



# Sonoma County Aging & Disability Commission Meeting



## Minutes

Wednesday, November 19th, 2025 | 1:00PM-3:00PM

Carnelian Conference Room, 3725 Westwind Blvd. Santa Rosa 95403

**In-person Attendance:** Deanna Shaat, Robin Thompson, Trayce Beards, Denise Johnson, Suzanne Edwards, Jenny Helman, Alain Serkissian, Eddie Estrada, Rick Baum, Jaime Penaherrera, Erick Larson (*Emeritus Member*), Don Streeper (*Emeritus Member*)

**Virtual Attendance:** Diane Spain, Monte Cimino

**Absent:** Terry Kelley (*Leave of Absence*), Priyanka Varma

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

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

### 2. Approval of the 10.15.2025 Commission Meeting Minutes (Helman)

Approved as Written.

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

Megan Kelly, Petaluma People Services Center: Has reduced the Nutrition Waitlists. Gave updates for the iRide program; currently looking for volunteer drivers. Provided a brief staffing update.

### 4. Chair Updates (Helman)

*The Chair provided updates for the Executive Committee to review and discuss.*

#### Acknowledgements

- Jaime Penaherrera for completing his PhD program.
- Cody Milner for one year of service.

#### Reminder on January Meeting

- An extra hour will be added to the January meeting as a follow-up for the August planning day. (12:00PM-1:00PM, Commission meeting follows from 1:00PM-3:00PM)

#### CDA Program Monitoring Summary

- Provided a high-level summary of the CDA Program Monitoring that took place the week of October 20<sup>th</sup>.
- CDA shared they were impressed with the Commission's engagement in the Area Agency on Aging.
- A formal CDA Report will be issued within 60 days and will include findings.
- Generally, findings included updates to Policies and Procedures, many already corrected.



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### Area Plan Updates

- Commissioners are asked to review the Area Plan Update and submit questions by January 9, 2026.

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

#### Director Update:

*The AAA Director provided updates on relevant matters for the Commission.*

- Government Reopened
  - Passing of the Continuing Resolution for Older Americans Act
  - SNAP/CalFresh benefits are reinstated
- PSA (Planning Service Area) Update
  - Santa Barbara AAA is at risk of being defunded.
  - Ventura County has elected to give back its AAA membership to the State (CDA)
- SB 1249
  - Changes in determining AAA Boundaries, Required Core Services Areas, and creation of a Data dashboard.
- Liz Fuller, California State Assembly – Committee on Aging & Long-Term Care, is touring three Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs) throughout the state and has selected Sonoma County as one of the sites to visit.

#### Staff Update:

*The AAA Staff provided updates on relevant matters for the Commission, including recent developments or upcoming events.*

- Reminder: Volunteer Logs Due soon. Reporting on July – December 2025 activities. Due January 15, 2026

#### MPA and LADAP Update:

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

- MPA Regional Work
  - A Wellness, Equity, and Inclusion Action Team will be established, with a focus on developing more inclusive data collection and survey practices.

### **6. Veterans Program Presentation (Jensen)**

*Presentation by Matt Jensen on Veteran Services.*

- Accredited by Cal Vet and National Vets Services.
- VSO brought in ~\$5.8Million on new benefits claims to Vets.
- Types of Claims the VSO assists with: Service-Connected Disability Claims, National Safe Pension Claims, Surviving Spouse Benefits, and Burial Claims.



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- 92% success rate on claims.
- VSO provides referrals to outside resources.
- Reviewed "Judy", a case study of available support by the VSO.
- Contact information for the VSO will be forwarded to the Commission.

### BREAK

#### 7. California Senior Legislature Assembly Member Presentation (Flett)

*Mary Flett, senior CSL Assembly Member, reported on the recent annual meeting.*

- Represents 33 PSAs
- Current CSL Recommendations:
  - EBT sales tax exemptions.
  - Senior childcare tax credit.
  - Moving Digital Literacy programs from the Education Department to the Public Health Department.
  - Remove laptop tracking requirements for digital programs by AAAs.
- Updates to the Brown Act:
  - Signed by the Governor
  - Changes in virtual meetings

#### 8. Written Report Discussion (Helman)

*The Commission discussed the written reports attached to the agenda.*

#### 9. Board of Supervisors Meeting Updates (Helman)

*Each District provided a status update on the scheduling of their meeting with their Board of Supervisors*

- D1: Experiencing difficulty scheduling with the representative's office.
- D2: December 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting planned
- D3: Completed
- D4: Completed
- D5: Waiting for a response from the representative's office.
  - Those who still need to schedule should make appointments in March 2026.

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

##### Standing Committee: No Wrong Door

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

- Met October 28<sup>th</sup>. Next meeting is December 16th.
- Toolbox has been created. It will be saved to the Commission resources page.



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- PowerPoint presented by Sandra Hoevertsz is being updated and will be added to the toolbox.

### 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*

- The meeting was held last week. The next meeting is on December 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- Working to identify themes and event names.
- Goal to bring attention to the consumer/community services providers, bring them together, etc.

- Commission Recruitment Plan - Action

*Ad Hoc to develop and recommend recruitment activities based on outreach priorities.*

*Lead: Jenny Helman. Due: 10/29/2025*

- Recommendation included in Commission Packet; reviewed by the Commission.
- Membership cards were given out to the Commissioners. The Commissioners have requested an electronic version.
- Commissioners discussed the planned focus areas and Commission demographics.

**Motion: Approve the Ad Hoc's recommendations.**

**1<sup>st</sup> Motion: Trayce Beards, 2<sup>nd</sup> Motion: Deanna Shaat, Vote Result: Approved**

- Research Report

*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*

- Differentiating between self-found online information and information provided by "trusted intermediaries".
- Discussed advertising/outreach recommendations for ADRH.

### **11. Adjourn (Helman)(3:00PM)**

*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*



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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)

### **Upcoming Meetings:**

- Executive Committee: **No Meeting in December**
- Commission Meeting: **No Meeting in December**
- Next Executive Committee: January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2026
- Next Commission Meeting: January 21<sup>st</sup>, 2026

### **Upcoming ADRU Table Events:**

N/A