



Sonoma County Aging & Disability Commission Meeting



Minutes

Wednesday, May 21, 2025 | 2:30PM – 4:30PM

Carnelian Conference Room, 3725 Westwind Blvd. Santa Rosa 95403

In-person Attendance: Deanna Shaat, Monte Cimino, Robin Thompson, Trayce Beards, Suzanne Edwards, Terry Kelley, Alain Serkissian, Denise Johnson, Sandra Hoevertsz, Priyanka Varma, Jenny Helman, Jaime Penaherrera

Virtual Attendance: Diane Spain, Rick Baum, Christian Nava

Absent:

Staff Attendance: Paul Dunaway, Cody Milner, Cassandra Denson, Sara Avery, CB Wahl, Kathleen Cortez, Joni Huntsperger (Zoom)

1. Welcome & Commission Member Introductions (Helman) (2:32PM)

Motion: Allow Rick Baum to participate via Zoom due to special circumstances.

1st Motion: Terry Kelley

2nd Motion: Alain Serkissian

Vote Result: Passes

2. Gold Resolution for Older Americans Month (Helman)

Presented by Anna Tamayo.

3. Legislative Representatives and Advocacy Efforts from Providers (Helman)

Report from the Legislative Representatives and Service Providers.

McGuire's Office

- Key Updates:
 - McGuire was sworn in as President of the California Senate.
 - Current focus: Affordability bills and legislation impacting older adults and individuals with disabilities.
- Highlighted Bills:
 - SB 242: Expansion of Medicare supplements.
 - SB 435: Regulation of assisted living facilities.

Thompson's Office:

- Key Updates:
 - Focused on preventing the passage of the Reconciliation Package, which could result in 14 million Americans losing healthcare coverage.
 - Supporting ongoing court actions and hosting town halls to address public concerns.
- Advocacy Efforts:
 - Encouraging constituents to share challenges with public benefits programs.
- Action Requested:



Sonoma County Aging & Disability Commission Meeting



- Submit personal stories with Subject: Medicare/Medicaid Impacts to Brendan Sweeney at their office to illustrate the critical need for these programs.

Aguilar-Curry's Office:

- Key Updates:
 - Focused on the May California Budget Revise, particularly cuts to Medi-Cal.
 - Impacts: Potential addition of asset requirements for eligibility, which may result in the removal of many older adults, women, and children from Medi-Cal coverage.
- Legislation:
 - AB 508: Strengthens regulations for residential care facilities.
 - AB 280: Requires timely updates to healthcare provider directories.
- Advocacy Efforts:
 - Requesting support from the commission to share constituent stories to emphasize the importance of these programs during budget discussions.

Rodger's Office:

- Key Updates:
 - Current Focus: Monitoring State Budget Revisions for potential impacts.
- Legislative Bills:
 - AB 1460: Rural healthcare access
 - AB 6112: Improving emergency response times
- Action Requested:
 - Notify their office if services are negatively affected by budget cuts.

Connally's Office:

- Key Focus Areas:
 - Opposing medical cuts and staffing reductions at long-term care facilities.
 - Advocating for benefits programs by encouraging outreach to committee members.
- Highlighted Bill:
 - AB 1151: Automates the issuance of replacement IDs for seniors who surrender their driver's licenses.
- Action Requested:
 - Share personal stories of constituents impacted by cuts to their office to emphasize community needs.

Jamie Escoubus (Council on Aging):



Sonoma County Aging & Disability Commission Meeting



- Key Updates:
 - Engaged in programs like Justice in Aging and Meals on Wheels (MOW) America to support advocacy for older adults.
 - Focused on educating those they serve about self-advocacy and program access.
- Ongoing Efforts:
 - Actively seeking alternative funding sources to sustain services.

4. Public Comment and Commission Member Open Forum

The public may address the Commission on items not listed on the agenda. Public comments will be limited to three (3) minutes per speaker.

Note: The Commission cannot take action on items not on the agenda.

Jamie Escoubus (Council on Aging): Hosting an Open House on June 17th at 4:30 PM to engage with the community.

Robin Thompson: Congressman Huffman's website provides resources for constituents impacted by budget cuts.

Jaime Penaherrera: Congressman Thompson's Office will participate in a discussion on budget cuts in Napa.

BREAK

5. Approval of the 04.16.2025 Commission Meeting Minutes (Helman)

Approved as written.

Agenda Timeline Change: *Agenda topic moved earlier in the meeting to accommodate presenters that needed to leave the meeting early.*

MPA & LADAP Updates: (Huntsperger)

Key Updates

- Housing and Transportation Action Teams
 - Meetings are scheduled to address priorities and strategies for these sectors.

LADAP Final Report

- Currently under review and will be finalized by June.

Economic Security Action Team (Presented by Rick Baum)

- Top Priorities Identified:



Sonoma County Aging & Disability Commission Meeting



- Advocacy efforts at local and state levels.
- Increasing access to CalFresh.
- Activities and Analysis:
 - Conducted a root cause analysis to understand barriers to food security.
 - Explored the community's need for additional food resources, including:
 - How people learn about these resources.
 - Addressing the stigma of accessing resources or asking for help.
 - Identifying additional obstacles in accessing food assistance programs.

Caregiving Action Team (Presented by Monte Cimino)

- Key Focus Areas:
 - Adopting a multi-cultural and multi-language approach to caregiving.
 - Identifying and prioritizing focus areas for the team's efforts.
 - Reviewing existing caregiver support and respite programs in the community.
 - Discussing strategies to enhance outreach efforts and raise awareness of available resources.

6. Chair Updates (Helman)

Commission Introductions

- Reviewed standardize introductions of Commission Members.
 - Include Names, where you live, your District and Supervisor.

Volunteer Log

- Volunteer Log for January 2025 - June 2025 will be due in July 2025.
- Volunteer Log will be adopted as it is.
- County Staff will update Area Plan Goal sections as necessary and review definitions for types of activities.

Commissioner's Role

- Commissioners serving in dual capacities are expected to participate as a commissioner, rather than that of a service provider.
- Commissioners who also represent service providers are encouraged to designate another representative from their organization to speak on behalf of the agency during Public Open Comment and/or during set Agenda Items.
- Commission discussed the focus of the Public Comment Announcements. Further discussion will be held at the Executive Committee.

Commissioner's Visits with Supervisors



Sonoma County Aging & Disability Commission Meeting



- Commissioners reported out on the meetings with the following Supervisors or their representatives:
 - District 3: Corsey
 - District 4: Gore
 - District 5: Hopkins

7. Director/Staff Updates (Dunaway, Avery)

Director Update:

- Governor's Budget May Revision:
 - Medi-Cal Health Insurance:
 - Reduction in budget allocation, impacting coverage and services.
 - Reinstatement of Asset Limits of \$2,000 for Medi-Cal eligibility.
 - In-Home Support Services (IHSS):
 - Budget reductions will have an impact on delivery service.
 - Undocumented Individuals:
 - Medi-Cal insurance coverage will no longer be available for undocumented adults 19 and older.

Staff Updates:

- Community Events for Potential Commission Participation
 - Sonoma County PRIDE Event & Parade, Santa Rosa, May 31, 2025, 11AM
 - Senior Expo, Santa Rosa, July 12, 2025, 9 AM – 12 PM
 - African Soul Festival, Rohnert Park, August 30, 2025, 11 AM – 5 PM

8. TACC Report (Kelley)

- The latest meeting focused on rural service access and rural medical access.

9. Transportation- Staff Report (Cortez)

- Presentation on grants for transportation services (Operating Assistance Grant & Mobility Management Grant).
- ADRH will have a full-time embedded Social Work Assistant to:
 - Assist consumers with accessing transportation services.
 - Collect and analyze data to identify gaps in transportation services.
 - Actively participate in transportation authority meetings to address and advocate for solutions

10. USAging Conference Policy Briefing (Milner)

- Commissioners can review the report in the Agenda Packet.



Sonoma County Aging & Disability Commission Meeting



11. Standing & Ad Hoc Committee Report (Helman)

Standing Committee: No Wrong Door

- Next meeting June 24th, 2025.

Ad Hoc Committee: No Wrong Door Toolbox

- Next meeting on June 10th, 2025.
- Focusing on elevator speech and short presentations.

Ad Hoc Committee: FY 24/25 Area Plan Objectives Implementation

- Planning the West County Transit focus group.
- City Commissions focus groups will be rescheduled for June.
- Spanish Language Focus Group- Proposal to postpone the focus group until the political environment is safer for participation. The Commission acknowledges the risk to public safety at this time may outweigh the benefits/information gathered from the group.

Ad Hoc Committee: Member Application & Interview Questions

- The committee has revised the interview questions and has begun revising the application.
- Next meeting May 28th, 2025.

Ad Hoc Committee: August 2025 Planning Day – Action

- Committee Purpose:
 - Agenda Development, Topic and Outcome Drafting, Activity Planning.
- Timeframe: Recommendations sent to Cody Milner by June 5th 2025

Motion: To stand up the August 2025 Planning Day Ad Hoc Committee.

1st Motion: Robin Thompson

2nd Motion: Deanna Shaat Vote Results: Passed

- Ad Hoc Membership Interest: Priyanka Varma, Denise Johnson, Robin Thompson, Deanna Shaat, Christian Nava.
- Coordinator for first meeting: Deanna Shaat.

12. Adjourn (Helman)(4:36PM)

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



Sonoma County Aging & Disability Commission Meeting



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: **June 10th, 2025 (11:00am)**
 - Aging & Disability Commission Meeting/Public Hearing: **June 18th, 2025 (1:00pm)**
-