



Sonoma County Aging & Disability Commission Meeting



Minutes

Wednesday, August 19, 2026 | 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM

Carnelian Conference Room, 3725 Westwind Blvd. Santa Rosa 95403

In-person Attendance: Deanna Shaat, Robin Thompson, Trayce Beards, Suzanne Edwards, Jenny Helman, Rick Baum, Pam Law, Micheal Margetts, Priyanka Varma, Jaime Penaherrera, Eric Larson (*Emeritus Member*),

Virtual Attendance: Diane Spain (*Pre-approved*), Don Streeper (*Emeritus Member*)

Absent: Terry Kelley, Alain Serkissian (*Emeritus Member*)

Staff Attendance: Paul Dunaway, Cody Souza-Milner, Joni Huntsperger, Casandra Denson

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

2. Approval of the 06.17.2026 Commission Meeting Minutes

- Minutes approved as written.

3. Public Comment and Commission Member Open Forum

- Joanna Adams- Introduced an *Aging Well with Intention* 12-week series launching the following Wednesday at the VETS Building; she is a certified senior advisor, real estate broker, and caregiver.
- Sandra Hoevertsz- Shared *Willingly Kidnapped* a Poem regarding Alzheimer's.
- Trayce Beards- Shared personal experience regarding the difficulty of handling the end-of-life needs of a close friend. Reminding all that estate planning and will planning is important.
- Denise Johnson, COA- Senior Peer Support program discontinued; PEARLS (evidence-based) adopted as primary mental health program. Connection is Prevention event: September 3, 9:30 a.m.–2:15 p.m., Findlay Center — free for older adults and caregivers. Fall Prevention Week: September 21; Lunch and Learn + exercise class September 23 at Council on Aging
- Eric Larson- Compass Navigation Program launched September 1 in Sonoma Valley; hub-and-spoke model with 6+ partner nonprofits; already served 6 clients with 25+ service connections in first week and a half.
- Alan Flores, United Access- Introduced the company that sells adaptive equipment or vehicle accommodation. Services all of Sonoma County.
- Robin Thompson- North Bay Reginal Candidate Forum, Friday, August 24th.



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4. Commission Member Applications – **Action** (Helman)

Shola Sulaimon (District 4)

Motion: Accept Shola Sulaimon a member of the Aging & Disability Commission.

1st Motion: Robin Thompson | **2nd Motion:** Rick Baum | **Vote Result:** Passed

Stephanie Rodriguez (District 4)

Motion: Accept Stephanie Rodriguez a member of the Aging & Disability Commission.

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

5. Chair Updates: (Helman)

Commission Membership Status Change

- Alain Serkissian has moved to emeritus status.

Commission Member Resignation

- Heather Hannan-Kramer has resigned.

New Member Orientation Update – “Orientation Passport”

- Jenny Heman provided a briefing on the new orientation passport procedure.
- Shola Sulaimon - Robin Thompson will be their passport coordinator.
- Stephanie Rodriguez - Jenny Helman will be their passport coordinator.

Board of Supervisors Report

- Board of Supervisors supervisor meetings delayed to January due to two supervisor seats changing in November elections Appointments can be set up for January in advance.

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

Director Updates:

- Senate passed Older American’s Act Reauthorization– Waiting on House Vote
- C4A President Update: Paul Dunaway has been elected as the C4A president for a 2-year term.

Staff Updates:

- Reviewed Commission Volunteer Logs and reported data for 2025-2026 fiscal year.



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- AAA Needs Assessment Survey and Focus Group sign-up is available for Commissioners to assist with distribution and participation.

7. Presentation on the Impacts of HR1 on AAAs (Mills & Dunaway)

Presentation by Christina Mills, Executive Director of C4A, and Paul Dunaway, Sonoma County AAA Director, about the impact of HR1. Presentation Slides included in the Meeting Agenda Packet.

- Four primary impact categories identified for older adults and people with disabilities:
 - Health insurance: Medi-Cal eligibility reassessed every 6 months (not annually); work requirement of 80 hours/month for ages 18–64; undocumented individuals lose eligibility for health insurance and nutrition services.
 - Nutrition: CalFresh/SNAP eligibility tied to same work requirements and 6-month recertification
 - Home-based services: Asset cap of \$1 million for home and community-based benefits — disqualifying many California homeowners; loss of Medi-Cal triggers loss of IHSS
 - Nursing home staffing: RN requirement reduced to 1 RN per 8 hours/day (down from 24-hour coverage), leaving frail residents with minimal medical oversight
 - AAA impact: Increased call volume, more complex cases, reduced service capacity — system risk of people not seeking help until crisis.
- Christina's Advocacy Recommendations for Sonoma
 - Ensure Spanish-speaking and Latino community members are present at focus groups and community convenings — not just represented by volunteers
 - Explore an Aging and Disability Resolution (distinct from the existing Age-Friendly designation) potentially the first such resolution in California.
 - Revisit the Age-Friendly Sonoma designation (WHO-based, with work plan requirements); note that Windsor, Petaluma, and Healdsburg hold it but are not actively implementing it.
 - Explore landlord recognition awards to elevate accessible, disability-friendly landlords rather than focusing only on complaints.



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- Push for universal design ordinances modeled on Alameda County (any new housing must meet accessibility minimums beyond the federal 5% floor — Alameda required ~10% visitable design).
- Expand cross-sector partnerships: healthcare, behavioral health, housing.
- SB1249 changes AAA designation:
 - Nonprofit AAAs now face county right-of-first refusal every 4 years to take over AAA designation — putting some organizations at risk by 2029.
 - C4A is currently working on legislation to improve this bill for non-profit run AAAs.
 - Interstate funding formula changes could cause multi-million-dollar losses for some AAAs; Sonoma is relatively insulated but other counties face significant potential devastation
- Paul Dunaway will Pull Sonoma-specific HR1 impact numbers for next meeting.

BREAK

8. Commission Planning Day Follow-Up

- Commissioners discussed and provided feedback on the June Planning Day and the Work Plan.
- Trayce Beards brought forward the question of what the Commission could do to provide a voice to the aging and disability community, and what activities could be done.
- June Planning Day notes are compiled into a 12-page document; executive committee to distill into a Work Plan 2.0 proposal for the September meeting.
- Work Plan 2.0 meeting scheduled for **Wednesday the 26th at 3:30pm**

9. Standing & Ad Hoc Committee Report (Helman & Edwards)

Standing Committee: No Wrong Door

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

Chair: Suzanne Edwards | Vice Chair: Priyanka Varma



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- Last met in June.
- Received a presentation on ADRH's core services.
- Discussed the first project- visit senior centers to share 565-INFO information with them and discuss their needs.

Ad Hoc Committee(s):

- Research Report Topic #2 – **Action**
Lead: Diane Spain | Due: August 6, 2026
 - Discussed the report and recommendations
 - Committee recommendation: Advocate to CDA to allow AAAs to allocate nutrition funding according to local needs — locally, demand for to-go meals far exceeds congregate meal demand (nearly double the projected usage), but CDA prioritizes congregate funding
 - Christina confirmed: CDA recently secured state budget funding for new to-go meal staff following a bill that passed last year

Motion: Accept the Nutrition Report and Recommendations.

1st Motion: Rick Baum | **2nd Motion:** Suzanne Edwards | **Vote Result:** Passed

- BOS Meeting Topics – **Action**
Goal: Develop talking points for the BOS meetings
Lead: Robin Thompson | Due: Request to extend deadline until November 2026 (Tabled)

Motion: Accept the report developed by the BOS Ad Hoc Committee.

1st Motion: Trayce Beards | **2nd Motion:** Deanne Shaat | **Vote Result:** Passed

10. Adjourn (Helman)(3:05 PM)

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@SonomaCounty-HSD.gov or (707) 565-5238 at least 48 hours prior to the meeting.



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To submit items for the AAA Newsletter, or to receive the AAA Newsletter:
AAA@SonomaCounty-HSD.gov

Upcoming Events:

- African Soul Festival: August 29, 2026, from 11:00 to 5:00PM
 - 475 City Center Drive, Rohnert Park
 - Executive Meeting: Tuesday, September 8, 2026, from 11:00 AM – 12:30 PM
 - Commission Meeting: Wednesday, September 16, 2026, from 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM
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