



Santa Cruz County Seniors Commission

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Meeting Minutes

DATE: Tuesday, April 15, 2025

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*), Mark Johannessen (*2nd District*), Lois Sones (*3rd District*), Alicia Rodriguez (*3rd District*), Katie Limas (*Vice Chair - 4th District*), Carol Childers (*5th District*)

EXCUSED: Antonio Rivas (*2nd District*)

ABSENT: None

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

GUESTS: No members of the public were present.

1. Call to Order/Roll Call/Agenda Review

Meeting convened at 12:32 PM.

2. **Motion to Approve February 15, 2025 Meeting Minutes**

Minutes amended for clarification.

Motion to approve minutes as amended

Motion/Second: Taylor/Sones

Motion passed unanimously.

Rodriguez arrived.

3. Public Comment:

Commission welcomed new EEO Officer Tiffany Avila and thanked retiring EEO Officer Mitsuno Baurmeister for her service.

4. New Business/Action Items:

4.1. Officer Elections

Motion to re-elect Chair Doty

Motion/Second: Taylor/Sones

Motion passed unanimously

Motion to re-elect Vice Chair Limas

Motion/Second: Sones/Childers

Motion passed unanimously

4.2. Ad Hoc Senior Resource Fair Outreach and Planning Subcommittee Report

The subcommittee met with the Mid-County Senior Center regarding the upcoming Senior Resource Fair. The Commission discussed a wide range of potential vendors for the event including: Medicare and Medi-Cal facilitators; alternative transportation options (Lyft, Uber, METRO, and Paracruz); veterans organizations (Vets4Vets, Project Vet); the Volunteer Center; the District Attorney's Office; food assistance programs (HSD for CalFresh, Meals on Wheels, Grey Bears, Teen Kitchen Project, Martha's Kitchen, and Second Harvest); elder abuse resources; senior centers; the Area Agency on Aging (AAA); Senior Legal Services;

Village Santa Cruz; home repair (Damien's Ladder, Helping Hands); Hospice; HSD; MidPen Housing; the Housing Authority; Bay Area Senior Housing; Monarch Services; Adult Education (including technology); the Visiting Nurse Association (VNA); Elderday; Planned Parenthood; Salud Para La Gente; the Health Project Center (MSSP); Dignity Health's PEP; Support groups (Parkinson's disease, grief, mental health, etc.); and County Vector Control. The proposed date for the Senior Resource Fair is June 28th, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

- 4.3. Consider Advocacy Opportunities for Assisted Living Waiver Program Implementation
Commission reviewed overview information regarding the program and discussed potential advocacy opportunities. Staff will invite HSD staff to come to attend an upcoming meeting.

4. District Reports

5.1. District 1: No report

5.2. District 2

Johannessen reported on topics covered in the most recent AAA meeting including CORE funding reductions resulting in services being cut for 140 seniors; attempts to get AAA services carved out of the CORE funding process; the policy endorsement process for proposed housing projects including consideration of building criteria that advances the interests of Santa Cruz County seniors; and Project Scout staffing.

5.3. District 3:

Sones reported growing concern about the impact of recent federal funding cuts to Medicaid and Medi-Cal which now threaten essential senior services provided by many local community partners including adult day care, advanced care management, immigration status services, and others. Rodriguez had no report.

5.4. District 4:

Limas reported that the Watsonville Senior Center is holding a Senior Resource Fair at the Plaza on May 16th.

5.5. District 5:

Childers echoed Sones' concerns regarding recent federal funding cuts. For the first time in thirty-one years, Meals on Wheels has begun implementing an eligibility scale for new recipients to begin to prioritize provision of services if funding cuts make it necessary.

6. Senior Legislature Report:

Johannessen reported that the proposed CSL bills, including SP-4, are still seeking legislative sponsors, though SP-4 has generated some interest. Staff will submit the current advocacy letter to the Board as correspondence. If the bill gains sponsorship and becomes eligible for formal Commission advocacy, the Commission may submit a follow-up letter. Childers also reported the recent passing of former CSL liaison Chuck Molnar.

7. Staff Report:

Staff encouraged Commissioners to register in the County's new vendor system, *PaymentWorks*. Former EEO Officer Mitsuno Baurmeister has retired, and Tiffany Avila is now serving in the role. Rivas has been reappointed but has not yet been sworn in.

8. Correspondence: None

9. Emerging Matters and Commissioner Announcements: None

10. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 1:57 PM.

Respectfully submitted by: Kaite McGrew, *Commissions Manager*