



Santa Cruz County Seniors Commission

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Meeting Minutes

DATE: Tuesday, April 21, 2026

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*), Katie Limas (*Vice Chair - 4th District*), Carol Childers (*5th District*), Roger Wapner (*5th District*)

EXCUSED: None

ABSENT: None

STAFF: Kaite McGrew (*Commissions Manager*)

GUESTS: Amanda Gullings (*Emergency Services Analyst*), Kendra Webster (*County Access and Functional Needs Coordinator*) and one member of the public were present.

1. Call to Order/Roll Call/Agenda Review

Meeting convened at 12:31 PM.

2. **Motion to Approve February 17, 2026 Meeting Minutes**

Motion to approve minutes as written.

Motion/Second: Sones/Wapner

Motion passed unanimously.

3. Public Comment

4. New Business/Action Items:

4.1. Disaster Response and Recovery for Older Adults Presentation

Gullings and Webster presented on the importance of emergency preparedness for seniors and outlined emergency notification systems and other resources for seniors.

4.2. Officer Elections

Motion to elect Childers Commission Chair and Johannessen Vice Chair

Motion/Second: Wapner/Rivas

Motion passed unanimously.

4.3. Consider 2027 Meeting Schedule

Motion to approve the 2027 Meeting Schedule

Motion/Second: Limas/Johannessen

Motion passed unanimously.

4.4. BHSA Integrated Plan Advocacy

Commission reviewed a call for action to advocate for seniors programs in the County's *Behavioral Health Services Integrated Plan*. Although the deadline for feedback to the

Behavioral Health Advisory Commission has passed, the Commission discussed advocating directly with the Board for increased considerations.

Motion to establish an Ad Hoc BHSA Integrated Plan Advocacy Subcommittee to draft and submit an advocacy letter to the Board.

Motion/Second: Rivas/Sones

Motion passed unanimously.

Chair appointed Childers, Johannessen, and Wapner.

5. District Reports

5.1. District 1: No Report

5.2. District 2

Rivas reported that the Watsonville Senior Center has been working with the Watsonville City Council to develop a draft "Age Friendly Watsonville Plan". Commission will review the plan when finalized. Johannessen gave an update on SB-1249 which, if passed, would allow Counties to take over administration of area agencies on aging. Additionally, he requested that the Commission consider how best to advocate for an actionable implementation plan for the Master Plan for Aging. Johannessen shared his experience at an assisted living facility in Sacramento where virtual reality was being used therapeutically with seniors to delay or prevent cognitive decline and social isolation.

5.3. District 3

Sones shared senior data from a fact sheet recently published by the Seniors Council. (Older Americans Act funding,

5.4. District 4: No Report

5.5. District 5: No Report

6. Senior Legislature Report:

Rivas summarized a senior housing policy being developed by the California Senior Legislature (CSL) that would require new housing developments to have a certain percentage of housing units be earmarked specifically for seniors. Commission will consider recommending priorities for proposed legislation.

7. Staff Report: No Report

8. Correspondence: None

9. Emerging Matters and Commissioner Announcements: None

10. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 2:41 PM.

Respectfully submitted by:

Kaite McGrew, *Commissions Manager*