



Sonoma County Aging & Disability Commission Meeting

Minutes

Wednesday, September 18, 2024 | 9:00 am – 2:00 pm
Carnelian Conference Room, 3725 Westwind Blvd. Santa Rosa 95403

In-person Attendance: Deanna Shaat, Jenny Helman, Trayce Beards, Robin Thompson, Priyanka Varma, Rick Baum, Sandra Hoevertsz Terry Kelley, Erick Larson, Jaime Peñaherrera, Suzanne Edwards, Kerrily Beaton, Diane Spain, Larry McCabe, Don Streeper (Emeritus Member)

Absent: Alain Serkissian

Staff Attendance: Sara Avery, Paul Dunaway, Annie Silverman, Cassandra Denson.

1. Welcome and Introductions (Helman) (1:00pm)

2. Approval of Minutes (6.19.24, 8.21.2024)

Minutes approved as written for 6.19.24 & 8.21.24.

3. Public Comment and Council Member Open Forum

Dwayne Dewitt from Roseland: Interested in opportunities to help senior veterans. Requests that the Commission prioritizes Veterans' services and partnering with local veteran organizations.

Denice Johnson from COA: Awarded a Fall Prevention Grant. The program has launched, with 4 Seniors and has a waiting list of 10 seniors. They are hosting an emergency prep lunch and learn for 80 seniors. Aging In Place survey results are available to be presented to the Commission if interested. Received a grant from Alzheimer's Association for a Memory Café. Currently offering medically tailored meals in partnership with local health providers.

Daphne Scott from PPSC: 1000 Bowls fundraising event invitation given out to Commissioners.

Crista Nelson from SAS: Hosting a document shredding event with Becoming Independent. Also assisting in voter registration changes for those moving to long-term care.

4. National Senior Center Month Showcase

September is National Senior Center Month. We see this as an opportunity to promote a positive image of aging, highlight how Sonoma County senior centers improve the lives of older adults, and to show the importance in the community.

Suzanne/Don/Jaime: Salvation Army Senior Center

Successes: Monthly senior interviews that share the stories of local seniors.

Areas of Concern: The center is a "hidden gem" and needs more visibility.



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Needs: Grant funding and financial support.

Deanna/Priyanka: Petaluma Senior Center

Successes: Increased participation without turning people away. No membership fees. New library program and renovated outdoor space.

Areas of Concern: The Aging & Disability Resource Directory print is too small. Lack of drivers for the Meals on Wheels program.

Needs: Public transportation closer to the center. Services for unhoused seniors.

Monte/Trayce/Robin: Rohnert Park Senior Center

Successes: Organizing outings and hosting a Senior Prom event. Volunteer "Sue" has overcome personal challenges while contributing to the center.

Areas of Concern: Food insecurity in Rohnert Park.

Needs: Addressing the needs of unhoused seniors and seniors in mental health crises.

Larry/Jenny: Healdsburg & Windsor Senior Centers

Successes: Strong staff and community engagement at both locations.

- Windsor: The pool has been a large attraction, and services continued smoothly despite a move.
- Healdsburg: Acquired two cars for transportation. "Junior seniors" (younger seniors) are also participating.

Areas of Concern:

- Healdsburg: Increasing number of aging adults with inadequate resources/services.
- Windsor: Need for better outreach and access to the center.

Needs:

- Windsor: More space for meetings/activities and finding lifeguards for the pool during the school year.
- Healdsburg: Additional vehicles for transportation within the service area.

Jenny/Larry: Cloverdale Senior Center

Successes: Strong sense of community with rich programs, a durable medical equipment loan program, and a technology program. The center successfully bounced back after COVID.

Areas of Concern: The center doesn't receive enough attention from Santa Rosa.

Needs: Transportation to and from the center, affordable housing, and general transportation for local seniors.

Diane/Trayce: Person Senior Wing

Successes: Able to host numerous programs due to the larger space.



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Areas of Concern/Needs: Transportation.

Diane/Trayce: Russian River & Sebastopol Senior Centers

Successes:

- Russian River: Meal program
- Sebastopol: Increased participation and senior connections.

Areas of Concern:

- Russian River: Transportation access
- Sebastopol: Financial security for the center and programs, including grants and funding opportunities.

Needs:

- Russian River: Improved transportation options for seniors.
- Sebastopol: Simple home care services to help seniors stay in their homes.

Commissioner Feedback:

- Needs and problem areas are common across all centers (transportation, funding, awareness).
- Uplifting and Inspiring while becoming more aware of the county's needs.
- Interest in annual visits to centers from Commissioners.
- Sharing center information, newsletter, etc. to increase awareness of their programs.

5. Break

6. Chair Updates

Member Updates

- Don Streeper has been moved to the Emeritus Status.

7. Director/Staff updates

Master Plan on Aging

- The Master Plan has been completed and passed by the Board of Supervisors.
- Kick-Off event on Oct 1st. Broader community events TBD.
- Hiring a Program Manager/Coordinator to help implement the plan in the community.
- Erick Larson encourages Commissioners to research and support a national master plan for aging.
- Action Teams will be formed after the Kick-Off event and hiring is completed.

Program Manager Recruitment Update

- Community service Program Development Manager in the hiring process.



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8. No Wrong Door Standing Committee of Commission (Jordan Rico)

Reviewed the purpose of the standing committee, and committee membership structure, and suggested meeting dates/times.

9. Standing & Ad Hoc Committee Report—Action

Standing Committee: No Wrong Door

Commissioners Interested: Sandra, Rick, Deanna, Robin, Priyanka, Trayce, Jenny (LTSS Qualifier), Monte, Suzanne (LTSS Qualifier)

Ad Hoc Committee: Community Engagement

Commissioners Interested: Jenny, Trayce, Robin, Deanna, Diane, Erick, Rick

Ad Hoc Committee: Leg Rep Visit Content Planning

Commissioners Interested: Rick, Robin, Jenny

10. 24-25 Workplan Objectives Report

Reviewed the draft report that would be sent to the Board of Supervisors.

Commissioners gave feedback/edit recommendations:

- Changes to the table display.
- Include the needs of the community and recommendations.
- Diane will consolidate Senior Center reports.

11. Aging & Disability Commission Priorities

Reviewed a consolidated slide show of data results from Planning Day.

12. Adjourn (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 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 Aging & Disability Commission meetings:

- Aging & Disability Commission, Executive Committee Meeting: October 8, 2024 (11:00am)
 - Aging & Disability Commission Meeting: October 16, 2024 (1:00pm)
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