



Sonoma County Aging & Disability Commission Meeting



Minutes

Wednesday, January 21st, 2026 | 12:00PM-3:00PM

Carnelian Conference Room, 3725 Westwind Blvd. Santa Rosa 95403

In-person Attendance: Deanna Shaat, Robin Thompson, Trayce Beards, Suzanne Edwards, Jenny Helman, Eddie Estrada, Rick Baum, Priyanka Varma, Erick Larson (*Emeritus Member*), Denise Johnson

Virtual Attendance: Diane Spain

Absent: Jaime Penaherrera, Alain Serkissian, Terry Kelley (*Leave of Absence*)

Staff Attendance: Paul Dunaway, Cody Milner, Cassandra Denson (Zoom), Joni Huntsperger, Jessica Hernandez

1. **Welcome & Commission Member Introductions** (Helman) (12:00PM)

2. **Follow-Up Exercise from the Commission Planning Day** (Huntsperger)

The Commission will participate in a follow-up exercise, building on the August 2025 Planning Day.

BREAK

3. **Approval of the 11.19.2025 Commission Meeting Minutes** (Helman)

- Approved as written.

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

- N/A

5. **Chair Updates** (Helman)

Reports

- Written reports will be added to the Commission meeting packet moving forward. Meeting time will be used to answer questions regarding the reports.

Commission Status Update

- Recent Resignations: Monte Cimino, Denise Johnson (presented with a certificate of appreciation.)
- 9 Vacancies for Commission seats.

6. **Director/Staff Updates** (Dunaway, Milner, Huntsperger)

Director Update:

- Budget
 - Governor's Budget will be finalized from January 2026 through March 2026.

Approved: 02.18.2026



Sonoma County Aging & Disability Commission Meeting



- County funding primarily comes from County Realignment. (Car Registrations and Property Taxes)
- Cost shifting the growth in wages for providers in IHSS to the Counties from the State. (Starts January 2027)
- Permanent Emergency Backup Provider System for IHSS could potentially be cut at the state level.
- CalFresh Healthy Living funding will end in March 2026. One employee will be relocated to another position within the county.
- ADRU will be losing a .5 FTE position due to funding cuts.
- AAA is offering additional support to Community-Based Organizations that are applying for additional funding sources.

Staff Update:

- AAA Program Monitoring
 - Sign-up sheet for site visits is available for Commission members. Contact Cody Milner to sign up.
- SB 707 – Brown Act
 - Commission must provide a phone number and instructions for virtual participation.
 - Sonoma County did not meet the threshold that would require Alternative languages.
 - Virtual Commission members must disclose anyone over 18 in the room with them. Their votes on action items will be tracked.
 - AAA Staff and Commission are seeking advice from other Advisory Commissions/Councils on virtual participation changes.
 - Technology disruption procedures will align with the Board of Supervisors.
- Area Plan Updates
 - Cody Milner will send out Questions and Answers to Commission Members.
- Area Plan Update Year 2 (FY 25/26)
 - Year 2 update is in review, more information to come.
 - March 18th, 2026, 1:00 PM: Public Hearing on the Area Plan Year 2 Update.



Sonoma County Aging & Disability Commission Meeting



- Area Plan Needs Assessment
 - Next 4-year Area Plan: Fiscal Year 2028-2032
 - Workgroups will start preparing the questions for the survey, focus groups, and interviews.
 - General Timeline:
 - Winter 2026: Analyzing the data.
 - Spring 2027: Writing the Area Plan based on the data.
 - Summer 2027: RFP is released.
 - Winter 2027: Contracts being processed/awarded.

MPA and LADAP Update:

- Written reports on the activities of the Action Teams will be added to the Commission meeting packet moving forward. Meeting time will be used to answer questions regarding the reports.
- Action teams with openings for Commission seats; Caregiving and Transportation.

7. Linkages Program Presentation (Hernandez)

Presentation by Jessica Hernandez on the Linkages Case Management Program.

- Presentation slides are available on request.
- Reviewed program eligibility, how Linkages supports clients with accessing services/supports, and the general timeline of services.
- Current wait-times: 4-5 months (Due to staffing shortage; should be improving now that the team is fully staffed.)
- Refer by calling 565-INFO or visiting the Sonoma County Adult & Aging website, [Care Management page](#).

BREAK

8. Written Report Discussion (Helman)

- Council on Aging has eliminated the waitlist as of this week.

9. Board of Supervisors Meeting – Fall 2025 & Spring 2026 (Helman)

Fall 2025:

- Commission members from each County District provided a report on their meeting with their respective Board of Supervisors.
- Commissioners discussed feedback about the process and experience.



Sonoma County Aging & Disability Commission Meeting



Spring 2026:

- Commission members reviewed the topics and due dates for the next set of meetings.

10. Standing & Ad Hoc Committee Report (Helman)

Standing Committee: No Wrong Door

The Committee will provide an update on the progress of the work.

Interim Chair: Suzanne Edwards

- The NWD Committee met in December 2025 to establish a mission statement for the committee.
- Next meeting is in February 2026.
- Looking for a Vice Chair
- There is a seat available for one additional member.

Ad Hoc Committees:

- Community Convening Topics

Ad Hoc to convene disability service providers for a discussion about shared experiences and challenges, and how the Commission can better represent their voices.

Lead: Eddie Estrada

Due: February 4, 2026

- Trayce Beards and Suzanne Edwards met with DSLC and learned that they meet regularly already.
- The Committee identified the Aging & Disability Expo as a potential space to provide a discussion panel in place of the community convening.
- An additional Ad Hoc Committee would need to be established to plan the Expo event panel.

- Research Report - **Action**

Ad hoc will research and summarize the ways older adults, people with disabilities, and their caregivers learn about services and supports.

Lead: Trayce Beards

Due: 1/7/2025

- Commissioners reviewed the draft report and provided feedback.
- Upload the report to the Commission Webpage.

Motion: Approve the content of the report to be submitted to the AAA Staff.

1st Motion: Diane Spain | **2nd Motion:** Deanna Shaat | **Vote Result:** Approved/Passed

- Website Recommendation – **Action**

Approved: 02.18.2026



Sonoma County Aging & Disability Commission Meeting



Develop and make recommendations for the Commission's webpage to make it welcoming, informative, and simple to navigate.

Lead: Jaime Penaherrera

Due: March 4, 2026

Motion: Establish the Website Recommendations Ad Hoc Committee.

1st Motion: Trayce Beards | **2nd Motion:** Robin Thompson | **Vote Result:** Approved/Passed

Interested Members: Jaime Penaherrera, Diane Spain, Trayce Beards, Robin Thompson, Jenny Helman

- FY 26/27 Area Plan Objectives - **Action**

Review, develop, and make a recommendation on the Commission's FY 2026/27 Area Plan Objectives.

Lead: Deanna Shaat

Due: March 4, 2026

Motion: Establish the FY26/27 Area Plan Objective Ad Hoc Committee.

1st Motion: Priyanka Varma | **2nd Motion:** Trayce Beards | **Vote Result:** Approved/Passed

Interested Members: Trayce Beards, Suzanne Edwards, Priyanka Varma, Deanna Shaat

11. Adjourn (Helman)(2:58PM)

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 act. Breaks may be called at the discretion of the Chair. If you need any accommodations to effectively participate, please contact 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

Upcoming Events:

- Executive Meeting: Tuesday, February 10, 2025, from 11:00 AM – 12:30 PM
- Commission Meeting: Wednesday, February 18, 2025, from 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM
- California Senior Legislature Applications Due March 31, 2026
 - To be sworn in during the October 2026 Annual Legislative Session
- Legislative Representatives to be invited to the April 2026 Commission Meeting Area Plan Public Hearing in March 2026
- Windsor Senior Expo: June 7, 2026, from 10:00 Am – 2:00 PM
- AAA Program Monitoring

Upcoming ADRU Table Events:

- None at this time