



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, December 16, 2025
TIME: 12:30 PM – 2:30 PM
LOCATION: United Way of Santa Cruz County
4450 Capitola Road, Ste 106, Capitola, CA 95010

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 *October 21, 2025 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. Master Plan for Aging Update Presentation – Clay Kempf (*Executive Director - Seniors Council*)
 - 4.2. County Strategic Planning Presentation – Sven Stafford (*CEO Principal Administrative Analyst*)
 - 4.3. Consider Seniors Commission 2024-2025 Biennial Report
 - 4.4. Consider Amended 2026 Meeting Schedule
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: February 17, 2026 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, October 21, 2025
TIME: 12:30 PM
LOCATION: United Way, 4450 Capitola Road, Ste 106, Capitola CA 95010
PRESENT: Dena Taylor (*1st District*), Suzanne Doty (*Chair - 1st District*), Antonio Rivas (*2nd District*), Lois Sones (*3rd District*), Katie Limas (*Vice Chair - 4th District*), Carol Childers (*5th District*), Roger Wapner (*5th District*),
EXCUSED: Mark Johannessen (*2nd District*), Alicia Rodriguez (*3rd District*)
ABSENT: None
STAFF: Kaite McGrew (*Commissions Manager*)
GUESTS: Shandra Handley (*Assistant District Attorney*) and Gami Gutman (*Paralegal*) and no members of the public were present.

1. Call to Order/Roll Call/Agenda Review

Meeting convened at 12:35 PM.

2. **Motion to Approve August 19, 2025 Meeting Minutes**

Motion to approve minutes as written.

Motion/Second: Taylor/Wapner

Motion passed unanimously.

3. Public Comment: None

4. New Business/Action Items:

4.1. Current Scams and How to Protect Yourself and Loved Ones Presentation

Handley provided a high-level overview of scams currently targeting seniors, including gift card, phone, text, online, Medicare, and contractor fraud schemes. Scammers often impersonate trusted agencies or relatives, pressure victims to act quickly, and may use tactics such as tampered gift cards, spoofed phone numbers, malicious links, AI-generated voices, or fraudulent offers like foreign lotteries and inheritances. Key recommendations include slowing down, verifying information directly with trusted contacts, not answering unknown numbers, using spam filters, checking contractor and Medicare information carefully, using tap-to-pay to avoid skimmers, freezing credit with all three bureaus, and reporting incidents to the FTC, local law enforcement, and any affected companies. Commissioners were encouraged to consider inviting their District Supervisors to offer this presentation in their district meetings with constituents.

Rivas arrived at 12:45.

4.2. Consider Establishing an Ad Hoc Strategic Action Plan (SAP) Subcommittee

Commission discussed establishing an ad hoc Strategic Action Plan Subcommittee to update the Commission's SAP to align with the priorities established in the Master Plan for Aging.

Motion to establish an ad hoc Strategic Action Plan Subcommittee

Motion/Second: Childers/Taylor

Motion passed unanimously.

Chair appointed Childers, Doty, Limas, Rodriguez, and Johannessen to the subcommittee.

5. District Reports

5.1. District 1

Taylor reported that the Mid-County Senior Center Resource Fair event was very successful, with more than thirty vendors participating and strong public interest. Taylor recently attended a webinar on the “Ten Warning Signs of Alzheimer’s,” and will share the checklist with the Commission. Doty is compiling a contact list for senior mobile home parks and other senior communities to facilitate sharing information and resources.

5.2. District 2

Rivas reported that the Watsonville Senior Center Advisory Board is presenting a master class to the Watsonville City Council on the services and resources they plan to provide for Watsonville’s senior community, with the goal of securing funding. The Center has recently added a new elevator and kitchen, is replacing windows, and is reconfiguring the site to increase parking. They are also planning a front-facing mural, gathering ideas from seniors, and seeking an artist. The Center is exploring new branding language beyond “seniors” or “elders.” The recent senior prom was a great success. Rivas also noted that Sones received a Lifetime Achievement Award for her work with Elderday and other contributions.

5.3. District 3

Sones reported that she received an update this week on the CORE process. The Board of Supervisors formed a subcommittee—Supervisors Cummings and De Serpa—which presented preliminary recommendations for the future of CORE. The recommendations were very positive for seniors, particularly regarding process improvements. The item was presented at the October 21 Board of Supervisors meeting on the consent agenda.

5.4. District 4: No Report

5.5. District 5:

Wapner reported issues at the Highland Senior Center involving the original charter and responsibilities between Parks (outside and bathrooms) and renters (interior); attorneys are in discussion, but no legal action has occurred. Childers noted well-attended resource fairs in Watsonville and Ben Lomond, with fewer for-profit vendors and more nonprofit participation, though presentation turnout was low due to unannounced speakers. Home-delivery clients losing SNAP will be provided with information on alternative low-cost food resources in the San Lorenzo Valley and throughout the County eventually.

6. Senior Legislature Report

Staff reported that SB-239 (Brown Act Telecommunications) remains in the Inactive File. It could be brought back next year but is currently not under consideration. Next Monday Rivas will be in the annual state legislature meeting, and he will return with an update in December.

7. Staff Report: No Report

8. Correspondence: None

9. Emerging Matters and Commissioner Announcements: None

10. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 2:19 PM.

Respectfully submitted by:

Kaite McGrew, *Commissions Manager*



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INTRODUCTION OF THE SENIORS COUNCIL

A local non-profit organization serving older Adults

The Seniors Council Operates Five Separate Programs

- Foster Grandparent Program
- Senior Companion Program
- Project SCOUT (Assistance with Cal-Fresh & Taxes)
- Aging & Disability Resource Connection (San Benito County only)
- Area Agency on Aging



2

The Role of the Area Agency on Aging

Serves as the Santa Cruz & San Benito County planning and oversight entity for state & federal programs for seniors, their families, and their caregivers

The Older Americans Act is one such program



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3

California's Master Plan for Aging



Governor Gavin Newsom formed a statewide committee of experts to develop a ten-year plan for growth of Older Adults

- Funders, service providers, educators, labor organizations, researchers, rural & urban reps, etc.
- 800+ Recommendations, organized under FIVE BOLD GOALS
- Recognition of California's Diversity
- Intended to be dynamic, and useful LOCALLY

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4

California's Five Bold Goals:

1. **Housing for All Ages and Stages**
2. **Health Reimagined**
3. **Inclusion & Equity, *not* isolation**
4. **Caregiving That Works**
5. **Affording Aging**

Strategies for Implementation
Local Delivery Expansion

5

5

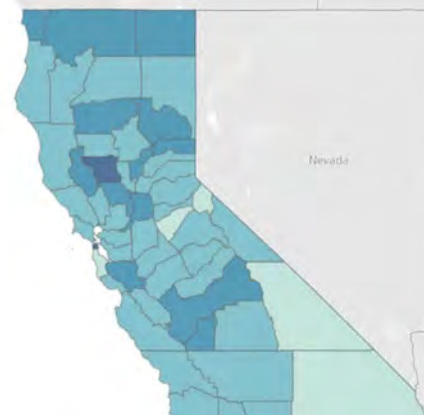
MPA Local Playbooks

Taking a statewide plan OFF the shelf, & putting it into local action

Consideration of:

- Local needs and service gaps
- Projects currently underway
- Availability of resources & champions
- Recognition of immediate action vs. long term
- Realistic design
- Local Control

Number of Subsidized Housing Units per 10,000 People by County, 2011



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DEVELOPMENT OF OUR LOCAL PLAYBOOK

TURNING 5 BOLD GOALS INTO ACTION

- Community Partnerships
- Aging & Adult Services of Santa Cruz County
- Solutions Summit
- Monthly Workgroups
- Age-Friendly Governance Committee
- AAA Advisory Council
- California Dept of Aging LADAP
- Action-focused Playbook



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WHAT ARE SOME OF OUR LOCAL GOALS?

- Keep housed older adults in their current homes.
- Support & expansion of the Senior Shared Housing program at Senior Network Services.
- Include transportation access as part of all goals and community plans
- Restoration of funds to essential social safety net programs
- Expand our existing networks of service partners and community champions



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EFFORTS ALREADY UNDERWAY

- Age Friendly – Aging in All Plans
- Creation of “*Affording Aging – Financial Considerations for Older Adults*” Information Guide
- Conduct senior friendly classes & presentations such as Matter of Balance Fall Prevention; Financial Scam Prevention, etc.
- Increase community engagement (about older adults and people with disabilities)



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Use & Analyze Data

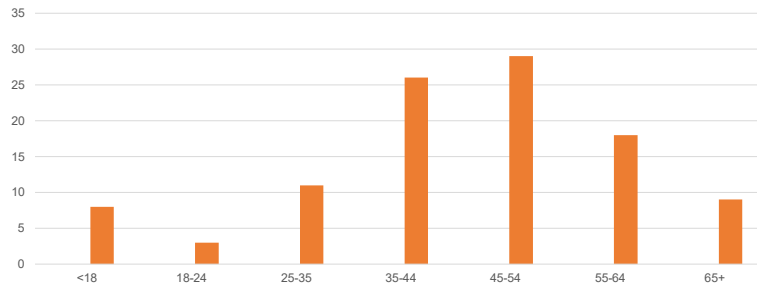


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Homeless Point in Time Data

Publicly Released Graph

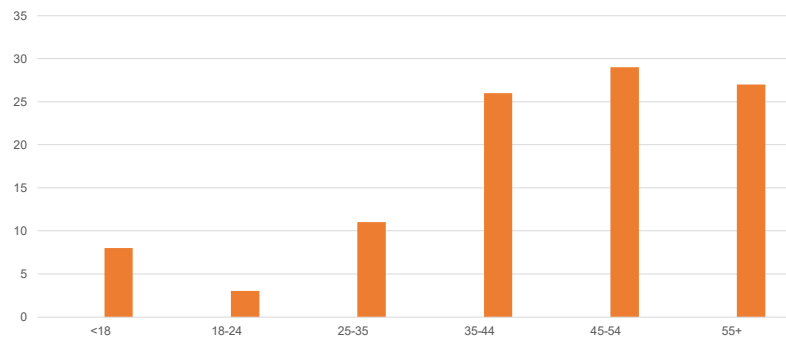


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Homeless Point in Time Data

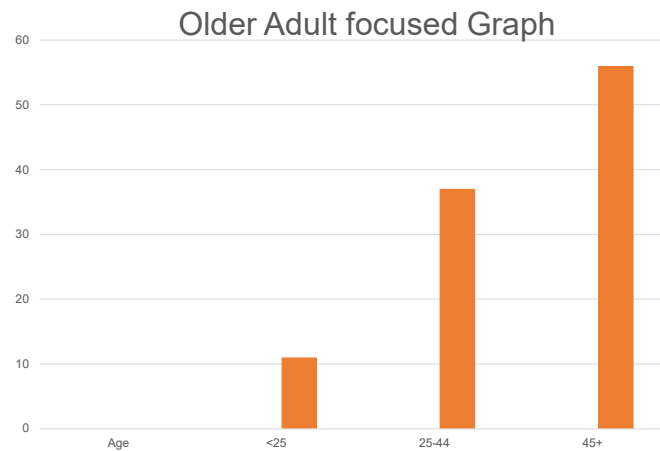
Adjusted Graph Showing 65+



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Homeless Point in Time Data



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ARE THERE MORE LOCAL GOALS?

- See all of our local playbook goals here:

<https://seniorscouncil.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/MPA-SBC-Playbook.pdf>



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TRACKING LOCAL PLAYBOOK SUCCESS

How do we know if we're making a difference?



AARP Livability Indexes (customizable)

Community Investments

Presence of Senior/Disability focused Programs

MPA Workgroup Committee Meetings

AAA Advisory Council Meetings

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Who is Responsible for Implementation?



No single agency can possibly meet the needs of our growing population of older adults and people with disabilities.

It is up to ALL of us; agencies, government, businesses, foundations, professionals, advocates, volunteers!

The success of this plan will come down to who and how many of us engage and invest our time, our energy, our resources, and our COMMITMENT to improving the condition of aging in our community. It's not up to someone to do extraordinary things; it's up to ALL of us to do ordinary things with extraordinary frequency.

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What CAN Everyone Do??

Volunteer!
Advocate!
Vote!
Donate!
Encourage & Support Champions!
Work in the field of Social Services!
Develop your caregiving skills!
Educate (yourself & others)!

PARTICIPATE!!



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Together We
ENGAGE
 Healthy Plan for Aging

EQUITY IN AGING
 CALIFORNIA
ALL
 AGES
 aging.ca.gov

LEARN MORE ABOUT California's MPA
@ MPA.aging.ca.gov

Send questions and comments to EngAGE@aging.ca.gov

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LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR MPA LOCAL PLAYBOOK

- Visit the Seniors Council website: www.seniorscouncil.org
- Explore the Santa Cruz County Age Well Website: <https://santacruzhumanservices.org/AdultLongTermCare/AgeWellSantaCruzCounty>
- Attend AAA Advisory Council meetings (see website for dates & times)
- Call Senior Network Services if you need help: **1-831-462-1433**





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Santa Cruz County Seniors Commission

2024 - 2025 Biennial Report

1. THE ROLE OF THE COMMISSION

The Seniors Commission is an advisory body to the Board of Supervisors on issues affecting seniors in Santa Cruz County. The Commission was established to:

- Advise the Board of Supervisors on all matters affecting senior citizens and make recommendations to the County Administrative Officer and the Board of Supervisors on any senior citizens program proposal to be considered by the Board of Supervisors;
- Review the needs of senior citizens in the County, and develop a set of comprehensive goals and objectives for effectively meeting those needs;
- Monitor the various services made available to senior citizens by public and private agencies in this County to ensure efficient delivery of those services; and
- Communicate with Federal and State agencies and commissions serving senior citizens, and assist in the preparation, implementation and review of any regional plan or program designed to serve senior citizens. [Ord. 3464 § 1, 1983; Ord. 2119, 1975; prior code § 3.25.020].

2. MEETINGS DATES, TIME, AND LOCATION

Seniors Commission meetings are scheduled for the third Tuesday of every other month (February, April, June, August, October, and December) from 12:30 until 2:30 PM at the United Way of Santa Cruz County office (4450 Capitola Rd, Suite 106, Capitola, CA 95010). During the reporting period no regularly scheduled meetings were cancelled.

3. COMMISSION STRUCTURE

The Seniors Commission is composed of ten voting members; two appointed by each of the five County Supervisors to represent their districts. Elections for Commission Chair and Vice Chair are held each year during the April regular meeting.

On December 31, 2025, the Seniors Commission membership was as follows:

District	Commissioners
1 st District	Dena Taylor, Suzanne Doty (Chair)
2 nd District	Antonio Rivas, Mark Johannessen
3 rd District	Lois Sones, Seat Vacant
4 th District	Katie Limas (Vice Chair), Seat Vacant
5 th District	Carol Childers, Roger Wapner

Commissioners who were appointed during the reporting period were Alicia Rodriguez, and Roger Wapner. Commissioners Dena Taylor, Suzanne Doty, Antonio Rivas, Mark Johannessen and Carol Childers were reappointed. Commissioners who completed their terms, resigned, vacated their seats under the provisions of SCCC Chapter 2.38.200(A)(1) were Alicia Rodriguez, Patricia Heath Fohrman, and Lynn McKibbin.

4. COMMISSION STAFF

Kaite McGrew (*Commissions Manager*) staffed the Commission for the entirety of the reporting period.

Between Commissions meetings, County Staff was available by phone, email, or in-person for information and referrals. The County EEO Commissions Office is located in the County Government Center (701 Ocean Street, Room 510, Santa Cruz, CA 95060).

5. ATTENDANCE

Please see attached *Seniors Commission 2024-2025 Attendance Report*.

6. COMMISSION OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The Commission's priorities and subsequent activities are determined by the Commission's mandate and emerging needs as expressed by the community and identified by the Commissioners.

OBJECTIVE 1:

Conduct outreach and advocacy to elected officials on behalf of Santa Cruz County Seniors

During the reporting period, Commissioners monitored the following government-related activities:

- Individually communicated Commission activities and priorities to appointing District Supervisors
- Reviewed, discussed, and advocated with the Board of Supervisors for California Senior Legislature's top legislative priorities that would most benefit Santa Cruz County seniors
- Monitored the County's implementation efforts related to Governor Newsom's *Master Plan for Aging*
- Monitored California Senior Legislature activities
- Monitored Santa Cruz County Commission on Disabilities activities
- Monitored Santa Cruz County Strategic and Operational Planning
- Monitored Watsonville City Council activities
- Monitored County *Collective of Results and Evidence-based (CORE) Investments* funding for programs serving seniors as well as the Board of Supervisors' *Supervisor-led* (Supervisors Cummings and De Serpa) *subcommittee to review the existing CORE Investments funding process* activities and preliminary recommendations
- Monitored the impact of state and 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, among others
- Monitored senior food insecurity and State and local funding for senior nutrition programs
- Monitored County emergency preparedness and long-term disaster recovery efforts
- Participated extensively in the County-managed 2024 Solutions Summit by monitoring its planning and development, attending the events in both Hollister and Santa Cruz, serving on follow-up subcommittees that developed recommendations from the raw data, reviewing subsequent findings, and monitoring implementation of recommendations
- Monitored the policy endorsement process for proposed housing projects including consideration of building criteria that advances the interests of Santa Cruz County seniors
- Monitored issues at the Highland Senior Center involving charter-related disputes with County Parks and community partner renters
- Monitored Watsonville City Council's decision to increase (rather than cut) funding for Meals on Wheels
- Monitored the Regional Transportation Commission's (RTC) countywide bike purchase incentive program, "Go Bike!"

- Monitored the status of Federal cuts to AmeriCorps (programs and services that both serve seniors and provide meaningful work opportunities for them) which were temporarily blocked by a federal judge and the reinstatement of grant funding and member positions in states that sued.
- Monitored the closure of the Watsonville levy homeless encampment and subsequent displacement of many unhoused South County seniors
- Monitored the Ombudsman Program defunding crisis
- Monitored Live Oak School District (LOSD) negotiations with community programs currently leasing the Capitola property and subsequent failure of a proposed bond to fund redevelopment
- Monitored Elderday advocacy efforts with State legislators to prioritize senior needs
- Monitored the Valley Community Center's receipt of State grant funding for capital improvements
- Monitored the 2050 Watsonville City Plan including affordable housing developments

OBJECTIVE 2:

Promote the interests of Santa Cruz County seniors through community outreach, advocacy, and the provision of resources

During the reporting period, Commissioners conducted the following outreach, advocacy, and provision of the following resources to the community:

- Promoted senior participation in the Age Well Survey
- Promoted attendance of Senior Resource Fairs across the County
- Provided a platform for County and community partner speakers on topics of interest to the senior community.

During the reporting period, Commissioners participated in or attended the following community events:

- Mid-County Senior Center Resource Fair
- Watsonville Senior Center Resource Fair
- London Nelson Senior Center Resource Fair
- Ben Lomond Senior Center Resource Fair
- Market Street Senior Center Resource Fair
- Felton Community Hall All-Age Resource Fair
- Interlaken flood control informational meeting
- Village Santa Cruz informational event
- Community meeting outlining redevelopment plans for the Silver Spur property.
- 8-week balance class for seniors led by the Volunteer Center
- Mid-County Senior Center literary event featuring writings of senior women.
- Solutions summit events and subcommittee meetings
- "Senior Homelessness" webinar hosted by Justice in Aging.
- "Ten warning signs of Alzheimer's" webinar
- Diversity webinar
- Housing for Seniors and People with Disabilities webinar
- The Watsonville Senior Center Senior proms
- Watsonville Senior Day
- Meals on Wheels "Food from the Heart" fundraiser luncheon at the Chaminade Resort and Spa
- Grand opening of the new Elderday facility in Watsonville

OBJECTIVE 3:

Monitor and assess local services, resources, programs, and agencies to advocate for effective service delivery to Santa Cruz County Seniors

During the reporting period, Commissioners monitored the following services, resources, programs, and agencies:

- Area Agency on Aging/Seniors Council activities
- Ben Lomond/Highland Senior Center activities
- Community Bridges Meals-on-Wheels Program
- Community Bridges Services and Programs
- Elderday Adult Day Healthcare Services
- Live Oak Senior Services
- Retired Public Employee Association articles of local interest
- RTC/METRO Services E&D TAC
- Santa Cruz County Human Services Department activities
- Seniors Council/Area Agency on Aging efforts
- Senior Network Services
- Watsonville Senior Center
- Project Scout
- Americorps

During the reporting period, Commissioners heard reports from the following services, resources, programs, and agencies:

- Elizabeth Byrd (*Sr. HSA Analyst*) with an update on the **Age Well Community Needs Assessment** conducted as part of the County's *Master Plan for Aging* efforts.
- Teri Mantz, (*Mid-County Senior Center Board Vice President*) with detailed information about the **Mid-County Senior Center's programs and services** including social, educational, recreational, and healthy lifestyle events for seniors.
- Vanessa Segura (*Marketing and Communications Associate, HPC*) and John Beleutz (*HPC Executive Director*), with a summary of care management programs that the Health Projects Center (HPC) administers for Medi-Cal, including **Enhanced Care Management (ECM) and Multi-purpose Senior Services Programs (MSSPs)**.
- Edith Driscoll (*County Auditor-Controller*) with an overview of **property tax issues impacting seniors**
- Sheri Thomas (*County Assessor-Recorder*) with an overview of services provided by the County Assessor's office and summarized **property transfer considerations impacting seniors** such as transferable Prop 13 tax base, owner-occupied exemptions, disabled veterans exemptions, property reassessment parameters, and intrafamilial property transfer concerns (e.g., property tax accrual, tax lien sales, etc.)
- Daniel Chavez (*Executive Director, Serving Communities Health Information Organization (SCHIO)*) with an overview of the purpose and services of **SCHIO, a multi-stakeholder electronic health information exchange** that allows health care providers and patients to appropriately access and securely share a patient's vital health information electronically to support coordinated healthcare
- Alicia Morales (*Human Services Department Social Services Division Director*) with an overview of the **Medi-Cal Assisted Living Waiver Program (ALWP)**, a state and federally administered program that enables low-income individuals who meet nursing home-level care criteria to receive support in assisted living or other community-based settings
- Shandra Handley (*Assistant District Attorney*) and Gami Gutman (*Paralegal*) with an overview of **current scams targeting seniors** (e.g., gift card scams, phone scams, text messaging scams, etc.) and strategies to avoid being victimized

- Clay Kempf (*Executive Director AAA/Seniors Council*) with a summary of Seniors Council's opposition to proposed amendments to Senate Bill 1249 (*Older Americans Act*) which invite Counties to take over AAAs from NPOs without justification; gives the state control over discretionary funds; and alters the interstate funding formula thereby undermining effective senior service and advocacy
- Clay Kempf (*Executive Director AAA/Seniors Council*) and Alicia Morales (*Human Services Department Director for the Adult and Long-Term Care Division*) with an update on the County's implementation of the *Master Plan for Aging*
- Sven Stafford (*CEO's Office Principal Administrative Analyst*) with a presentation on County Strategic Planning outreach efforts including and facilitated discussion of proposed senior community priorities for next Strategic Plan

OBJECTIVE 4:

Monitor and assess issues impacting Santa Cruz County seniors and advocate on their behalf

During the reporting period, Commissioners monitored and/or took action on the following issues impacting Santa Cruz County seniors:

- Scarcity of available beds in skilled nursing and senior care homes
- Scarcity of available IHSS caregivers for seniors and people with disabilities
- Community partner efforts to negotiate with Live Oak School District (LOSD) on continued use of the LOSD property at the 1777 Capitola Road location including an unsuccessful bond measure that would have funded for redevelopment of the property
- Watsonville Senior Center Senior Action Committee's development of an *Age Well Action Plan* for Watsonville City
- Watsonville Senior Center Advisory Board presentation to the Watsonville City Council providing an overview of their services and programs, summarizing current issues impacting Watsonville seniors and advocating for additional funding
- Improvements to the Watsonville Senior Center including a new elevator, new kitchen, replacement windows, additional parking and a mural by a local artist
- Informational event reporting the impact of fentanyl on the community
- Meals on Wheels' and Elderday Adult Day Health Care Center's distribution of emergency supply backpacks provided by the Seniors Council
- Status of the senior lunch program 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.
- Overview of the Program for All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) as a complementary model providing comprehensive health care, housing, and support services for Medi-Cal and Medicare-eligible seniors who live independently and potential barriers to implementation.
- Seniors Council Virtual Candidate Forums
- Status of Meals on Wheels waiting lists in Santa Cruz and San Benito Counties.
- Results of the Meals on Wheels client survey

7. COMMISSION MEMBERSHIPS & AFFILIATIONS

During the reporting period, Commissioners served as members of, were affiliated or engaged with the following commissions, organizations, and community partners:

- Aging and Disabilities Services Providers Advocacy Group
- Area Agency on Aging Advisory Council
- Area Agency on Aging committee tasked with developing the next four-year RFP

- California Association for Adult Day Services Board of Directors
- California Senior Legislature
- CORE Funding Application Review Panel.
- Elderday Adult Day Health Care
- Elderly and Disabled Transportation Advisory Commission (E&D TAC)
- IHSS Advisory Commission
- Master Plan for Aging Steering Committee
- Meals on Wheels - Community Bridges
- Mid-County Senior Center
- RTC/METRO Services E&D TAC
- San Lorenzo Valley Highlands Senior Center
- Santa Cruz County Bar Association
- Santa Cruz County Superior Court
- Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Office
- SEIU 2015 Caregiver Union
- Seniors Council
- Valley Women's Club
- Watsonville City Council
- Watsonville City's Senior Advisory Board
- Watsonville Senior Center

8. COMMISSION SUBCOMMITTEES

During the reporting period, the Commission established the following ad hoc subcommittees:

- Ad Hoc Senior Center Advocacy Subcommittee (membership included Doty, McKibbin, Taylor, and Childers) to develop a recommendation of the purpose and scope of a special project for consideration by the Commission. Subcommittee completed their limited-scope project and had been dissolved at the time of this report.
- Ad Hoc Legislative Subcommittee (membership included Johannessen, Rodriguez, Sones, Doty and Taylor) to identify and advocate for the top 3-5 CSL legislative priorities. Subcommittee completed their limited-scope project and had been dissolved at the time of this report.
- Ad Hoc Senior Resource Fair Outreach and Planning Subcommittee (membership included Taylor, Rivas, Childers, Doty, and Sones) to collaborate with senior centers to host senior resource fairs. Subcommittee completed their limited-scope project and had been dissolved at the time of this report.
- Ad Hoc Strategic Action Plan Subcommittee (membership included Childers, Doty, Limas, Rodriguez, and Johannessen) to update the Commission's Strategic Action Plan to align with the priorities established in the County's Master Plan for Aging. Subcommittee is ongoing at the time of this report.

9. COMMISSION ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND SPECIAL PROJECTS

During the reporting period, the Commission addressed the following issues:

- Letter to the Board of Supervisors advocating for support for the California Senior Legislature proposed legislation
- Letter to the Board of Supervisors expressing the Commission's concerns regarding California Senate Bill 1249 - Mello-Granlund Older Californians Act and to urge the Board to oppose the bill as written and advocate for the changes described therein

During the reporting period, the Commission participated in the following special projects:

- Conducted surveys of all County senior centers to compile data about center administration, membership, and programs and services provided
- Collaborated with the Mid-County Senior Center to host a successful Senior Resource Fair in May 2025 to celebrate *Older Americans Month*
- Attended similar resource fairs at other senior centers throughout the county

10. FUTURE GOALS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

In 2026-2027, the Seniors Commission will continue to:

- Continue to monitor and support County and community Master Plan for Aging implementation efforts
- Monitor and support emergency preparedness and long-term disaster recovery efforts for Santa Cruz County seniors
- Monitor and participate in activities that promote accessible, affordable housing for seniors, particularly those that support age-in-place opportunities
- Monitor and advocate for the availability of accessible, affordable transportation for seniors and persons with disabilities
- Monitor funding, availability, and access to community services and programs that support vulnerable seniors, particularly addressing the ongoing scarcity of available IHSS caregivers and the availability of complementary care models such as Enhanced Care Management (ECM) and PACE opportunities
- Monitor the developing tenancy situation for organizations serving seniors in the LOSD's Capitola Road property and advocate for efforts to find resolution
- Promote awareness of the Commission by attending and supporting local events aligned with the Commission's scope and purpose
- Monitor the County's CORE funding process and advocate for appropriate levels of funding to senior-specific programs and services

In 2026-2027, the Seniors Commission recommends that the Board of Supervisors take the following actions:

- Continue to provide policy leadership and funding to legislation, programs and policy supporting disaster recovery for Santa Cruz County seniors impacted by recent natural disasters
- Provide policy leadership and funding to legislation, programs and policy promoting accessible, affordable housing for the senior community, particularly those that support age-in-place opportunities
- Provide policy leadership and funding to legislation, programs, and policy to increase the availability of accessible, affordable transportation for seniors and persons with disabilities
- Continue to provide policy leadership and funding support to agencies tasked with leading County efforts to implement the *Master Plan for Aging*.
- Provide policy leadership and funding to community services and programs that support vulnerable seniors, particularly those that seek to mitigate the ongoing scarcity of available IHSS caregivers and availability of complementary care models such as Enhanced Care Management (ECM) and PACE opportunities

- Monitor the developing tenancy situation for organizations serving seniors in the LOSD's Capitola Road property and intervene where appropriate to support resolution
- Continue to promote diversity, equity and inclusion in County programs and services and ensure that all such efforts appropriately consider and include seniors as a protected class
- Ensure that the appropriate levels of CORE funding or carve-out funding are allocated to senior-specific programs and services, and use only senior-specific programs and services, (rather than including "all-age" or "family" programs and services) when calculating "funding allocated for seniors"

Approved by the Seniors Commission at the December 16, 2025 regular meeting.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the *Santa Cruz County Seniors Commission*,

Suzanne Doty, *Commission Chair*

December 16, 2025

Date

Katie Limas, *Commission Vice Chair*

December 16, 2025

Date

SENIORS COMMISSION 2024 ATTENDANCE REPORT							
District/ Supervisor	Commissioner	Feb 2024	April 2024	June 2024	Aug 2024	Oct 2024	Dec 2024
1st District Supervisor Manu Koenig	Dena Taylor	P	A	P	P	E	P
	Suzanne Doty Chair	P	P	P	P	P	P
2nd District Supervisor Zach Friend	Mark Johannessen	P	P	E	P	P	P
	Antonio Rivas	P	P	A	E	P	P
3rd District Supervisor Justin Cummings	Lois Sones	P	E	P	P	E	P
	Alicia Rodriguez	-	P	P	P	E	P
4th District Supervisor Felipe Hernandez	Patricia Heath Fohrman	P	P	E	P	P	E
	Katie Limas Vice Chair	P	P	P	P	P	E
5th District Supervisor Bruce McPherson	Carol Childers	P	P	P	P	P	P
	Lynn McKibbin	P	-	-	-	-	-
Ex Officio Non-Voting Member California Senior Legislature	Antonio Rivas	P	P	A	E	P	P

Attendance: P=Present A=Absent E=Excused (-) = Not Seated

SENIORS COMMISSION 2025 ATTENDANCE REPORT							
District/ Supervisor	Commissioner	Feb 2025	April 2025	June 2025	Aug 2025	Oct 2025	Dec 2025
1st District Supervisor Manu Koenig	Dena Taylor	P	P	P	P	P	
	Suzanne Doty Chair	P	P	P	P	P	
2nd District Supervisor Kim De Serpa	Antonio Rivas	E	E	P	P	P	
	Mark Johannessen	P	P	E	E	E	
3rd District Supervisor Justin Cummings	Lois Sones	P	P	P	P	P	
	Alicia Rodriguez	E	P	E	P	E	-
4th District Supervisor Felipe Hernandez	Seat Vacant	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Katie Limas Vice Chair	P	P	P	P	P	
5th District Supervisor Monica Martinez	Carol Childers	P	P	P	P	P	
	Roger Wapner	-	-	P	P	P	
Ex Officio Non-Voting Member California Senior Legislature	Antonio Rivas	E	E	P	P	P	

Submitted by:

Kaite McGrew
Commissions Manager

December 31, 2025

Date



Santa Cruz County Seniors Commission

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commissions@santacruzcountyca.gov

www.sccseniors.org

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.

2026 Meeting Dates		
DATE	TIME	LOCATION
February 17, 2026	12:30 – 2:30 PM	United Way
April 21, 2026	12:30 – 2:30 PM	United Way
June 9, 2026	12:30 – 2:30 PM	United Way
August 18, 2026	12:30 – 2:30 PM	United Way
October 20, 2026	12:30 – 2:30 PM	United Way
December 15, 2026	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.



County of Santa Cruz Board of Supervisors

Agenda Item Submittal

From: Board of Supervisors - Third District and Second District

Subject: Update on CORE Subcommittee and Preliminary Recommendations

Meeting Date: October 21, 2025

Formal Title: Approve preliminary recommendations of the CORE Subcommittee, and take related actions

Recommended Actions

1. Approve preliminary recommendations of the CORE Subcommittee; and
2. Direct the CORE Subcommittee to continue to work with staff and community stakeholders to refine revisions to the CORE process.

Executive Summary

In August 2025, the Board of Supervisors established a Subcommittee composed of Supervisors Cummings and De Serpa to review the Collective of Results and Evidence-based (CORE) Investments model process and bring back recommendations for a revised safety net services funding program by August 2026. The Board directed staff to assist the Subcommittee in this effort.

The Subcommittee has been meeting and is now making preliminary recommendations about how to move CORE revisions forward. These recommendations reflect the urgent need to prioritize essential safety net services, simplify the funding process, and increase transparency for both the Board and the community. Early Board direction on these priorities will help guide staff and the Subcommittee as they refine the model and engage stakeholders.

Discussion

The CORE Investments model was adopted in 2015 with the intention of making decisions about funding for community-based organizations more objective, results-oriented, and aligned with the County's strategic goals. However, several cycles of implementation have revealed challenges, including lack of transparency, burdensome processes, arbitrary scoring, and funding gaps in critical safety net services.

Community stakeholders and Supervisors have voiced concerns that CORE has not consistently aligned resources with demonstrated needs, leaving important programs underfunded, unfunded, or defunded. In response, the Board formed the CORE Subcommittee to lead a comprehensive review and propose improvements.

Preliminary Subcommittee Priorities

The Subcommittee's initial recommendations, intended to guide discussions with staff and stakeholders, include:

- **Prioritize Safety Net Services**
 - Given the County's difficult fiscal outlook, including anticipated federal cuts, CORE funds should first and foremost support safety net services

that meet basic needs.

- Define clear safety net priority categories based on gaps in the system and basic needs, and ensure resources are directed across those categories
- **Streamline the Application Process**
 - Work with staff and non-profit organizations to develop a shorter, more accessible, and equitable application.
 - Ensure smaller community-based organizations can participate effectively.
 - Establish a clear and transparent appeals process.
- **Increase Transparency**
 - Make applications, scoring, and reviewer comments accessible to Supervisors and the public.
 - Provide clear justifications for funding and non-funding decisions.
- **Adjust the Funding Cycle**
 - Shift from three-year to two-year allocation cycles.
 - If this adjustment is made, decide early enough to give current grantees sufficient notice.
- **Improve Alignment with Community Needs**
 - Develop criteria to evaluate programs based on demonstrated community outcomes and impact, not only application quality.
 - Proactively identify and fill critical safety net service gaps—such as childcare and senior food programs, which were excluded in the most recent cycle.
 - The Subcommittee will continue working with staff and engaging stakeholders, including CBOs, nonprofit leaders, and prior reviewers. The Subcommittee will return to the Board with more formal recommendations in early 2026, while also identifying near-term adjustments that may require earlier action.

Financial Impact

The recommended actions do not have a financial impact.

Strategic Initiatives

Operational Plan - Comprehensive Health & Safety

Submitted By:

Justin Cummings, Third District Supervisor and Kimberly DeSerpa, Second District Supervisor

Recommended By:

Carlos J. Palacios, County Executive Officer

Artificial Intelligence Acknowledgment:

Artificial Intelligence (AI) did not significantly contribute to the development of this

agenda item.