



# 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](mailto:commissions@santacruzcountyca.gov)

[www.sccseniors.org](http://www.sccseniors.org)

## Notice of Public Meeting and Agenda

**DATE** Tuesday, April 21, 2026  
**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 **scents-free** and **smoke-free**.\*\**

### AGENDA

1. Call to Order/Roll Call/Agenda Review
2. Approval of *February 17, 2026 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. Disaster Response and Recovery for Older Adults Presentation – David Reid (*OR3 Director*), Amanda Gullings (*Emergency Services Analyst*)
  - 4.2. Officer Elections
  - 4.3. Consider 2027 Meeting Schedule
  - 4.4. BHSA Integrated Plan Advocacy
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: June 9, 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, February 17, 2026

TIME: 12:30 PM

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

PRESENT: Suzanne Doty (*Chair - 1<sup>st</sup> District*), Antonio Rivas (*2<sup>nd</sup> District*), Mark Johannessen (*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: Dena Taylor (*1<sup>st</sup> District*)

ABSENT: None

STAFF: Kaite McGrew (*Commissions Manager*)

GUESTS: Clay Kempf (*AAA/Seniors Council Executive Director*), Alicia Morales (*HSD Social Services Director*), Sven Stafford (*CEO Principal Administrative Analyst*) and two members of the public were present.

1. Call to Order/Roll Call/Agenda Review

Meeting convened at 12:30 PM. Agenda reordered to accommodate presenter arrivals.

2. Motion to Approve October 21, 2025 Meeting Minutes

**Motion to approve minutes as written.**

Motion/Second: Wapner/Childers

Ayes: Doty, Rivas, Sones, Limas, Childers, Wapner

Abstain: Johannessen

**Motion passed.**

3. Public Comment: None

4. New Business/Action Items:

4.1. Senior Surveys Follow-up Report

Morales summarized the Master Plan for Aging *Age Well Santa Cruz County Needs Assessment Survey* results. The assessment highlights several concerns affecting residents as they age. Affordability is a major issue—especially for younger residents, those with lower incomes, and people with disabilities—despite a strong desire to remain in the county. Many report unmet needs for household help and technological support, particularly those living alone. Access to health care, including Medicare providers, specialists, and mental health services, is limited, with many seniors forced to seek care outside the county. Younger residents and caregivers report high levels of anxiety, depression, and stress, while caregivers struggle to find affordable respite support. Additional concerns include low disaster preparedness, social isolation and loneliness, and vulnerability to financial scams, abuse, and neglect. Overarching policy recommendations include: applying an aging and disability lens to all County services, infrastructure, and policies; and exploring alternative funding sources (e.g., Assisted Living Waivers, Enhanced Care Management, and PACE programs) after recent State and Federal budget cuts. Commission will consider advocacy opportunities for local Assisted Living Waiver and PACE programs at future meetings.

Sones arrived at 12:38.

4.2. Master Plan for Aging Update Presentation

Kempf reported on the County’s development of a comprehensive, dynamic local Master Plan for Aging playbook tailored to local needs, service gaps, projects, resources and champions. Local priorities include aging at home, expanding the senior shared housing program, embedding access to transportation in community plans, restoring funding to key programs, and expanding existing community networks. Success will be monitored via AARP livability indexes, community investments, the presence of Senior-focused programs, MPA Workgroup Committee meetings, and AAA Advisory Council meetings. Stakeholder collaboration will be key to success.

4.3. County Strategic Planning Presentation

Stafford summarized the County’s 2032 Strategic Plan Focus Areas, (housing and infrastructure, Community Care and Resilience, health, wellbeing & connection, Safety & Justice, Environment, climate & sustainability and economy & job growth, and outreach efforts. Fall survey results are available online. Commission feedback was primarily in the following areas: ensuring that an age equity lens is applied in all six areas, not just the “health in all policies” lens; access to affordable transportation; crimes against seniors especially elder abuse by caregivers, family members, and in facilities; and defunding of the local ombudsman program.

4.4. Consider Seniors Commission 2024-2025 Biennial Report

Commission reviewed the 2024-2025 Biennial Report and amended it to clarify some of the goals and add several affiliations.

**Motion to approve the *Seniors Commission 2024-2025 Biennial Report* as amended**

Motion/Second: Childers/Johannessen

**Motion passed unanimously.**

4.5. Consider Amended 2026 Meeting Schedule

Commission considered revising their June meeting date to accommodate venue scheduling.

**Motion to approve the amended meeting schedule**

Motion/Second: Wapner/Sones

**Motion passed unanimously.**

5. District Reports

5.1. District 1: No Report

5.2. District 2: No Report

5.3. District 3: No Report

5.4. District 4: No Report

5.5. District 5: No Report

6. Senior Legislature Report: No Report

7. Staff Report: No Report

8. Correspondence: None

9. Emerging Matters and Commissioner Announcements: None

10. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 2:39 PM.

Respectfully submitted by:

Kaite McGrew, *Commissions Manager*



# Personal Emergency Preparedness

1

## Agenda

- Welcome and why preparedness matters
- Local Hazards
- Alert and Warning
- Ready, Set, Go!
- Medical and Functional Needs Planning
- Emergency Supply Kit
- Evacuation Readiness
- Resources

2

## Welcome and why preparedness matters!

- Why are older adults disproportionately impacted during disasters?
  - Mobility challenges
  - Medical dependencies
  - Social isolation

...The good news is, there are some very straightforward things you can do that make a big difference.

3

## Local Hazards

- Wildland Fires / Poor Air Quality
- Severe Winter Storms / Flooding / Landslides / Road Closures
- Coastal Hazards / Tsunami Risk
- Earthquakes
- Utility Outages
- Human Caused Threats (Mass Violence, terrorist activity, Disruptive Protests)

4

## Alert and Warning

- CruzAware (primary local alert system)
- Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA)
- NOAA Weather Radio
- MyShake (earthquake early warning)
- Watch Duty (wildfire tracking)

5

## Ready, Set, Go!

- Communication Plan
  - Who will you contact?
  - Identify an out of area contact
  - Written phone list (not just cell phone)
- Personal and Family Preparedness
- Evacuation Plan
  - Know 2 ways out
  - Transportation options
  - Practice with mobility aids

6

## Medical and Functional Needs Planning

- Keep a medical information sheet
  - List:
    - ✓ Conditions
    - ✓ Medications
    - ✓ Doctors
  - Plan for:
    - ✓ Oxygen
    - ✓ Dialysis
    - ✓ Electricity-dependent devices

7

## Emergency Supply Kit

### Essentials:

- 3–7 days of water & food
- Flashlight and batteries
- Medications (minimum 7-day supply), Copies of prescriptions
- Important documents

### Age-specific considerations:

- Hearing aid and batteries, Glasses (backup pair), Mobility device supplies, and comfort items

8

## Evacuation Readiness

- “Go Bag” or Emergency Supply Kit
- When to leave early
- Transportation planning
- Pets (huge issue for older adults)

**If you feel unsafe, you don’t have to wait for an official order.**

9

## Resources

- [SAFER-SC](#)
- [CruzAware Notifications](#)
- [Zonehaven \(Genasys Protect\)](#)
- [Sandbag Details](#)
- [PG&E Outage Map](#)
- [Ready, Set, Go!](#)
- [Watch Duty](#)
- [My Shake \(Earthquake\)](#)

10



# Questions?

Thank You



SANTA CRUZ COUNTY OFFICE OF  
RESPONSE, RECOVERY & RESILIENCE





# REBUILDING LIVES:

Disaster Response and Recovery  
for Older Adults and People  
with Disabilities in California

**NOVEMBER 2025**



2880 Gateway Oaks Drive, Suite 390, Sacramento, CA 95833  
916.419.7591 | [ccoa@ccoa.ca.gov](mailto:ccoa@ccoa.ca.gov) | [www.ccoa.ca.gov](http://www.ccoa.ca.gov)

## Executive Summary

Disasters disproportionately affect older adults and people with disabilities. The Los Angeles area wildfires in January of 2025 claimed the lives of at least 31 residents, 26 of whom were either over the age of 65 or had a disability. Even with such figures becoming the norm, local agencies are not integrating their most vulnerable residents into emergency planning.

Many individuals, especially older adults, have not prepared for disasters with a plan or the necessary evacuation resources. Those fortunate to evacuate face additional challenges. Evacuation centers during the Eaton fires lacked data on residents with access and functional needs, leading to shortages of accessible equipment and critical medical supplies. Medical staff were overwhelmed, and many lacked experience and training in the specialized needs of older adults and people with disabilities.

Recovery is often longer and more arduous for older adults. Those who have lost homes face barriers to rebuilding and rehousing in a strained market beyond their means. Navigating insurance is complicated and compounded by a lack of legal resources. Additionally, growing evidence shows unscrupulous and illegal business tactics are perpetrated on older adults who have lost their homes.

Older adults may experience lasting instability after a traumatic disaster. The loss of a long-term facility drastically alters a resident's continuity of care, while behavioral health issues persist long into the recovery process and compound existing behavioral health needs. Previous fires, like the 2018 Camp Fire in Paradise, show that widespread displacement of older adults can persist and reshape entire communities.

State and local agencies must prepare for more frequent and intense natural disasters by focusing on their most vulnerable residents. Local groups are crucial to fostering resiliency in the populations they serve. They are integral to providing recovery services while strengthening communities through member-driven collaboration.

CCoA has compiled the following recommendations to strengthen disaster response, recovery, and preparedness for older adults and people with disabilities.

## Recommendations

The following table lists the Commission’s recommendations based on their area of action:

| LOCAL ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIONS   | STATE ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIONS                                 | LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS  |
|--|--|--|
| Pre-designate emergency evacuation sites in emergency plans              | Explore the establishment of a disaster registry             | Establish a state Long-Term Care Mutual Aid System                         |
| Coordinate disaster response with local aging & disability organizations | Launch CA Department of Justice Task Force on disaster scams | Provide disaster preparedness funding to AAAs & Independent Living Centers |
| Ensure older adult representation on planning boards                     | Reestablish a disaster recovery housing aid program          | Develop a State Disaster Legal Services Fund                               |
|  | Amplify Access and Functional Needs Emergency Training       | Require reverse mortgage servicers to provide counseling referrals         |



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## Scheduled Meetings

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

DAY: Third (3<sup>rd</sup>) 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/date/time, or meeting cancellations, will be listed on the website at [www.sccseniors.org](http://www.sccseniors.org) as soon as information becomes available.

| 2027 Meeting Dates |                 |            |
|--------------------|-----------------|------------|
| DATE               | TIME            | LOCATION   |
| February 16, 2027  | 12:30 – 2:30 PM | United Way |
| April 20, 2027     | 12:30 – 2:30 PM | United Way |
| June 15, 2027      | 12:30 – 2:30 PM | United Way |
| August 17, 2027    | 12:30 – 2:30 PM | United Way |
| October 19, 2027   | 12:30 – 2:30 PM | United Way |
| December 21, 2027  | 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.

# California's Behavioral Health Services Act & Its Impact on Older Adults – A Call to ACTION!

Time to “GET LOUD” about protecting older adult behavioral health statewide as Proposition 1 implementation continues.

Passed in March 2024, Proposition 1, including the Behavioral Health Services Act (BHSA), made sweeping changes statewide, specifically:

- Carved out 30% of its resources for housing supports and services,
- Added substance use disorder services to its previous mandate for mental health services,
- Shifted prevention activities to the California Department of Public Health.
- Transferred coverage of mild to moderate behavioral health (BH) services from county BH departments to Medi-Cal managed care providers.

Tremendous pressure is on counties to do more, with less money – **30% less in many cases.**

Currently, older adults receive the fewest services and behavioral health programs – **we cannot afford any reductions.**

County BH Departments are drafting their three-year Integrated Plans (IPs) now. Per BHSA guidance, counties are required to meaningfully engage with community and providers in building IPs. We have already seen complete cuts to important prevention and early intervention programs for several groups, including older adults. Is this happening in your county?



*The California Commission on Aging serves as the principal advocacy body for older Californians.*

[ccoa@ccoa.ca.gov](mailto:ccoa@ccoa.ca.gov) | 916.419.7591 | [www.ccoa.ca.gov](http://www.ccoa.ca.gov)

14 of 16



# California's Behavioral Health Services Act & Its Impact on Older Adults – A Call to ACTION!

*Here is what you can do right now:*

**1. Contact your county BH Department.** Ask when the public comment period for their Integrated Plan (IP) is. Ask if reductions have been made in programs for older adults, such as caregiver support, peer counseling, etc.

**2. Share your support.** Submit a letter in support for older adult programs with your concerns about program reductions to:

- ▶ Your County Director of Behavioral Health
- ▶ Chair of your county's BH Commission/Board
- ▶ Your state representatives

**3. Attend meetings** of your local BH Commission/Board.

- ▶ Public Hearings on IPs can be held during or after the 30-day public review period.
- ▶ 72-hour public notice is required.
- ▶ Invite interested community members to increase engagement and advocacy (consumers, advocates, family members, service providers, caregivers, etc.)

**4. Speak up** at your Board of Supervisors meeting when the IP is on the agenda.

**Locate your county's BH contacts** in the CA Department of Aging behavioral health toolkit (search: [California Department of Aging Behavioral Health Toolkits](#)).

COUNTY BH DEPARTMENTS  
RELEASE IP DRAFTS  
ON OR BEFORE 3.31.26

30 DAY PUBLIC  
COMMENT PERIOD

BH COMMISSION/BOARD  
HOSTS PUBLIC HEARING

BH DEPARTMENTS REVISE IPs  
TO FINAL & SUBMIT TO  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
MEETING FOR APPROVAL  
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

FINAL IPs DUE TO  
THE STATE 6.30.26

**For information or to report program cuts, contact:**

Janet C. Frank, CA Commission on Aging BH Committee Chair, [jcfrank@ucla.edu](mailto:jcfrank@ucla.edu)

Patrick Smith, CA Commission on Aging Legislative Director, [patrick.smith@ccoa.gov](mailto:patrick.smith@ccoa.gov)

**AgeWatch**





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