



Sonoma County Aging & Disability Commission Meeting



Minutes

Wednesday, May 20th, 2026 | 1:00PM-3:00PM

Carnelian Conference Room, 3725 Westwind Blvd. Santa Rosa 95403

In-person Attendance: Deanna Shaat, Robin Thompson, Suzanne Edwards, Jenny Helman, Rick Baum, Priyanka Varma, Terry Kelley, Heather Hannan-Kramer, Priyanka Varma, Trayce Beards, Pam Law, Jaime Penaherrera, Michael Margetts, Don Streeper (*Emeritus Member-Non-voting*)

Virtual Attendance: Diane Spain, Eric Larson (*Emeritus Member-Non-voting*), Denise Johnson (*Public*)

Absent: Alain Serkissian

Staff Attendance: Paul Dunaway, Cody Souza-Milner, Cassandra Denson (Zoom)

1. Welcome & Commission Member Introductions (Helman) (1:04PM)

2. Approval of the 4.15.2026 Commission Meeting Minutes (Helman)

- Approved as written.

3. Public Comment and Commission Member Open Forum

Introductions provided to public participants who wish to be recognized.

Jamie Escoubas, COA: "Protect your Loved Ones and their Legacy" Event, June 9th.

Denise Johnson, COA: Peer Support Program will be funded through Kaiser for the next fiscal year.

Cody Milner, AAA: Sonoma County Pride Event: June 6th, 11:00-5:00. A&A is looking for Commissioners to support the ADRU/A&A table.

Suzanne Edwards / Trayce Beards: Attended the Behavioral Health board meeting.

4. Marge Ling Award (Helman)

- The Commission presented the Marge Ling Award to Denise Johnson.
- [Fall Prevention Grant Video](#)

5. Chair Updates (Helman)

June 17th Planning Day from 9AM – 3PM

North County Resource Fair

- North County Senior Resource Fair: June 7, 2026, from 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM
 - At Huerta Gym, Windsor



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- 38 Vendors will be participating.

6. Director and Staff Updates (Dunaway & Souza-Milner)

Director Update(s):

- Governor's May Budget Revise
 - Proposal to roll back age of eligibility for APS to 65. This would be a loss of 1.3 million in funding for Sonoma County.
 - IHSS growth cost is shifting to Counties.
- Provided updates on Public Hearings and Regulation Changes
- Provided Updates on Changes to Intrastate Funding Formula (IFF)

Staff Update(s):

- Needs Assessment – Equity MPA Team
 - Equity MPA Committee provided support with designing the questions.
 - Focus Groups are now in the design phase.
- California Senior Legislation (CSL) Candidacy
 - Terry Kelley and Mary Flett will be representing Sonoma County.

7. Legislative Representative Follow-Up (Helman)

Discussion on the follow-up from the Legislative Representative conversation at the April Commission Meeting.

- No additional comments given.

8. Economic Security Task Force (Baum)

Presentation on the recommendations from the Economic Security Task Force.

- Slide deck and recommendations provided in the meeting packet.
- Summary of Recommendations:
 - The ADRH should serve as Sonoma County's primary safety-net navigation resource.
 - The ADRH should expand the number of public and private partners in its network:
 - All County safety-net departments should be members of the network.
 - Membership should be opened up to "one-way referral" partners such as libraries and senior centers.
 - The ADRH should establish a unit specifically charged with increasing its visibility and raising awareness of its navigation services.
 - The Unit should develop a comprehensive communication plan that includes an accountability structure.



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- The communication plan should ensure ongoing, in-person outreach to affinity groups of historically underserved communities.
- The unit should offer education and training opportunities to CBO staff and volunteers regarding how the safety-net system works and ADRH's role in it.
- The unit should consider holding periodic public forums to share curated information with the public.

9. Aging & Disability Resource Hub Commission Liaison Document (Edwards)

Chair of No Wrong Door Standing Committee will discuss with the Executive Committee the need for an ADRH Commission Liaison.

- Reviewed the position description of duties.
- Pam Law has agreed to take on the liaison position.

10. Commission Resource Guide Document (Thompson)

Discussion on the use of the Commission Resource Guide.

- Reviewed the resource document.
- Send Robin Thompson any corrections, suggestions, or requests.
- Document will be housed on the Commission web page.

11. Board of Supervisors Meeting – Spring 2026 (Helman)

Spring 2026: Meetings with the Supervisors should be completed by May 2026

District 3: Trayce Beards provided a summary of the meeting. Focused on spreading information to the community.

District 2: Deanna Shaat provided a summary of the meeting. Focused on Food Programs.

- Deanna Shaat will send the Commission more information on an upcoming food program provider meeting/town hall.

District 4: Jenny Helman provided a summary of the meeting with the candidates for office. Invited candidates to the Resource Fair in Windsor.

District 1: Supervisor has not been able to schedule meeting with the commissioners.

Commission Feedback/Comments:

- Commission could prioritize/focus on connecting supervisors with their aging constituents and the issues that affect them. Especially since the constituency they serve is primarily 60+.



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- The Commission has interest in an Ad Hoc Committee to develop legislative asks and talking points.

BREAK

12. Becoming Independent Presentation (Helman)

Presentation from Becoming Independent and highlights of the services they provide to the community.

- Discussed developmental and intellectual disability stats in Sonoma County.
- Discussed Becoming Independent's programs and provided client stories in each program.
 - Education Program (Day Program).
 - Employment Services.
 - Supportive and Independent Living Services.
 - Social Enterprise (Document Shredding, The Backdrop Event Center, the BI Buzz Café)
- BI's Program Needs:
 - Looking for new partnerships in the community for the Day Program. (activities, employment, volunteer opportunities, recreation partners, art gallery space, etc.)
 - Funding is always needed to grow the programs.

13. Ad Hoc Committee Reports (Helman)

No Wrong Door Ad Hoc - Action

Prioritize work plan activities so the plan can be discussed and approved by the Commission.

Lead: Suzanne Edwards

Due: April 9, 2026

Motion: Approve the NWD Activities Workplan.

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

Research Report Topic #2

Potentially research and summarize issues related to nutrition programs for older adults and adults with disabilities.

Lead: Diane Spain

Due: June 4, 2026

- Diane Spain provided an update on progress.

Executive Committee Nomination Ad Hoc (New) - Action



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Lead: TBD

Due: June 4th, 2026

- Reviewed the committee's roles and information regarding elections.
- Trayce Beards will assist the Ad Hoc Committee as the Parliamentarian. (Setting up first meeting)

Motion: Establish the Executive Committee Nomination Ad Hoc.

1st Motion: Rick Baum | 2nd Motion: Terry Kelley | Vote Result: Approved

- Interested Members: Jaime Penaherrera, Terry Kelley, Michael Margetts

14. Adjourn (Helman)(2:55PM)

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, June 9, 2026, from 11:00 AM – 12:30 PM
- Commission Planning Day: Wednesday, June 17, 2026, from 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM
- No Meeting in July 2026
- North County Senior Resource Fair: June 7, 2026, from 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM
 - At Huerta Gym, Windsor
- African Soul Festival: August 29, 2026, from 11:00 to 5:00PM
 - 475 City Center Drive, Rohnert Park

Upcoming ADRU Table Events:

- None at this time