



# 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 17, 2025

TIME: 12:30 PM

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

PRESENT: Dena Taylor (*1<sup>st</sup> District*), Suzanne Doty (*Chair - 1<sup>st</sup> District*), Antonio Rivas (*2<sup>nd</sup> District*), Lois Sones (*3<sup>rd</sup> District*), Katie Limas (*Vice Chair - 4<sup>th</sup> District*), Carol Childers (*5<sup>th</sup> District*), Roger Wapner (*5<sup>th</sup> District*)

EXCUSED: Mark Johannessen (*2<sup>nd</sup> District*), Alicia Rodriguez (*3<sup>rd</sup> District*),

ABSENT: None

STAFF: Kaite McGrew (*Commissions Manager*)

GUESTS: No members of the public were present.

1. Call to Order/Roll Call/Agenda Review

Meeting convened at 12:31 PM.

Commission welcomed new District 5 Commissioner Wapner.

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

**Motion to approve minutes**

Motion/Second: Taylor/Childers

**Motion passed unanimously.**

3. Public Comment:

4. New Business/Action Items:

4.1. Senior Resource Fair Report

Doty and Taylor shared additional detail on the upcoming Mid-County Senior Center's *Senior Resource Fair*. Staff will draft and print Commission fliers for distribution at the event.

4.2. Assisted Living Waiver Program Implementation Update

Staff reported scheduling Alicia Morales (Human Services Department Social Services Division Director) to share her insights on why Santa Cruz County is not currently part of this program, the barriers to meeting the eligibility criteria, and how the Commission can most effectively advocate for the County's inclusion.

Sones arrived.

4. District Reports

5.1. District 1

Taylor reported attending a webinar on senior homelessness hosted by Justice in Aging. She will share the presentation slides. Commissioners are invited to attend the August Commission on Disabilities meeting, where representatives from METRO Paracruz and ADARides will present on the new eligibility screening process for Paracruz. Doty had no report.

5.2. District 2

Rivas reported that the Watsonville Senior Center recently hosted a well-attended Seniors Resource Fair, featuring over 20 vendors and a variety of entertainment. At a recent Watsonville City Council meeting, funding for Meals on Wheels—originally proposed to be cut—was instead increased, following strong advocacy from Councilmembers Parker and Dutra. After considerable discussion, their efforts were instrumental in reversing the proposed reduction and securing continued support for this vital safety net service.

5.3. District 3

Sones expressed concern about Federal budget proposals currently under debate including deep cuts to Medicaid that could significantly impact programs and services for vulnerable seniors. The Commission will monitor this issue closely and consider advocating individually in opposition. In light of upcoming federal budget deadlines, staff shared potential individual advocacy opportunities for Commissioners, such as contacting their District Supervisors, distributing information from the Justice in Aging website within their communities, and sending personal letters to their legislators. Commissioners will provide updates on their efforts at the August meeting.

5.4. District 4: No report

5.5. District 5:

Childers reported that Meals on Wheels and Elderday are distributing emergency backpacks provided by the Seniors Council. In addition, the Regional Transportation Commission has launched a countywide bike purchase incentive program, “Go Bike!”, with informational fliers being included in meal deliveries. The senior lunch program is currently active at the Live Oak, London Nelson, Watsonville (administered by the City of Watsonville), and Ben Lomond Senior Centers, offering both meals and educational presentations for adults aged 60 and older. Wapner also shared more about his professional background, his interest in seniors issues at hand, and his connections within the community.

6. Senior Legislature Report

Rivas provided an update on the status of the California Senior Legislature’s proposed bills, noting that the California Legislature has formally taken up two of them: SB-239 (formerly SP-4) and SB-508, which addresses telehealth licensing exceptions for out-of-state physicians. Staff will revise the Commission’s letter to the Board of Supervisors in support of SP-4 to reflect its updated bill number, SB-239, and any status updates.

7. Staff Report: No Report

8. Correspondence: None

9. Emerging Matters and Commissioner Announcements:

Rivas announced that a federal judge has temporarily blocked the Trump administration's cuts to AmeriCorps, ordering the reinstatement of grant funding and member positions in states that sued over the cuts. Doty requested that staff invite a representative from the District Attorney’s fraud division to speak to the Commission about recent scams targeting seniors.

10. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 1:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted by: Kaite McGrew, *Commissions Manager*