



SONOMA COUNTY AGING & DISABILITY COMMISSION

Commission Meeting

Location: Carnelian Conference Room,
3725 Westwind Blvd. Santa Rosa 95403

Date: Wednesday, January 15, 2025

Time: 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm

Public Zoom Link: <https://zoom.us/j/95119660692?pwd=p55PwlBEbWGv6WvxXbuNoYHbVV4ovM.1>

Agenda

- 1:00 1. Welcome and Introductions Helman
- Mission: The Aging & Disability Commission gives voice to the diverse needs of Sonoma County’s older adults, people with disabilities, and their caregivers.
- 1:00 2. Approval of the 11.20.2024 Commission Meeting Minutes Helman
- The Commission will review the meeting minutes and may approve them as presented or with modifications.*
- 1:05 3. Chair Updates Helman
- The Chair will provide updates on relevant matters for the Commission, including recent developments or upcoming events.*
- Legislative Representatives November Report
- Commission to provide feedback on the Legislative Representative Report Out in November and provide any recommendations or actions needed.*
- February Showcase on Case Management
- Commission discussion on February’s showcase focus on Case Management Services.*
- Membership Demographic Survey – Action

In order to ensure that the membership of the Commission is representative and inclusive of the community's demographics, the Commission will review and approve a Commission Member Demographic Survey. This survey will collect key demographic information (e.g., age, gender, ethnicity, and other relevant categories) to ensure that the Commission reflects the diversity of the population it serves.

- Membership:
 - District Supervisor Term Renewal for Alain Serkissian expires in April 2025.
 - District Supervisor Term Renewal for Terry Kelley expired in April 2023.
 - Commission Elected Term Renewal for Diane Spain expired in October 2024 - Action

Review Commission Members Term Renewal.

1:15

4. Director/Staff updates

- Director Update
 - Budget Update
 - Older American Act Reauthorization

Dunaway,
Milner,
Huntsperger

The AAA Director will provide updates on relevant matters for the Commission, including recent developments or upcoming events.

- MPA Update

The MPA Program Manager will provide updates on relevant matters for the Commission, including recent developments or upcoming events.

- Commission Logo Project Update

The Commission will review potential Logos and County staff to provide an update on ranking criteria.

- AAA Contract Monitoring

Provide an update on the Commission sign-up sheet for site visits and review Commission participation guidelines and expectations.

1:25

5. Celebrate Marianne McBride/COA

Dunaway,
Helman

The Commission will recognize, honor, and celebrate Marianne McBride for her dedicated years of service to the community her upcoming retirement.

- | | | |
|------|--|--------------|
| 1:40 | 6. Public Comment and Commission Member Open Forum | Public |
| | <i>The public may address the Commission on items not listed on the agenda. Public comment will be limited to three (3) minutes per speaker.
Note: The Commission cannot take action on items not on the agenda.</i> | |
| 1:55 | ** BREAK** | |
| 2:05 | 7. Home Delivered Meals and To-Go Meals Report Out | Silverman |
| | <i>Brief presentation regarding the Home Delivered Meals and To-Go Meals Waitlist.</i> | |
| 2:15 | 8. Brown Act Update | Beards |
| | <i>Discuss the potential impact of the California Attorney General's recently published opinion on remote participation as a reasonable accommodation when a disability precludes a member from attending in person.</i> | |
| 2:30 | 9. California Senior Legislative Representative Report | Kelley/Flett |
| | <i>Report out from the California Senior Legislative Representative.</i> | |
| 2:50 | 10. Standing & Ad Hoc Committee Report | Helman |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Standing Committee: No Wrong Door• Ad Hoc Committee: Special Projects• Ad Hoc Committee: Orientation and Onboarding – Action• Ad Hoc Committee – Goals and Objectives for FY 25/26 – Action | |
| | <i>Standing and Ad Hoc Committee Members will provide updates on their activities, progress on assigned task, and recommendations or actions for the Commission.</i> | |
| 3:00 | 11. Adjourn | Helman |

Attachments

Minutes (11.20.2024), Commission Member Demographic Survey

Supplemental materials related to an agenda item are available for public inspection during normal business hours at the Adult & Aging Office, 3725 Westwind Blvd., Suite 101, Santa Rosa. All listed times are approximate and subject to change. Agenda items are scheduled for consideration by the Commission, which may or may not choose to act. Breaks may be called at the discretion of the Chair. If you need any accommodation to effectively participate, please contact aaa@schsd.org or (707) 565-5238 at least 48 hours prior to the meeting. To receive the AAA Newsletter: AAA@schsd.org.

Aging & Disability Commission Members:

Chair: Jenny Helman

Vice Chair: Robin Thompson

Secretary: Deanna Shaat

Former Chair: Diane Spain

Parliamentarian: Trayce Beards

Commission Elected: Rick Baum, Monte Cimino, Suzanne Edwards, Sandra Hoevertsz, Denise Johnson, Terry Kelley, Erick Larson, Christian Nava, Jaime Peñaherrera, Alain Serkissian, Priyanka Varma

AAA Director: Paul Dunaway

Community Services Program Manager: Cody Milner

Upcoming Events:

- **Upcoming Aging & Disability Meetings:**
 - Executive Committee: Tuesday, February 11, 2025, 11:00 AM – 12:30 PM
 - Commission Meeting: Wednesday, February 19, 2025, 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM



Sonoma County Aging & Disability Commission Meeting

Minutes

Wednesday, November 20, 2024 | 1:00pm – 3:00pm
Carnelian Conference Room, 3725 Westwind Blvd. Santa Rosa 95403

In-person Attendance: Deanna Shaat, Jenny Helman, Trayce Beards, Robin Thompson, Rick Baum, Erick Larson, Priyanka Varma, Jaime Peñaherrera, Monte Cimino, Denise Johnson (Voted on to Commission), Christian Nava (Voted onto Commission)

Zoom Attendance: Suzanne Edwards, Alain Serkissian, Diane Spain, Don Streeper (Emeritus Member)

Absent: Sandra Hoevertsz, Terry Kelley

Staff Attendance: Sara Avery, Paul Dunaway, Cody Milner, Joni Huntsperger, Eric Glentzer, Cassandra Denson.

1. **Welcome and Introductions** (Helman) (1:00pm)
2. **Approval of Minutes** (10.16.2024)
 - Add Monte Cimino to attendance. Minutes approved with edits.
3. **Chair Updates** (Helman)

Proposed amendment to Standing Committee Procedures —Action

Motion: Amend Commission procedures to give the Executive Committee (EC) the discretion to decide whether a new standing committee Chairperson is a voting member of the EC.

1st Motion: Trayce Beards 2nd Motion: Deanna Shaat Vote: Passed

New Aging & Disability Commission Applicants—Action

Motion: Accept D. Johnson onto the Commission.

1st Motion: Trayce Beards 2nd: Monte Cimino Vote: Passed

Motion: Accept C. Nava on to the Commission.

1st Motion: Trayce Beards 2nd Motion: Priyanka Varma Vote: Passed

No Meetings in December

Volunteer Hours Report: notice of report; to be sent out in early December

- The report log will be edited to capture community activities.
- Due January 10th.

4. **Director/Staff updates** (Dunaway/Avery/Milner/Huntsperger)

Welcome Cody Milner

- Introduced as the new Program Manager for the Community Service Section and Area Agency on Aging.

Master Plan for Aging (MPA) Updates

- Responding to community requests for presentations.
- Establishing action teams, beginning with the Caregiving Action Team.



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- A Racial Equity and Inclusion Training is scheduled for March.

Additional Updates:

- Monitoring potential changes under the new Presidential Administration.
- Reviewing possible budget adjustments. Most funding is provided by the State, which relies on federal allocations.
- Announced that Christina Mills, former Director of California Independent Living Services (ILS), has been appointed as the new Director of the California Association of Area Agencies on Aging (C4A).

5. Presentation of the Gold Resolution for Family Caregivers Month (Glentzer)

- The Gold Resolution was formally read to the Commission.
- November 2024 was officially proclaimed as Family Caregiver Month.

6. Legislative Offices: Representative Reports (Helman/Legislative Representatives)

Questions Field Representatives addressed to the Commission:

- A. Sonoma County's transportation needs are addressed by multiple agencies and transit providers, but we are still largely an automobile-centric culture. Older adults and people with disabilities face significant issues of access and usability that go well beyond the needs of the general population. This is especially true for those living outside the urban cores (Sonoma County's 60+ population is 42% rural and 58% urban). What can you share with us about legislative efforts to manage this situation?*
- B. Sonoma County older adults, along with other Sonoma County residents, are experiencing severe increases in the cost of their homeowner's insurance premiums as well as unprecedented non renewals of their policies. Given that most older adults live on fixed incomes, such increases pose a serious threat to their ability to remain in their homes. What, if anything, is the State Legislature or Congress doing to address this insurance crisis and to bring immediate relief to affected older adults?*
- C. What other current or future legislation regarding our older adult population is your particular elected official working on that the Sonoma County Aging & Disability Commission can advocate for and/or support in the next coming year?*

Riley Ahern- Huffman's Office:

- A. Sonoma County Transit Agency is allocating funding to support the Santa Rosa Safe Streets program, an initiative aimed at enhancing transportation safety and accessibility.
- B. Co-Sponsorship of the ENSURE Act: This proposed federal legislation aims to create a catastrophe insurance program that would require participating insurers to provide coverage for all natural disasters, addressing affordability and accessibility for homeowners, including older adults.
- C. Advocacy for Older Adults: The office is actively supporting initiatives such as the Social Security Fairness Act, which seeks to enhance benefits for older adults. Additional efforts are focused on policies that strengthen the social safety net and address critical needs for aging populations.

Brendon Sweeney- Thompson's Office



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- A. Monitoring developments within the U.S. Health and Human Services Office regarding infrastructure initiatives for access and functional needs communities.
Infrastructure Investments: Efforts include expanded bus services and significant investments in the SMART (Sonoma-Marin Area Rail Transit) system to improve regional transit accessibility.
- B. Working on legislation to establish a grant program for individuals earning \$500,000 or less annually to retrofit their properties. This initiative would allow insurance companies to update their risk models and incentivize them to return to offering coverage.
Exploring property management incentives to foster a more stable and competitive insurance market.
- C. Advocating for measures to provide incentives for property management to enhance market viability and affordability for aging populations.
Continuing to push for the PG&E settlement, which would create a retroactive tax incentive for fire victims, addressing financial hardships for impacted residents, including older adults.

Jenny- Mike McGuire's office:

- A. The California Transportation Equity Advisory Committee is seeking members to provide guidance to Caltrans and the State Transportation Committee on equitable transportation solutions, with a focus on improving access for vulnerable populations, including older adults and individuals with disabilities.
- B. Developing a plan to modernize the state insurance market, which includes authorizing insurers to use risk modeling to better assess and manage risk.
Addressing wildfire-affected areas through enhancements to the California Fair Plan, aimed at providing insurance options for residents in high-risk zones.
- C. Advocating for the establishment of a no-wrong-door system statewide to integrate and expand Aging & Disability Resource Connections (ADRC), ensuring seamless access to services and resources for older adults and individuals with disabilities.

Laura Beltran-Currys Office:

- A. Supporting the SMART (Sonoma-Marin Area Rail Transit) expansion by pursuing additional federal and state funding for the project. Efforts prioritize improving transportation options for seniors.
Providing support to the Lake County constituency to address transportation challenges in neighboring regions.
- B. Working to modernize the California Fair Plan by expanding coverage limits to include agricultural properties. This updated plan is expected to take effect by December 2024.
Establishing a system where each area or district will have a dedicated representative to address insurance issues overseen by the Insurance Commissioner.
- C. Highlighting recently passed legislation:



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- AB 2680 (Alzheimer's Rights): Strengthening rights and protections for individuals with Alzheimer's.
- AB 2703 (Mental Health Care in Rural Areas): Expanding mental health care access in underserved rural regions.

2025 Budget Projections: The Assembly is expected to adopt a conservative approach, focusing on maintaining funding for existing programs rather than expanding or introducing new initiatives.

Opportunities for Commission Involvement:

- Encouraged the Commission to participate and offer assistance or support in relevant initiatives where possible.

7. Public Comment and Council Member Open Forum

Jamie- Council on Aging: Hosting Quarterly Open Houses to learn more about their programs. Next Open House- Dec 3rd 4:30-5:30.

Denise, Council on Aging- The Tellegacy program will be releasing the story books soon. They are excited to share a sample with the Commission. They are presenting the program to Meals on Wheels of America conference.

BREAK

8. National Family Caregiver Provider Showcase Presentation (Helman/Aging & Disability Commission Members)

- The commission's reports will be featured in the January AAA eBlast.
- Overviews were provided for the following service providers:
 - Council on Aging
 - Alzheimer's Association
 - Redwood Caregiver Resource Center
 - Petaluma People Services Center
 - Sonoma County In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS)
- Commissioners responded to three key questions outlined for each program.
- A caregiver success story was shared for each highlighted program, illustrating their impact.
- Commissioners and providers participated in a question-and-answer session following the presentations.
- Certificates of appreciation will be distributed to all participating service providers.

Council on Aging (Erick):



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Overview/Key Take-Away: Funding is an issue. Program expansion is reliant on available space. Transportation is also an area of concern.

Q1: Capacity issues are present due to facility size and transportation. Limitations to the program due to the severity of Dementia/Alzheimer's.

Q2: 5-day-a-week program in Santa Rosa. 3 days a week are private pay, and 2 days a week are covered by program funding. They are seeing a younger population accessing services. Also, people who may be too far along in Alzheimer's may determine how long they can be served.

Q3: Brought on a bilingual/bicultural coordinator to assist with Spanish-speaking clients.

Alzheimer's Association (Deanna):

Overview/Key Take-Away: They are a catch-all for people in crisis. Their phone line is underutilized.

Q2: Caregivers are seeking help earlier in their family member's diagnosis. Caregivers tend to be having their own medical issues to navigate while providing care.

Q3: Offering Spanish-speaking support groups.

Q1: Do not currently present capacity issues.

RCRC (Diane):

Overview/Key Take-Away: Serve Del Norte, Humboldt, Lake, Sonoma, Mendocino and Solano Counties. All services are free or low cost.

Q1: 4500 respite hours provided this year so far.

Q2: Caregivers are younger, including working members of the family who are still caring for children as well. Increase in Spanish-speaking clients seeking services.

Q3: has two Spanish Speaking Counselors, also includes counselors that speak

PPSC (Trayce):

Overview/Key Take-Away: Discussed the Adult Day Care program and the You Are Not Alone program (Telephone Reassurance). Discussed the broad range of services available to caregivers.

Q1: Transportation and time availability present an issue for involving family caregivers. Looking at ways to improve participation.

Q2: Demographics are constantly changing.

Q3: Partnership with the Adult School to provide translation service.

IHSS (Robin):



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Overview/Key Takeaway: IHSS pays a provider or caregiver to perform care tasks for care recipients. IHSS provides oversight and pays the wages of the caregivers, but the care recipients are the employer. They provide training opportunities for caregivers.

Q1: Generally able to keep up with the need. Funding and institutional support tends to be a concern.

Q2: Lower % of live-in relatives.

Q3: 2 Bilingual Spanish Social Workers on staff. Using new Google Technology.

9. Standing & Ad Hoc Committee Report (Helman)

Standing Committee: No Wrong Door

- Monte Cimino was elected as Chair of the committee.
- The next meeting is scheduled for February 25 at 11:00 AM at the Adult & Aging Building.
- Two seats remain open on the committee. Interested parties are encouraged to contact Monte Cimino.

Ad Hoc Committee: Special Projects

- Integrating the commission work plan objectives into a draft calendar of events.

10. Adjourn (Helman)(2:55pm)

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To submit items for the AAA Newsletter, or to receive the AAA Newsletter: AAA@schsd.org

Upcoming Aging & Disability Commission meetings:

- Aging & Disability Commission, Executive Committee Meeting: **January 8, 2024 (2:00pm)**
 - Aging & Disability Commission Meeting: **January 15, 2024 (1:00pm)**
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Sonoma County Aging & Disability Commission Demographic Survey

The composition of the Aging & Disability Commission shall include individuals and representatives of community organizations who will help to enhance the leadership role of the area agency in developing community-based systems of services. To better understand the diverse background and community representation of each member of the Commission, you are asked to complete the below demographic survey. All responses are confidential and will be used for demographic analysis.

Instructions: All questions are required to be answered (2-pages). Please write clearly to ensure your responses are legible. If you do not wish or feel comfortable providing an answer to a question, you may select “Prefer not to say”. Once you have completed, return to Cody Milner, AAA Program Manager, either in-person at 3725 Westwind Blvd, or via email to CMilner@schsd.org.

Personal Information:

Full Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Address: _____

Languages Fluently Spoken; Other than English: _____

Pronouns: She/Her Him/Him They/Them Other: _____

General Demographic Information:

What is your Sexual Orientation?

- | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Straight | <input type="checkbox"/> Gay/Lesbian | <input type="checkbox"/> Bisexual | <input type="checkbox"/> Pansexual |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Asexual | <input type="checkbox"/> Queer | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to say |

What is your Gender Identity?

- | | | | |
|---|---|---------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Male | <input type="checkbox"/> Female | <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Binary | <input type="checkbox"/> Two-Spirit |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Transgender Male | <input type="checkbox"/> Transgender Female | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to say |

What is your Race? (Select all that apply):

- | | | | |
|---|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> American Indian or Alaska Native | <input type="checkbox"/> Asian | <input type="checkbox"/> Black/African American | <input type="checkbox"/> Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Multiracial | <input type="checkbox"/> White/Caucasian | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to say |

What is your Ethnicity?

- | | | | |
|---|---|---------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic or Latine | <input type="checkbox"/> Not Hispanic or Latine | <input type="checkbox"/> Indigenous | <input type="checkbox"/> Asian |
| <input type="checkbox"/> African | <input type="checkbox"/> Pacific Islander | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to say |

Do you identify as someone with a Disability?

- Yes No Prefer not to say

What is your Employment Status?

- Full-Time Part-Time Unemployed Student
 Retired Self-Employed Other: _____ Prefer not to say

Community Representation:

Which of the following communities do you represent? (Select all that apply)

- Age 60 or greater Low Income Language Barriers Local Elected Official
- Person with Physical and/or Mental Health Disabilities Black, Native American, Indigenous, or Person of Color Tribal Representative Family Caregiver, including Older Relative Caregiver
- Leadership* in Private Sector Leadership* in Volunteer Sector Supportive Services Provider Health Care Provider
- Veteran Geographic Isolation Chronic Conditions Other: _____

*Leadership is someone who holds a position of authority that allows them the ability to inspire, influence, and guide individuals toward a shared vision within their respective fields.

Thank You for completing the Sonoma County Aging & Disability Commission Demographic Survey!