy, patient focus, and coordinated healthcare. Commissioners discussed access, security, data collection and sharing consent.

Rivas arrived.

4.2. Consider Advocacy Opportunities for CSL Legislative Priorities

Commission considered the top CSL legislative priorities and discussed advocacy opportunities.

Motion to establish an ad hoc Legislative Subcommittee authorized to review, prioritize, and recommend support for the top 3-5 proposed bills.

Motion/Second: Mark/Sones

Motion passed unanimously

Doty appointed Johannessen, Rodriguez, Sones, Doty and Taylor to the Ad Hoc Legislative Subcommittee

- 4.3. Consider Participation Opportunities in Future Senior Resource Fairs
Commission discussed opportunities to facilitate, support and participate in senior resource fairs throughout the County. Ideally, the senior centers would lead the efforts, and the Commission would support their efforts by liaising with the planning committees, promoting attendance and participating in their events.

Motion to form an Ad Hoc Senior Resource Fair Outreach and Planning Subcommittee authorized to contact senior centers to gauge interest, implement planning and report back to the Commission in February.

Motion/Second: Taylor/Rivas

Motion passed unanimously.

Doty appointed Taylor, Rivas, Childers, Doty, and Sones

- 4.4. Commission Strategic Action Planning for 2025
Commission discussed potential priorities for Commission in action in 2025. The Solutions Summit identified the following priorities and established the following work groups: *Reimagining Health Care, Affording Aging, Housing for all Stages and Ages, Inclusion and Equity, Not Isolation, and Caregiving that Works*. Topic will be revisited in February 2025.

4. District Reports

5.1. District 1:

Doty shared information on a balance workshop with residents in her community. Commission discussed the siloed resource sources. Taylor did a reading of an anthology featuring writings of women over 80 at the mid-county senior center.

5.2. District 2

Rivas reported on the Watsonville Senior Center Senior Action Committee's progress as they develop an Age Well Action Plan for Watsonville City. Johannessen is serving on the AAA's review committee tasked with developing the next four-year RFP. Publication is scheduled for early 2025 and Johannessen will update the Commission. Commission discussed the Live Oak Senior Center's status in the absence of funding from a bond that did not pass.

5.3. District 3:

Sones reported on CORE funding for Elderday, though Meals on Wheels got carve-out funding. The concern is that safety nets for seniors are not being reliably considered in the current CORE funding process. Rodriguez confirmed her attendance at Solutions summit meetings.

5.4. District 4: No Report

5.5. District 5: No Report

6. Senior Legislature Report: No Report

7. Staff Report:

Staff reported that the County is updating Commission web pages to a standardized template in 2025.

8. Correspondence: None

9. Emerging Matters and Commissioner Announcements: None

10. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 2:22 PM.

Respectfully submitted by: Kaite McGrew, *Commissions Manager*