



Sonoma County Aging & Disability Commission Meeting



Minutes

Wednesday, February 19, 2025 | 1:00pm – 3:00pm

Carnelian Conference Room, 3725 Westwind Blvd. Santa Rosa 95403

In-person Attendance: Deanna Shaat, Jenny Helman, Trayce Beards, Robin Thompson, Sandra Hoevertsz, Terry Kelley, Jaime Peñaherrera, Monte Cimino, Denise Johnson, Suzanne Edwards, Alain Serkissian, Rick Baum, Don Streeper (*Emeritus Member*)

Zoom Attendance: Diane Spain, Priyanka Varma

Absent: Christian Nava, Erick Larson (*Moved to Emeritus Status during the meeting*)

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

1. Welcome and Introductions (Helman) (1:03pm)

2. Approval of Minutes (1.15.2025)

Minutes Approved as written.

3. Chair Updates (Helman)

Commissioners' Participation in Commission Meetings – Action

Motion: Move Erick Larson to Emeritus Status with the Commission.

1st Motion: Rick Baum **2nd Motion:** Alain Serkissian **Vote Result:** Passed

Letter of Support for Beth Steffy – Tabled

4. February Showcase on Case Management (Helman, Robin, Monte, Priyanka)

Certificates were provided to each service provider.

Typical Requests Received by the Agency:

Linkages: Highly individualized, with common requests including Housing, Caregiver Support and Respite, Home Safety, Transportation, and Long-term Estate planning.

WCCS (West County Community Services)/RRSC (Russian River Senior Center): Frequently addresses Housing (instability, access, and maintenance), Transportation, and Financial Assistance.

PPSC (Petaluma People Services Center): Addresses a wide range of client needs. Provides service through the Community Connector (Case Manager) to assess and address individual needs.

Demographic Changes or Trends:



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Linkages: An increase in services for individuals under 60 who are disabled. Growing demand for both formal and informal in-home care services. A trend of care recipients relying less on family members for support.

WCCS/RRSC: Seniors are seeking services at younger ages due to the challenges of living in the area. Approximately 20% of the caseload involves housing difficulties.

PPSC: An increasing number of male clients living independently, though most clients remain female. Rising demand for access to food assistance.

If Unable to Assist Directly, What Actions Are Taken:

Linkages: Explores outside services through Information & Assistance (with the Aging and Disability Resource Hub)/565-Info. Helps clients identify their needs and guides them toward appropriate services. Provides support in completing tasks necessary to meet those needs. Frequently collaborates with family members and other support systems.

WCCS/RRSC: Utilizes the online referral system through ADRH (Aging and Disability Resource Hub). Refers clients to local agencies not included in the ADRH system when appropriate.

PPSC: Opened a new satellite office at the Senior Center in Rohnert Park to enhance accessibility. Emphasizes the importance of reaching live representatives at referral agencies. Actively participates in the ADRH referral system.

Areas of Concern or Unmet Needs:

Linkages: Housing remains the highest need, with older adults being the fastest-growing population experiencing homelessness. A significant need for caregivers to provide daily care services.

WCCS/RRSC: The transportation program faces a shortage of drivers and requires additional funding options.

PPSC: The cost of providing services continues to rise while funding remains stagnant. Increased stress levels among staff supporting clients. Lack of available grief services or support groups.

Success Stories:

Linkages: Shared a story about successfully connecting a client with Medi-Cal services, arranged for a home cleaning service, and provided assistance in obtaining a new mattress.

WCCS/RRSC: Shared a story where they supported a client experiencing homelessness who was living in her car. Assisted in signing her up for coordinated entry. Helped arrange for new tires for her vehicle. Enrolled her in a safe parking program. Facilitated the renewal of her driver's license. Supported her enrollment in food stamps and Medi-Cal.



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PPSC: Shared a story where they assisted a client dealing with hoarding issues in a 500-square-foot apartment. Organized sessions with a professional organizer. The client now has a safe, decluttered living space that allows for increased mobility and access.

Comments/Suggestions/Solutions:

Policy and Advocacy Efforts: PPSC (Petaluma People Services Center) expressed willingness to recommend policy and advocacy efforts to address ongoing challenges.

Collaboration and Best Practices: Emphasized the importance of sharing best practices among organizations to improve service delivery and address common issues.

Broader Initiatives: The Master Plan for Aging (MPA) may provide solutions to address some of these issues on a larger scale.

Funding and Resources: Funding limitations and lack of resources remain significant concerns that require attention and action.

Efforts of Social Workers: Social workers continue to go above and beyond to ensure client needs are met, despite resource constraints.

5. Public Comment and Commission Member Open Forum

Upcoming Events announced during Public Comment:

- West Count Community Services benefit/fundraiser event- February 25th, 2025, at 6 pm- Rainbow Cattle Co. in Guerneville.
- Council on Aging & Senior Helpers Event called "Living with Parkinson's", April 3rd, 2025, at 11:30am- Council on Aging Office.
- Council on Aging Wellness Fair in partnership with Piner HS, March 13th, 2025, 10:00am- Finley Community Center.
- Council on Aging Fundraiser, "Treasure House Sip and Shop", March 20th, 2025, 12:00pm- Treasure House Consignments in Santa Rosa.
- Aviation Museum "Hot Dog Thursdays" on the first Thursday every month. Benefits seniors.

Other Updates:

- Service providers are seeing Spanish speaker participation drop off after early January. Jaime Peñaherrera spoke about his personal experience and shared experiences in the Latinx community. The current climate toward Latinx people has been volatile and is deeply affecting the community. A community member shared comments on veteran status, empathy for the Latinx community, and displeasure with current federal government policies.
- Rohnert Park People Services Center is now open.
- The Council on Aging's Meals on Wheels waitlist has no clients remaining. The Drive-up Pick-up program still has an active waitlist.



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- Sandra Hoevertsz will be participating in the Cloverdale Senior Center's Community Conversation on Aging.
- Monte Cimino will be participating in a presentation to the Cotati Rotary Club.
- Robin Thompson will be hosting the next Commission Meeting, and Jenny Helman will be hosting a presentation with ADRH at Windsor Senior Center.
- A community member raised concerns about the lack of protected bus shelters in Sonoma County. Emphasized the need for shelters to protect people (especially the elderly and disabled) from poor weather conditions and to provide seating while waiting for the bus. Encouraged Commission Support at the Board of Supervisors level.

BREAK

6. Director/Staff updates

Director Update

- Addressed comments on current federal policies regarding immigration and how the county is working to protect Latinx and immigrant communities. Discussed the impacts of these policies on people in the community and those accessing public services and acknowledged the fear many are experiencing.
- Reported that there has been no movement on the reauthorization of the Older Americans Act.
- Provided an update on State Senate Bill 1249 authored by the California Commission on Aging. The bill looks at remapping geographical regions, revising the federal funding formula, and restructuring core services/titles.

Master Plan on Aging (MPA) Update

- Shared opportunities for Commission engagement in action teams. MPA Committee would like to see one Commission member per action team.
- Recruiting 1 Commission member as a member of the MPA Oversight Committee. Interested members- Rick Baum & Robin Thompson.
- Upcoming Community Conversations:
Cloverdale: March 10th, 2025 at Cloverdale Senior Center
Petaluma: March 20th, 2025 at Petaluma Vets Building.

Membership Demographics

- Shared Demographics and comparison to current Area Plan Demographics.



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- Highlighted 50% of members are over 60 and lack of Tribal Representation on the Commission.
- Reviewed breakdown of volunteer hours of Commission. Discussed Commission policy regarding volunteer requirements.
- The Executive Committee will discuss how the Commission will review individual members participation.

AAA Contract Monitoring

- Discussed what contract monitoring entails.
- Commissioners will sign up for on-site visits with contracted service providers.

7. FY 25/26 Area Plan Goals and Updates for March Public Hearing

- 30-day notice for the public hearing has gone out to the media.
- Reviewed description of public hearing activities.
- Robin will Chair the hearing.

8. Triple A Council of California (TACC) Report

- Shared information about a housing innovator who presented at TACC: ALA Housing Organization from LA County, which provides senior housing options within their program.
- TACC has developed a new template for preparing PSA reports.
- Commission members are invited to attend meetings as observers. See their website for meeting dates.

9. Standing & Ad Hoc Committee Report (Helman)

Standing Committee: No Wrong Door

- Next meeting Tuesday, 25th at 11 am. Commission members are welcome to observe meetings if interested.

Ad Hoc Committee: Special Projects – Action

- The duties and objectives of the Ad Hoc Committee have been successfully met. The Ad Hoc Committee will be disbanded.

Ad Hoc Committee: Orientation and Onboarding

- A Draft Plan has been created. The plan includes increased involvement from Mentors.

Ad Hoc Committee: Goals and Objectives for FY 25/26

- Next meeting: February 27th over Zoom. Cody Milner and Sara Avery will address the Commission's role.



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Ad Hoc Committee: FY 25/16 Area Plan Goals Presentation/Focus Group Development – Action

- Develop an implementation plan for our area plan objectives; 6.1 and 6.2.
- Recommendations submitted by March 6th.

Motion: Establish an Ad Hoc Committee for FY 25/16 Area Plan Goals Presentation/Focus Group Development

1st Motion: Terry Kelley 2nd Motion: Deanna Shaat Vote Result: Passed

- Interested commission members: Deanna Shaat, Robin Thompson, Priyanka Varma, Sandra Hoevertsz
- Coordinator for the first meeting: Robin Thompson

10. Adjourn (Helman)(2:52pm)

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: **March 11, 2025 (11:00am)**
 - Aging & Disability Commission Meeting/Public Hearing: **March 19, 2025 (1:00pm)**
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