



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@santacruzcountyca.gov

www.sccseniors.org

Notice of Public Meeting and Agenda

DATE Tuesday, June 18, 2024
TIME: 12:30 PM – 2:30 PM
LOCATION: **Elderday Adult Day Health Care Community Room**
501 Main Street, Watsonville, CA 95076
(Entrance is around the corner on West Lake Avenue under a red awning)

****As a courtesy to those who are affected, kindly attend the meeting *scent-free* and *smoke-free*.****

AGENDA

1. Call to Order/Roll Call/Agenda Review
2. Approval of *April 16, 2024 Meeting Minutes*
3. Public Comment
Any member of the public may address the Commission for a period not to exceed 3 minutes on any issue within the jurisdiction of the Commission not on the agenda.
4. New and Continuing Business/Action Items:
 - 4.1. Consider Advocacy Opportunities for Meals on Wheels CORE Funding
 - 4.2. Solutions Summit Follow-up
 - 4.3. Master Plan for Aging Update
5. District Reports
 - 5.1. District 1
 - 5.2. District 2
 - 5.3. District 3
 - 5.4. District 4
 - 5.5. District 5
6. Senior Legislature Report
7. Staff Report
8. Correspondence
9. Emerging Matters and Commissioner Announcements
10. Adjournment

Next Regular Meeting: August 20, 2024 at 12:30 PM - United Way, Capitola CA 95010

The County of Santa Cruz does not discriminate on the basis of disability, and no person shall, by reason of a disability, be denied the benefits of its services, programs, or activities. If you are a person with a disability and require assistance to participate in the meeting, please contact (831) 454-2772 TTY/TDD:711 at least 72 hours in advance of the meeting to make arrangements.



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Meeting Minutes

DATE: Tuesday, April 16, 2024

TIME: 12:30 PM

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

PRESENT: Suzanne Doty (*Vice Chair - 1st District*), Mark Johannessen (*2nd District*), Antonio Rivas (*2nd District*), Alicia Rodriguez (*3rd District*), Patricia Fohrman (*4th District*), Katie Limas (*4th District*), Carol Childers (*Chair - 5th District*),

EXCUSED: Lois Sones (*3rd District*)

ABSENT: Dena Taylor (*1st District*)

STAFF: Kaite McGrew (*Commissions Manager*)

GUESTS: Vanessa Segura (*Marketing and Communications Associate, HPC*), John Beleutz (*HPC Executive Director*), Clay Kempf (*AAA/Seniors Council Executive Director*) and no members of the public were present.

1. Call to Order/Roll Call/Agenda Review

Meeting convened at 12:33 PM.

Commission welcomed new District 3 Commissioner Alicia Rodriguez.

Items 4.1 and 4.2 were reordered to accommodate speaker scheduling.

2. **Motion to Approve February 20, 2024 Meeting Minutes**

Motion to approve minutes as written.

Motion/Second: Doty/Johannessen

Motion passed unanimously.

3. Public Comment: None

4. New Business/Action Items:

4.1. Enhanced Care Management (ECM) and Multi-purpose Senior Services Programs (MSSPs)

Beleutz and Segura explained the care management programs that the Health Projects Center (HPC) administers for Medi-Cal, including MSSP and ECM. MSSP offers various support services (medically tailored meals, home repairs, emergency response devices, and help with financial assistance applications.) to seniors who would otherwise need skilled nursing facilities. ECM is part of the State's Master Plan for Aging to provides comprehensive care management and home and community-based services for eligible Medi-Cal members at no cost. All Medi-Cal recipients now have access to an expanded benefits package, including many MSSP services and a social worker for service coordination. Currently, about 90% of those eligible in Santa Cruz County are not yet enrolled. Additionally, HPC runs the Del Mar Caregiver Resource Center, to support family caregivers with information and resources.

Rivas arrived.

4.2. Senate Bill 1249 – Older Americans Act

Kempf outlined Seniors Council opposition to proposed changes to SB-1249 (Older Americans Act). The original act funds support services and mandates an Area Agency on Aging (AAA) in every county. Proposed amendments invite Counties to take over AAAs from NPOs without justification; gives the state control over discretionary funds; and alters the interstate funding formula. The Seniors Council believes these changes could undermine effective senior service and advocacy.

Motion authorizing the Chair to send a letter advocating with the Board to oppose changes to this legislation as proposed.

Motion/Second: Rivas/Doty

Motion passed unanimously.

4.3. Election of Officers

Motion to Elect Commissioner Doty as Commission Chair

Motion/Second: Childers/Rivas

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to elect Commissioner Johannessen as Vice Chair

Motion/Second: Childers/Johannessen

Ayes: Doty, Johannessen, Childers

Noes: Rivas, Rodriguez, Fohrman, Limas

Motion failed.

Motion to elect Commissioner Limas as Vice Chair

Motion/Second: Rivas/Limas

Ayes: Rivas, Rodriguez, Fohrman, Limas

Noes: Doty, Johannessen, Childers

Motion passed.

4.4. Consider 2025 Meeting Schedule

Motion to approve the 2025 Meeting Schedule

Motion/Second: Childers/Rivas

Motion passed unanimously.

5. District Reports:

5.1. District 1

Doty sent Mobile and Manufactured Homes Commissioner Jean Brocklebank copies of the Age Well survey for distribution in District 1 senior mobile home parks.

5.2. District 2:

Johannessen shared a draft agenda for the *2024 Solutions Summit* which will be held in both Hollister and Santa Cruz. Rivas announced Watsonville Senior Day and

5.3. District 3:

Rodriguez shared additional details about her work with the PACE program which oversees comprehensive care for 300-400 seniors with complex medical needs across three counties.

5.4. District 4:

Fohrmann reported on County efforts to support a local LGBTQ+ youth prom and encouraged Commissioners to take advantage of free public library art and literature programs.

5.5. District 5:

Childers reported that Meals on Wheels hand-delivered 526 Age Well Community Surveys.

6. Senior Legislature Report:

Rivas called for the California Senior Legislature's Henry Mello Award nominations.

7. Staff Report: None

8. Correspondence: None

9. Emerging Matters and Commissioner Announcements:

Staff will try to reserve the new Elderday facility in Watsonville for the June meeting.

10. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 2:18 PM.

Respectfully submitted by: Kaite McGrew, *Commissions Manager*

May 16, 2024

Dear Board of Supervisors,

Re: Senior Nutrition Support/ Meals on Wheels

For over four decades, the County Board of Supervisors has steadfastly supported our community's seniors, ensuring no senior would ever go hungry or unseen, regardless of their background, situation, or status. However, last week, the board took a potentially devastating step away from this longstanding commitment through its Collective of Results and Evidence-based (CORE) Investments funding process and decision not to continue its committed support of \$405,000. This decision contradicts the astronomical community needs and demographic trends we're experiencing locally. With older adults being the fastest-growing demographic and, consequently, the fastest-growing need, we strongly urge you to reconsider.

In the past decade, County funding for senior meals has decreased by 19%, from \$502,000 to \$405,000. Fortunately, local founders and philanthropists have filled this growing gap, guaranteeing that no senior in need would be denied a meal for the last 44 years our agency has met this communal commitment. But if the proposed change stands, subjecting Meals on Wheels for Santa Cruz County to a three-year procurement process with an undetermined funding amount, it would be impossible for us, as the current provider of senior nutrition services through local and regional agencies and partners, to effectively maintain current services for older adults in need. No amount of fundraising can bridge this potential half-a-million-dollar shortfall, and service interruption will occur with reduced award amounts or no recommendation of an award.

We would be unable to provide enough meals to the more than 1,500 seniors currently depending on us as their sole source of nutrition. Moreover, the homebound and vulnerable seniors we regularly provide in-home wellness checks to would become unseen, unheard, and fall deeper into isolation. This vulnerable population, with 72% living in poverty, 56% living alone, 73% at high nutritional risk, 57% disabled, and 15% speaking only Spanish, cannot afford such neglect and the County cannot afford the reverberating impacts of this decision. The increased calls to adult protective services alone would outweigh any reason to continue down this path, costing the county hundreds of additional dollars in investigation and staffing hours to address general neglect claims surrounding basic needs.

Although the current County funding represents only a little over 15% of the total contribution of meals, it equates to over 41,000 annual meals, potentially lost, impacting an average of 180 seniors annually. As our senior population continues to grow and our housing and affordability crises worsen, we continue to see the fastest growing unhoused population be seniors, this number will only increase. Our enrollment more than doubled during the COVID-19 pandemic, and we typically see multiple daily requests for services from new seniors in need, likely a result of a staggering 24% rise in the cost of food over the past two years and further putting people already on the brink of homelessness or hunger closer to that edge.

We urge you to reconsider your recent decision and set aside a portion of CORE funding or general fund dollars on a recurring basis to support senior meals and nutrition. We also implore you to reconsider your decision to place arbitrary restrictions on the CORE process, such as limiting agencies with larger budgets to be ineligible for certain tiers. The latter decision further undermines the foundational goal of CORE, which is supposed to be a truly competitive, evidenced-based process that puts equity, wellness, and efficient and effective delivery of services above all else.

We do not make these requests out of self-preservation. The requests are rooted in what is best for the most vulnerable population in our county that is growing at an alarming rate and is facing skyrocketing housing prices, as

well as rising cases of malnutrition and isolation that are impacting their life expectancies, dignity, and independence. Each funding reduction from the CORE process directly impacts vulnerable older adults, extending beyond unincorporated residents and into each city. We hope the County can see the value in investing in older adults and join us to lead a countywide discussion to increase investment to address the growing local need during a time when inflation is hurting the most vulnerable.

As the state budget influences our available resources, failing to invest in basic need services over new projects risks creating unintended harm. Let's protect and maintain our minimal local commitments to a true safety net, ensuring no senior goes hungry or unseen in our community.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Cancino'.

Raymon Cancino

CC:

AAA Advisory Council
Seniors Council Board
Seniors Commission
City of Watsonville Council
City of Santa Cruz Council
City of Scotts Valley Council
City of Capitola Council
Assembly Gail Pellerin
Assembly Dawn Addis
Senator John Laird
Director of Older Adults - Alicia Morales



County of Santa Cruz Board of Supervisors

Agenda Item Submittal

From: Human Services Department: Administration Services Division

(831) 454-4130

Subject: 2024-25 Proposed Budget for CORE Investments

Meeting Date: May 21, 2024

Recommended Actions

Approve the 2024-25 Proposed Budget for CORE Investments, including any supplemental materials, as provided in the referenced budget documents:

- Proposed Budget
- Budget Financial Data with Line Item Drill Down
- Continuing Agreements List

Executive Summary

The 2024-25 Proposed Budget(s) for the Collective of Results and Evidence-based (CORE) Investments supports a shared commitment to promote the health and well-being necessary for all County residents.

Discussion

The mission of CORE Investments is to achieve equitable health and well-being in Santa Cruz County, using a collective impact, results-based approach that is responsive to community needs.

CORE Investments represents a shared commitment to promote the health and well-being necessary for all county residents to thrive through community and capacity building opportunities as offered through the CORE Institute, and through the management of Board of Supervisor dedicated funding to support programs working to improve equitable outcomes for county residents across eight CORE conditions. The CORE conditions are Lifelong Learning and Education, Community Connectedness, Thriving Families, Healthy Environments, Stable Affordable Housing and Shelter, Safe and Just Community, Health and Wellness, and Economic Security and Mobility. The Human Services Department distributes the funds through an equity-centered procurement process, and provides annual reports to the Board of Supervisors.

Budgeted funding will continue to support 41 agencies representing 57 programs for a three-year period spanning Fiscal Years 2022-23 to 2024-25. The 2024-25 budget reflects Board-approved CORE funding for year three for ongoing contracts only, and includes funding from the City of Santa Cruz of \$1,080,000.

Over the next fiscal year, the department will be focused primarily on preparing a Request for Proposals for the next three-year funding cycle of CORE Investments for Fiscal Years 2025-26 to 2027-28.

Financial Impact

The CORE Investments Proposed Budget includes \$5,958,853 in expenditures offset by \$1,080,000 in revenues and \$4,878,853 in General Fund contribution, reflecting no change from the 2023-24 Adopted Budget.

Strategic Initiatives

The 2024-25 Proposed Budget for CORE Investments supports the following Strategic Plan Goals:

- 1.A (Comprehensive Health & Safety: Health Equity)
- 1.B (Comprehensive Health & Safety: Community Support)
- 1.C (Comprehensive Health & Safety: Local Justice)
- 1.D (Comprehensive Health & Safety: Behavioral Health)
- 2.A (Attainable Housing: Affordable Housing)
- 2.D (Attainable Housing: Homelessness)
- 5.B (Dynamic Economy: Community Vitality)
- 5.C (Dynamic Economy: Local Businesses)
- 6.A (Operational Excellence: Customer Experience)
- 6.D (Operational Excellence: Continuous Improvement)

Submitted by:

Carlos J. Palacios, County Administrative Officer, Randy Morris, Human Services
Director

Recommended by:

Carlos J. Palacios, County Administrative Officer

Attachments:

- a Proposed Budget
- b Budget Financial Data with Line Item Drill Down
- c Continuing Agreements List
- d CORE Investments Budget Presentation



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Scheduled Meetings

Unless otherwise specified, regularly scheduled Seniors Commission meetings are generally held as follows:

DAY: Third (3rd) Tuesday
MONTH: Every other month (February, April, June, August, October, and December)
TIME: 12:30 PM – 2:30 PM
LOCATION: **United Way of Santa Cruz County***
4450 Capitola Road, Ste 106, Capitola, CA 95010

* Unless noted otherwise below

Changes to the schedule, including special meetings, changes of location, or meeting cancellations, will be listed on the website at www.sccseniors.org as soon as information becomes available.

2024 Meeting Dates		
DATE	TIME	LOCATION
February 20, 2024	12:30 – 2:30 PM	United Way
April 16, 2024	12:30 – 2:30 PM	United Way
June 18, 2024	12:30 – 2:30 PM	*Elderday Adult Day Health Care Community Room 501 Main Street, Watsonville, CA 95076
August 20, 2024	12:30 – 2:30 PM	United Way
October 15, 2024	12:30 – 2:30 PM	United Way
December 17, 2024	12:30 – 2:30 PM	United Way

Public Participation

- Please check the meeting agenda to learn details about how to participate in the commission meeting.
- If you need special accommodations, please call 454-2935 or TDD: 711 (California Relay Service) at least 48 hours before the meeting.