



# Sonoma County Aging & Disability Commission Meeting



## Minutes

Wednesday, May 21, 2025 | 2:30PM – 4:30PM

Carnelian Conference Room, 3725 Westwind Blvd. Santa Rosa 95403

**In-person Attendance:** Deanna Shaat, Monte Cimino, Robin Thompson, Trayce Beards, Suzanne Edwards, Terry Kelley, Alain Serkissian, Denise Johnson, Sandra Hoevertsz, Priyanka Varma, Jenny Helman, Jaime Penaherrera

**Virtual Attendance:** Diane Spain, Rick Baum, Christian Nava

**Absent:**

**Staff Attendance:** Paul Dunaway, Cody Milner, Cassandra Denson, Sara Avery, CB Wahl, Kathleen Cortez, Joni Huntsperger (Zoom)

### 1. Welcome & Commission Member Introductions (Helman) (2:32PM)

**Motion:** Allow Rick Baum to participate via Zoom due to special circumstances.

1<sup>st</sup> Motion: Terry Kelley      2<sup>nd</sup> Motion: Alain Serkissian      Vote Result: Passes

### 2. Gold Resolution for Older Americans Month (Helman)

*Presented by Anna Tamayo.*

### 3. Legislative Representatives and Advocacy Efforts from Providers (Helman)

*Report from the Legislative Representatives and Service Providers.*

#### McGuire's Office

- Key Updates:
  - McGuire was sworn in as President of the California Senate.
  - Current focus: Affordability bills and legislation impacting older adults and individuals with disabilities.
- Highlighted Bills:
  - SB 242: Expansion of Medicare supplements.
  - SB 435: Regulation of assisted living facilities.

#### Thompson's Office:

- Key Updates:
  - Focused on preventing the passage of the Reconciliation Package, which could result in 14 million Americans losing healthcare coverage.
  - Supporting ongoing court actions and hosting town halls to address public concerns.
- Advocacy Efforts:
  - Encouraging constituents to share challenges with public benefits programs.
- Action Requested:



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- Submit personal stories with Subject: Medicare/Medicaid Impacts to Brendan Sweeney at their office to illustrate the critical need for these programs.

### Aguiar-Curry's Office:

- Key Updates:
  - Focused on the May California Budget Revise, particularly cuts to Medi-Cal.
    - Impacts: Potential addition of asset requirements for eligibility, which may result in the removal of many older adults, women, and children from Medi-Cal coverage.
- Legislation:
  - AB 508: Strengthens regulations for residential care facilities.
  - AB 280: Requires timely updates to healthcare provider directories.
- Advocacy Efforts:
  - Requesting support from the commission to share constituent stories to emphasize the importance of these programs during budget discussions.

### Rodger's Office:

- Key Updates:
  - Current Focus: Monitoring State Budget Revisions for potential impacts.
- Legislative Bills:
  - AB 1460: Rural healthcare access
  - AB 6112: Improving emergency response times
- Action Requested:
  - Notify their office if services are negatively affected by budget cuts.

### Connally's Office:

- Key Focus Areas:
  - Opposing medical cuts and staffing reductions at long-term care facilities.
  - Advocating for benefits programs by encouraging outreach to committee members.
- Highlighted Bill:
  - AB 1151: Automates the issuance of replacement IDs for seniors who surrender their driver's licenses.
- Action Requested:
  - Share personal stories of constituents impacted by cuts to their office to emphasize community needs.

### Jamie Escoubus (Council on Aging):



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- Key Updates:
  - Engaged in programs like Justice in Aging and Meals on Wheels (MOW) America to support advocacy for older adults.
  - Focused on educating those they serve about self-advocacy and program access.
- Ongoing Efforts:
  - Actively seeking alternative funding sources to sustain services.

#### 4. Public Comment and Commission Member Open Forum

*The public may address the Commission on items not listed on the agenda. Public comments will be limited to three (3) minutes per speaker.*

*Note: The Commission cannot take action on items not on the agenda.*

Jamie Escoubus (Council on Aging): Hosting an Open House on June 17th at 4:30 PM to engage with the community.

Robin Thompson: Congressman Huffman's website provides resources for constituents impacted by budget cuts.

Jaime Penaherrera: Congressman Thompson's Office will participate in a discussion on budget cuts in Napa.

**BREAK**

#### 5. Approval of the 04.16.2025 Commission Meeting Minutes (Helman)

Approved as written.

**Agenda Timeline Change:** *Agenda topic moved earlier in the meeting to accommodate presenters that needed to leave the meeting early.*

#### **MPA & LADAP Updates:** (Huntsperger)

##### Key Updates

- Housing and Transportation Action Teams
  - Meetings are scheduled to address priorities and strategies for these sectors.

##### LADAP Final Report

- Currently under review and will be finalized by June.

##### Economic Security Action Team (Presented by Rick Baum)

- Top Priorities Identified:



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- Advocacy efforts at local and state levels.
- Increasing access to CalFresh.
- Activities and Analysis:
  - Conducted a root cause analysis to understand barriers to food security.
  - Explored the community's need for additional food resources, including:
    - How people learn about these resources.
    - Addressing the stigma of accessing resources or asking for help.
    - Identifying additional obstacles in accessing food assistance programs.

### Caregiving Action Team (Presented by Monte Cimino)

- Key Focus Areas:
  - Adopting a multi-cultural and multi-language approach to caregiving.
  - Identifying and prioritizing focus areas for the team's efforts.
  - Reviewing existing caregiver support and respite programs in the community.
  - Discussing strategies to enhance outreach efforts and raise awareness of available resources.

### **6. Chair Updates (Helman)**

#### Commission Introductions

- Reviewed standardize introductions of Commission Members.
  - Include Names, where you live, your District and Supervisor.

#### Volunteer Log

- Volunteer Log for January 2025 - June 2025 will be due in July 2025.
- Volunteer Log will be adopted as it is.
- County Staff will update Area Plan Goal sections as necessary and review definitions for types of activities.

#### Commissioner's Role

- Commissioners serving in dual capacities are expected to participate as a commissioner, rather than that of a service provider.
- Commissioners who also represent service providers are encouraged to designate another representative from their organization to speak on behalf of the agency during Public Open Comment and/or during set Agenda Items.
- Commission discussed the focus of the Public Comment Announcements. Further discussion will be held at the Executive Committee.

#### Commissioner's Visits with Supervisors



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- Commissioners reported out on the meetings with the following Supervisors or their representatives:
  - District 3: Corsey
  - District 4: Gore
  - District 5: Hopkins

## **7. Director/Staff Updates (Dunaway, Avery)**

### Director Update:

- Governor's Budget May Revision:
  - Medi-Cal Health Insurance:
    - Reduction in budget allocation, impacting coverage and services.
    - Reinstatement of Asset Limits of \$2,000 for Medi-Cal eligibility.
  - In-Home Support Services (IHSS):
    - Budget reductions will have an impact on delivery service.
  - Undocumented Individuals:
    - Medi-Cal insurance coverage will no longer be available for undocumented adults 19 and older.

### Staff Updates:

- Community Events for Potential Commission Participation
  - Sonoma County PRIDE Event & Parade, Santa Rosa, May 31, 2025, 11AM
  - Senior Expo, Santa Rosa, July 12, 2025, 9 AM – 12 PM
  - African Soul Festival, Rohnert Park, August 30, 2025, 11 AM – 5 PM

## **8. TACC Report (Kelley)**

- The latest meeting focused on rural service access and rural medical access.

## **9. Transportation- Staff Report (Cortez)**

- Presentation on grants for transportation services (Operating Assistance Grant & Mobility Management Grant).
- ADRH will have a full-time embedded Social Work Assistant to:
  - Assist consumers with accessing transportation services.
  - Collect and analyze data to identify gaps in transportation services.
  - Actively participate in transportation authority meetings to address and advocate for solutions

## **10. USAging Conference Policy Briefing (Milner)**

- Commissioners can review the report in the Agenda Packet.



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### 11. Standing & Ad Hoc Committee Report (Helman)

#### Standing Committee: No Wrong Door

- Next meeting June 24<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

#### Ad Hoc Committee: No Wrong Door Toolbox

- Next meeting on June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2025.
- Focusing on elevator speech and short presentations.

#### Ad Hoc Committee: FY 24/25 Area Plan Objectives Implementation

- Planning the West County Transit focus group.
- City Commissions focus groups will be rescheduled for June.
- Spanish Language Focus Group- Proposal to postpone the focus group until the political environment is safer for participation. The Commission acknowledges the risk to public safety at this time may outweigh the benefits/information gathered from the group.

#### Ad Hoc Committee: Member Application & Interview Questions

- The committee has revised the interview questions and has begun revising the application.
- Next meeting May 28<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

#### Ad Hoc Committee: August 2025 Planning Day – Action

- Committee Purpose:
  - Agenda Development, Topic and Outcome Drafting, Activity Planning.
- Timeframe: Recommendations sent to Cody Milner by June 5<sup>th</sup> 2025

**Motion:** To stand up the August 2025 Planning Day Ad Hoc Committee.

1<sup>st</sup> Motion: Robin Thompson      2<sup>nd</sup> Motion: Deanna Shaat      Vote Results: Passed

- Ad Hoc Membership Interest: Priyanka Varma, Denise Johnson, Robin Thompson, Deanna Shaat, Christian Nava.
- Coordinator for first meeting: Deanna Shaat.

### 12. Adjourn (Helman)(4:36PM)

*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 Aging & Disability Commission, which may or may not choose to*



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*act. Breaks may be called at the discretion of the Chair. If you need any accommodations to effectively participate, please contact [aaa@schsd.org](mailto:aaa@schsd.org) or (707) 565-5238 at least 48 hours prior to the meeting.*

*To submit items for the AAA Newsletter, or to receive the AAA Newsletter: [AAA@schsd.org](mailto:AAA@schsd.org)*

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### **Upcoming Aging & Disability Commission meetings:**

- Aging & Disability Commission, Executive Committee Meeting: **June 10th, 2025 (11:00am)**
  - Aging & Disability Commission Meeting/Public Hearing: **June 18th, 2025 (1:00pm)**
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