



Santa Cruz County Seniors Commission

701 Ocean Street, Room 510, Santa Cruz, CA 95060
P: (831) 454-2772 F: (831) 454-2411 TTY/TDD 711
commissions@santacruzcounty.us
www.sccseniors.org

Notice of Public Meeting and Agenda

DATE Tuesday, February 18, 2020

TIME: 12:30 PM – 2:30 PM

LOCATION: United Way of Santa Cruz County, 4450 Capitola Road, Ste 106, Capitola, CA 95010

**** As a courtesy to those who are affected, kindly attend the meeting *scent-free* and *smoke-free*. ****

1. Call to Order/Roll Call/and Agenda Review
2. Approval of *December 17, 2019 Meeting Minutes*
3. Public Comment: *Any member of the public may address the Commission for a period not to exceed 5 minutes on any issue within the jurisdiction of the Commission not on the agenda.*
4. Senior Legislature Report
5. New Business/Action Items: None
6. Strategic Action Plan Reports
 - 6.1. Focus 1: Elected Officials Outreach & Advocacy
 - 6.2. Focus 2: Community Outreach, Advocacy & Resources
 - 6.3. Focus 3: Local Services, Programs and Agencies
 - 6.3.1. Safety Net Services
 - 6.3.2. Age-in-Place
 - 6.3.3. Transportation
 - 6.3.4. Age-Friendly Communities
 - 6.4. Focus 4: Issues that Impact Seniors
 - 6.4.1. Sidewalk Safety
 - 6.4.2. Senior Solutions Summit Work Groups
7. District Announcements
8. Staff Report
9. Adjournment

Next Regular Meeting: April 21, 2020 from 12:30 to 2:30 PM, United Way Community Room

The County of Santa Cruz does not discriminate on the basis of disability, and no person shall, by reason of a disability, be denied the benefits of its services, programs or activities. The meeting location is an accessible facility. If you are a person with a disability and require assistance to participate in the meeting, please contact (831) 454-2772 TTY/TDD:711 at least 72 hours in advance of the meeting to make arrangements.



Santa Cruz County Seniors Commission

701 Ocean Street, Room 510, Santa Cruz, CA 95060

P: (831) 454-2772 F: (831) 454-2411 TTY/TDD 711

commissions@santacruzcounty.us

www.sccseniors.org

Meeting Minutes

DATE: Tuesday, February 18, 2020

TIME: 12:30 PM – 2:30 PM

LOCATION: United Way of Santa Cruz County

4450 Capitola Road, Ste 106, Capitola, CA 95010

PRESENT: Michael Lewis (1st District), Lynne Simpson (1st District), Antonio Rivas (Vice Chair - 2nd District), Mark Johannessen (2nd District), Lois Sones (3rd District), Patricia Fohrman (4th District), Carol Childers (Chair - 5th District), Lynn McKibbin (5th District)

EXCUSED: Enda Brennan (3rd District), Charles Molnar (CSL Ex Officio Member)

ABSENT: Louis J. Tuosto (4th District)

STAFF: Kaite McGrew (Commissions Coordinator), Mitsuno Baurmeister (EEO Officer)

GUESTS: Jean Brocklebank (Mobile and Manufactured Home Commission), John Daugherty (Commission on Disabilities and Santa Cruz Metro), Clay Kempf (Seniors Council)

1. Call to Order/Roll Call/Agenda Review

Meeting convened at 12:30 PM.

2. Approve December 17, 2019 Meeting Minutes

Motion/Second: Lewis/Rivas

Motion passed unanimously.

3. Public Comment:

Brocklebank reported on an upcoming HCD workshop to provide assistance registering mobile homes. Daugherty reported on a Metro fee waiver for residents who are legally blind, a free mobility training for persons using wheelchairs, and the upcoming thirtieth anniversary of the ADA.

4. Senior Legislature

McKibbin has been attending the State's Master Plan on Aging webinars on Wednesdays. Kempf reports that the Master Plan prioritizes "No wrong door" systems in aging and disability resource connections as well as Age-Friendly designation. Additional information at www.engageca.org.

5. New Business/Action Items: None

6. Strategic Action Plan Reports

6.1. Focus #1: Elected Officials Outreach & Advocacy: Commissioners updated their Supervisors. Rivas attended Watsonville City Council meetings.

6.2. Focus #2: Community Outreach, Advocacy & Resources:

Lewis continues media outreach. McKibbin reported on an outreach program for Boulder Creek veterans. McKibbin shared information on distribution of senior care packages in Scotts Valley. A neighborhood book club is installing shade structures at a local park to encourage local seniors to use the park.

6.3. Focus #3: Local Services, Programs and Agencies

Safety Net Services: No Report

Age-in-Place, Affordable Housing and Housing Unsheltered Seniors: No Report

Transportation: Lewis and Tuosto continue to monitor Measure D.

AARP Age-Friendly Designation:

Rivas reported on the Watsonville City Council approval of pursuing designation, Kempf presented to the Board of Supervisors and the City of Watsonville on the Age-Friendly project, who both approved it. Kempf encouraged Commissioners to advocate with County Supervisors representing the cities of Santa Cruz, Scotts Valley and Capitola, who have not yet approved Age-Friendly designation. Letter to the Board of Supervisors has been pended until Johannessen is appointed to the Committee.

6.4. Focus #4: Issues that Impact Seniors:

Sidewalk Safety:

Lewis reported that the Board of Supervisors deferred approval of the Jump Bikes contract until regulations and penalties can be developed and included. A *Pedestrians of Santa Cruz County* organization has been formed.

Senior Demographic Data:

Kempf reports that since 2011 the under 60 population has grown by 1.4% and the 60+ population has grown by 29% statewide, while in Santa Cruz County, the under 60 population has decreased by 3% and the 60+ population has increased by 48%, so there is a great disparity between County and State statistics. Commission will promote census participation and pend data collection until census data becomes available. Commission discussed the Rail to Trail project and the safety and/or convenience of seniors using shared mobility devices.

Senior Solutions Follow-Up:

Santa Cruz City has an outreach program for seniors living alone. The Area Agency on Aging developed an outreach model to be used by churches. Rivas will bring the topic to the County *Mental Health Commission* community meeting. Kempf reported on the AAA foster grandparent companion program.

Emergency Preparedness:

Lewis reported that there are no cooling centers available currently. Simpson was appointed to the Commission on Disabilities *Ad Hoc Emergency Preparedness Subcommittee*. They are consulting on the development of a personal emergency and evacuation plan process for people with disabilities. Sones suggested that the Commission monitor community partner and County pandemic preparedness planning.

7. District Announcements:

Sones reported that Mike McConnell is retiring. A new Director has implemented positive changes at the Watsonville Senior Center. Community Bridges eviction date has been extended to December 31, 2020. The Felton Library Grand opening is in February. The Ben Lomond Senior Center is celebrating its 50th anniversary.

8. Staff Report

The Commission Biennial report was approved by the Board of Supervisors.

9. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 2:02 PM.

Respectfully submitted by: Kaite McGrew, *Commissions Coordinator*



Santa Cruz County Seniors Commission

701 Ocean Street, Room 510, Santa Cruz, CA 95060
P: (831) 454-2772 F: (831) 454-2411 TTY/TDD 711
commissions@santacruzcounty.us
www.sccseniors.org

Notice of Public Meeting Cancellation

The regular April meeting of the Seniors Commission has been canceled for health and safety reasons. There will be no Commission meeting this month.

The **next regular meeting** is scheduled for:

Date: Tuesday, June 16, 2020
Time: 12:30 PM – 2:30 PM
Location: United Way of Santa Cruz County,
4450 Capitola Road, Ste 106,
Capitola, CA 95010

For more information please contact the Commissions Office at commissions@santacruzcounty.us or (831) 454-2772.



Santa Cruz County Seniors Commission

701 Ocean Street, Room 510, Santa Cruz, CA 95060
P: (831) 454-2772 F: (831) 454-2411 TTY/TDD 711
commissions@santacruzcounty.us
www.sccseniors.org

Notice of Public Meeting and Agenda

DATE Tuesday, June 16, 2020
TIME: 12:30 PM – 2:30 PM

IN RESPONSE TO THE COVID-19 PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY AND PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF THE GOVERNOR'S EXECUTIVE ORDER N-29-20, ISSUED MARCH 17, 2020, THIS WILL BE A REMOTE MEETING. NO PHYSICAL LOCATION WILL BE AVAILABLE, BUT ACCESS TO THE MEETING AND AN OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT WILL BE PROVIDED. PLEASE DIAL-IN TO THE TELECONFERENCE BETWEEN 12:20 AND 12:30 USING THE INFORMATION LISTED BELOW:

TELECONFERENCE INFORMATION

United States: **(646) 749-3129**
United States (Toll Free): (877) 309-2073
Access Code: **574-056-397**

FOR QUESTIONS REGARDING THE REMOTE MEETING PROCESS, PLEASE CONTACT THE COMMISSIONS OFFICE AT 831-454-2772 OR COMMISSIONS@SANTACRUZCOUNTY.US

AGENDA

1. Call to Order/Roll Call/and Agenda Review
2. Approval of *February 18, Meeting Minutes*
Public Comment: *Any member of the public may address the Commission for a period not to exceed 5 minutes on any issue within the jurisdiction of the Commission not on the agenda.*
Please review the attached instructions regarding public comment participation.
3. Senior Legislature Report
4. Santa Cruz County Seniors and Covid-19 – Patty Talbott (AAA Administrator, Seniors Council)
5. New Business/Action Items:
 - 5.1. Election of Officers
6. District Reports
7. Staff Report
8. Adjournment

Next Regular Meeting: August 18, 2020 from 12:30 to 2:30 PM, (Location to be determined)

The County of Santa Cruz does not discriminate on the basis of disability, and no person shall, by reason of a disability, be denied the benefits of its services, programs, or activities. If you are a person with a disability and require assistance to participate in the meeting, please contact (831) 454-2772 TTY/TDD:711 at least 72 hours in advance of the meeting to make arrangements.

Public Comment Participation

Due to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) public health emergency, in-person participation at these commission meetings is not allowed for health and safety reasons. However, you may participate in the meetings via teleconference instead of attending in person. Dial-in information is included on meeting notices. During the meeting, your telephone line will be muted unless you have requested to make a comment in advance.

How to Make a Public Comment

If you would like to make a public comment, you can do so in the following two ways:

1. Email Your Public Comment

The most direct way to make a public comment is via email. Your comment will be distributed to the Commission and read aloud during the public comment segment of the meeting. If you do not want your name read aloud, please indicate so in your email. The deadline to submit a comment by email is 12 hours before the start of the meeting. Email your comment to commissions@santacruzcounty.us.

2. Make Your Public Comment via Telephone During the Meeting

If you would like to make a comment during the meeting you must submit an email request no later than 12 hours in advance of the meeting.

If you will be commenting on something not listed on the agenda:

Please email your request to commissions@santacruzcounty.us including the following information:

- Your name
- The telephone number you will be using to call in
- Indicate that you would like to speak during the public comment segment of the meeting.

During the public comments segment of the meeting, community members who requested to speak on topics not included on the agenda will be invited by name to speak to the Commission for a period not to exceed three minutes. Your line will be unmuted during your three minutes.

If you will be commenting on something listed on the agenda

Please email your request to commissions@santacruzcounty.us including the following information:

- Your name
- The telephone number you will be using to call in
- Indicate the agenda item you would like to comment on

Community members who have requested to comment on specific agenda items will be invited by name to speak after Commission discussion on each topic. Your line will be unmuted during your comment for a period not to exceed three minutes.



Santa Cruz County Seniors Commission

701 Ocean Street, Room 510, Santa Cruz, CA 95060

P: (831) 454-2772 F: (831) 454-2411 TTY/TDD 711

commissions@santacruzcounty.us

www.sccseniors.org

Meeting Minutes

DATE: Tuesday, June 16, 2020

TIME: 12:30 PM – 2:30 PM

LOCATION: Remote Meeting

PRESENT: Michael Lewis (*1st District*), Antonio Rivas (*Vice Chair - 2nd District*), Mark Johannessen (*2nd District*), Lois Sones (*3rd District*), Enda Brennan (*3rd District*), Patricia Fohrman (*4th District*), Carol Childers (*Chair - 5th District*), Lynn McKibbin (*5th District*)

EXCUSED: Charles Molnar (*CSL Ex Officio Member*)

ABSENT: Lynne Simpson (*1st District*), Louis J. Tuosto (*4th District*)

STAFF: Kaite McGrew (*Commissions Coordinator*)

GUESTS: Jean Brocklebank (*Mobile and Manufactured Home Commission*), John Daugherty (*Commission on Disabilities and Santa Cruz Metro*), Patty Talbot (*Seniors Council*)

1. Call to Order/Roll Call/Agenda Review

Meeting convened at 12:38 PM.

2. Approval February 18, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Motion/Second: Lewis/Johannessen

Motion passed unanimously.

3. Public Comment:

Daugherty reported that Metro Paracruz and buses continue to run with increased disinfection protocols and social distancing. Fares have been reinstated and most buses are running at weekend levels of service. In-person counters remain closed and non-essential rides are now allowable. To date there have been no furloughs or layoffs scheduled.

4. Senior Legislature Report: None

5. Santa Cruz County Seniors and COVID-19 – Patty Talbott (AAA Administrator, Seniors Council)

Talbott reported on how COVID-19 is impacting the Santa Cruz County Senior community.

- Changes to seniors programs happened rapidly because many of their volunteers are seniors themselves and needed to shelter-in-place.
- The AAA was granted greater flexibility in the distribution of funds to allow rapid response to emerging needs.
- Reopening plans are in development, but no detail is available yet.
- Skilled nursing facilities (SNFs) are a significant concern. The CDPH has a SNF dashboard online for residents to check on the status of facilities housing their family members; however the State is relying upon SNFs to report cases with no incentive to do so.
- The Great Plates program was implemented to provide food to seniors who are sheltered-in-place, however, receiving support from any other federally-funded food program excludes many seniors from participating in the program. Application timelines preclude simply switching programs.

- Senior isolation issues have been exacerbated by the pandemic, but creative community partner responses have been developed to encourage and facilitate remote communications for seniors. The ongoing *Solutions Summit Loneliness and Isolation Workgroup* is collaborating with local senior centers to actively engage with seniors who are sheltered-in-place.
- Sones reported that Elderday Adult Day Healthcare has shifted from congregate services to providing individual services to high-risk clients and remote services to others.
- Community Bridges received a CDBG grant to create a “*senior center without limits*” that provides a variety of remote classes for seniors via Zoom
- Funding for Community Based Adult Services (CBAS) adult day health care and multi-service senior programs (MSSP) had been eliminated during the May State Budget revision. These funds have been restored to the budget as of this meeting but will continue to be at risk until a final budget is signed and passed.
- The County now is leading local AARP Age Friendly designation efforts instead of designating the Area Agency on Aging (AAA) to take the lead.
- The AAA is allocating State COVID-19 response funding to expand local meal delivery and food provision, as well as expanding COVID-19 response infrastructure including additional PPE. Simultaneously, critical local match-funding is being cut for programs designed to keep seniors out of nursing homes at a time when they are most needed. The transition from emergency response to program stabilization for seniors programs next year will be challenging.

6. New Business/Action Items

6.1. Election of Officers

Motion to re-elect Childers as Commission Chair and Rivas as Commission Vice Chair

Motion/Second: Sones/Rivas

Motion passed unanimously.

7. District Reports:

7.1. District 1: None

7.2. District 2: None

7.3. District 3: None

7.4. District 4: None

7.5. District 5

McKibbin advocated with Supervisor McPherson to protect funding for seniors programs. The District is mourning the death of Sheriff's Deputy Damon Gutzwiller who was killed the line of duty last week. Childers reported that she's been working with Supervisor McPherson's office to address an issue regarding the Metro Transit District's treatment of homeless seniors. McKibbin registered to provide remote contact tracing for County Public Health if selected. This could be a job opportunity for seniors who qualify.

8. Staff Report

Staff reported on the County's COVID-19 response, newly opened shelters to help the homeless population to shelter-in-place, available remote contact tracing positions, and a community chat line developed to address social isolation issues exacerbated by shelter-in-place protocols.

9. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 1:52 PM.

Respectfully submitted by: Kaite McGrew, *Commissions Coordinator*



Santa Cruz County Seniors Commission

701 Ocean Street, Room 510, Santa Cruz, CA 95060
P: (831) 454-2772 F: (831) 454-2411 TTY/TDD 711
commissions@santacruzcounty.us
www.sccseniors.org

Notice of Public Meeting and Agenda

DATE Tuesday, August 18, 2020
TIME: 12:30 PM – 2:30 PM

IN RESPONSE TO THE COVID-19 PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY AND PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF THE GOVERNOR'S EXECUTIVE ORDER N-29-20, ISSUED MARCH 17, 2020, THIS WILL BE A REMOTE MEETING. NO PHYSICAL LOCATION WILL BE AVAILABLE, BUT ACCESS TO THE MEETING AND AN OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT WILL BE PROVIDED. PLEASE DIAL-IN TO THE TELECONFERENCE BETWEEN 12:20 AND 12:30 USING THE INFORMATION LISTED BELOW:

TELECONFERENCE INFORMATION

United States: **(571) 317-3116**
United States (Toll Free): (866) 899-4679
Access Code: **309-856-405**

AGENDA

1. Call to Order/Roll Call/Agenda Review
2. Approval of *June 16, 2020, Meeting Minutes*
3. Public Comment: *Any member of the public may address the Commission for a period not to exceed 5 minutes on any issue within the jurisdiction of the Commission not on the agenda.*
4. Senior Legislature Report
5. Santa Cruz County Senior Assessment Results – Pam Arnsberger (*Seniors Council President*)
6. New Business/Action Items: None
7. District Reports
 - 7.1. District 1
 - 7.2. District 2
 - 7.3. District 3
 - 7.4. District 4
 - 7.5. District 5
8. Staff Report
9. Adjournment

Next Regular Meeting: October 20, 2020 from 12:30 to 2:30 PM, (Remote Meeting)

The County of Santa Cruz does not discriminate on the basis of disability, and no person shall, by reason of a disability, be denied the benefits of its services, programs, or activities. If you are a person with a disability and require assistance to participate in the meeting, please contact (831) 454-2772 TTY/TDD:711 at least 72 hours in advance of the meeting to make arrangements.



Santa Cruz County Seniors Commission

701 Ocean Street, Room 510, Santa Cruz, CA 95060
P: (831) 454-2772 F: (831) 454-2411 TTY/TDD 711
commissions@santacruzcounty.us
www.sccseniors.org

Meeting Minutes

DATE: Tuesday, August 18, 2020

TIME: 12:30 PM – 2:30 PM

LOCATION: Remote Meeting

PRESENT: Michael Lewis (*1st District*), Lynne Simpson (*1st District*), Antonio Rivas (*Vice Chair - 2nd District*), Mark Johannessen (*2nd District*), Lois Sones (*3rd District*), Enda Brennan (*3rd District*), Louis J. Tuosto (*4th District*), Patricia Fohrman (*4th District*), Carol Childers (*Chair - 5th District*), Lynn McKibbin (*5th District*)

EXCUSED: Charles Molnar (*CSL Ex Officio Member*)

ABSENT: None

STAFF: Kaite McGrew (*Commissions Coordinator*), Mitsuno Baurmeister (*County EEO Officer*)

GUESTS: Pam Arnsberger (*Seniors Council President*), Jean Brocklebank (*Mobile and Manufactured Home Commission*), John Daugherty (*Commission on Disabilities and Santa Cruz Metro*), Patty Talbot (*Seniors Council*)

1. Call to Order/Roll Call/Agenda Review

Meeting convened at 12:33 PM.

2. Approval June 16, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Motion/Second: Lewis/Rivas

Motion passed unanimously.

3. Public Comment:

Daugherty reported that Metro Paracruz and buses are operating at about 50% occupancy and are a low-fee alternative for seniors needing transportation to medical appointments. The new free “Ecolane” mobile application has been launched, allowing riders to schedule, pay for and track rides. Information is available in English and Spanish and English. Interested parties can contact Daugherty by email to get the application. Daugherty will share outreach ideas with Metro leadership.

4. Senior Legislature Report: None

5. Santa Cruz County Seniors Needs Assessment

Seniors Council President Pam Arnsberger reported the 2020 Senior Needs Assessment results for Santa Cruz County. Eight hundred and seventy-five surveys were collected with 44 questions on challenges for seniors and 14 demographic questions. Twice as many surveys were completed online this year as had been during the last assessment.

- New demographic data included sexual preference, gender identification, domestic partnership. Data for Asian Americans has also been separated from data on Pacific Islanders.
- Twenty-three percent of those surveyed reported annual income of less than \$12K per year
- Usage of electronic devices was included for the first time. Seventy-seven percent of seniors surveyed reported using a cell phone. More than 50% had a home computer. We anticipate that close to 100% of seniors surveyed next time will have some digital access.

- Top ten issues/needs for Santa Cruz County seniors were home repair/maintenance, housework, understanding Medi-Care/Medi-Cal, difficulty paying for dental care, difficulty paying for health care in the home, difficulty finding reliable home help, depression, loneliness/isolation, lack of savings for emergencies, difficulty paying for health care. Transportation was not included, but the data indicates that many seniors rely upon friends/family to provide private transportation for them.
- One-third of caregivers surveyed identified as experiencing stress, and few needs were identified, although a need for help was expressed.
- Senior population in Santa Cruz County is growing at 109% which is higher rate than that experienced by most other California counties.
- 22-23% of seniors surveyed report being depressed all the time, which is significantly higher than the 18% reported by the Center for Disease Control, which is the only national data available on senior depression rates.

Arnsberger will send results by zip code/area to identify disparities. Commission would like to support greater and more diverse participation in the next assessment. Brennan requested that the Commission invite Census representatives to speak on 2020 Census results next year. Baurmeister expressed appreciation for the addition of new, more diverse demographic elements such as gender identification, sexual preference, etc.

6. New Business/Action Items: None

7. District Reports:

7.1. District 1:

Simpson reported concerns regarding the placement of Supervisorial campaign signs. Lewis reported concerns about proper PPE usage training for private drivers of seniors.

7.2. District 2: None

7.3. District 3:

Sones reported that Elderday is providing remote services but not congregate services. Elderday and Community Bridges are collaborating with Parks departments from Watsonville, Santa Cruz Cities and the County Parks to provide free remote classes for anybody over 60. Amazon Fire tablets are being provided to qualified seniors.

7.4. District 4:

Fohrman reported that a church food distribution program has closed. Brennan confirmed that Grey Bears continues to deliver to homes.

7.5. District 5:

McKibbin reported extreme heat and power outages with no cooling centers and reported current COVID-19 numbers by zip code. Childers reported that Meals on Wheels has been distributing information packets for the emergency preparedness (Volunteer Center "Get Ready" Program). Geographic isolation is extensive.

8. Staff Report

Staff reported current COVID-19 data. Seniors 65+ have the lowest rate of confirmed positive cases.

9. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 2:06 PM.

Respectfully submitted by: Kaite McGrew, *Commissions Coordinator*



Santa Cruz County Seniors Commission

701 Ocean Street, Room 510, Santa Cruz, CA 95060
P: (831) 454-2772 F: (831) 454-2411 TTY/TDD 711
commissions@santacruzcounty.us
www.sccseniors.org

Notice of Public Meeting and Agenda

DATE Tuesday, October 20, 2020

TIME: 12:30 PM – 2:30 PM

IN RESPONSE TO THE COVID-19 PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY AND PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF THE GOVERNOR'S EXECUTIVE ORDER N-29-20, ISSUED MARCH 17, 2020, THIS WILL BE A REMOTE MEETING. NO PHYSICAL LOCATION WILL BE AVAILABLE, BUT ACCESS TO THE MEETING AND AN OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT WILL BE PROVIDED. PLEASE DIAL-IN TO THE TELECONFERENCE BETWEEN 12:20 AND 12:30 USING THE INFORMATION LISTED BELOW:

TELECONFERENCE INFORMATION

United States: (571) 317-3116

United States (Toll Free): (866) 899-4679

Access Code: 849-410-477

AGENDA

1. Call to Order/Roll Call/Agenda Review
2. Approval of *August 18, 2020 Meeting Minutes*
3. Public Comment: *Any member of the public may address the Commission for a period not to exceed 5 minutes on any issue within the jurisdiction of the Commission not on the agenda.*
4. Senior Legislature Report
5. Long-Term Care Facilities and COVID-19 – Deanna Trinidad (*LTC Ombudsman*)
6. Senior Center Without Limits Program – Lois Sones (*Elderday*)
7. New Business/Action Items: None
8. District Reports
 - 8.1. District 1
 - 8.2. District 2
 - 8.3. District 3
 - 8.4. District 4
 - 8.5. District 5
9. Staff Report
10. Adjournment

Next Regular Meeting: December 15, 2020 from 12:30 to 2:30 PM, (Remote Meeting)

The County of Santa Cruz does not discriminate on the basis of disability, and no person shall, by reason of a disability, be denied the benefits of its services, programs, or activities. If you are a person with a disability and require assistance to participate in the meeting, please contact (831) 454-2772 TTY/TDD:711 at least 72 hours in advance of the meeting to make arrangements.



Santa Cruz County Seniors Commission

701 Ocean Street, Room 510, Santa Cruz, CA 95060
P: (831) 454-2772 F: (831) 454-2411 TTY/TDD 711
commissions@santacruzcounty.us
www.sccseniors.org

Meeting Minutes

DATE: Tuesday, October 20, 2020
TIME: 12:30 PM – 2:30 PM
LOCATION: Remote Meeting
PRESENT: Lynne Simpson (1st District), Antonio Rivas (Vice Chair - 2nd District), Mark Johannessen (2nd District), Lois Sones (3rd District), Enda Brennan (3rd District), Carol Childers (Chair - 5th District), Lynn McKibbin (5th District)
EXCUSED: Michael Lewis (1st District), Louis J. Tuosto (4th District), Patricia Fohrman (4th District), Charles Molnar (CSL Ex Officio Member)
ABSENT: None
STAFF: Kaite McGrew (Commissions Coordinator), Mitsuno Baurmeister (County EEO Officer)
GUESTS: Deanna Trinidad (Long Term Care Ombudsman), Patty Talbot (Seniors Council), John Daugherty (Santa Cruz Metro)

1. Call to Order/Roll Call/Agenda Review
Meeting convened at 12:40PM.
2. Approval August 18, 2020 Meeting Minutes
Motion/Second: Brennan/Sones
Motion passed unanimously.
3. Public Comment:
Talbot reported that the *Stakeholder Advisory Committee* for the Governors Master Plan for Aging forwarded over 800 recommendations to a cabinet-level committee who will prepare a final report in December. Daugherty reported that his office is located at the Pacific station now. Metro buses and Metro Paracruz are running, but masks are required, and social distancing is being employed.
4. Senior Legislature Report:
Commission reviewed 2021 CSL Legislative Priorities and Outreach Plan.
5. Long Term Care Facilities and COVID-19
Deanna Trinidad, *Long Term Care Ombudsman*, reported on County Ombudsman office activities.
 - 5.1. The primary Ombudsman function is to resolve problems related to the health, safety and rights of long-term care residents. While not a regulatory agency, they can elevate issues to regulatory agencies. They are not mandated reporters, and they follow the express wishes of the resident. Three certified ombudsman staff serve congregate living residents in Santa Cruz County.
 - 5.2. Because of the pandemic, Ombudsman staff and volunteers cannot be on-site as often; fewer volunteers are available; and the State has classified them as non-essential workers, making it difficult to reach residents. The number of complaints is reduced and now come primarily from family members instead of residents. Residents are now more isolated, more dependent upon facility staff, and, therefore, more cautious about the possibility of retaliation for complaints made about the facility. Retaliation against complainants can be anything from abuse to micro-aggressions (e.g. not responding timely to requests for assistance with personal care).

Congregate living residents are more vulnerable and isolated than ever and access to Ombudsman staff is now more essential than ever.

- 5.3. Conflicting and constantly changing guidelines create confusion and challenges in three main areas: resident transfers, visitation restrictions and COVID-19 testing.
- 5.4. Ombudsman outreach efforts include posting information online and at facilities (inside and outside); a Department of Aging phone line for non-emergency emotional support; and sending personalized cards to all congregate living residents across 3 counties.
- 5.5. South Santa Cruz County has a higher confirmed positive COVID-19 rate than the rest of the County, even before the recent outbreak in a Watsonville skilled nursing facility. Adequate PPE remains a concern, particularly for Ombudsman staff who will eventually visit more than one facility per day during re-opening.

6. Senior Center without Limits (SCWL)

Sones reported on a Community Bridges distance learning/activities program provided in collaboration with Parks and Recreation departments for Santa Cruz City, Watsonville City and Santa Cruz County. The program is available to County residents over the age of 60 with access to internet and a device. Grant-funded tablets are provided to qualified residents, and program staff work with local internet service providers to provide low-fee internet service to low-income seniors.

7. New Business/Action Items: None

8. District Reports:

8.1. District 1:

Simpson reported that Village Santa Cruz is sponsoring a free online presentation by Assistant District Attorney Douglas Allen on shopping safely online.

8.2. District 2:

Johannessen reported that AAA is hosting a virtual roundtable on social isolation to address the causes and impact of social isolation on seniors.

8.3. District 3:

Sones advocated with Supervisor Coonerty regarding the County's efforts to provide County-wide Wi-Fi. Commissioners are encouraged to advocate with their Supervisors.

8.4. District 4:

Rivas reported that the Spanish-speaking seniors experience additional isolation because of language, cultural and geographic barriers. He continues to monitor the recent COVID-19 outbreak in Watsonville.

8.5. District 5:

Childers reported on the aftermath of the CZU Lightning Strike Fires and evacuation. Seniors in District 5 are also dealing geographic isolation. All *Meals on Wheels* recipients have returned to their homes. Meals on Wheels is working with Listos to deliver emergency kits in anticipation of seniors being stranded by debris flows. Valley Churches United and the Mountain Community Resource Center (Community Bridges) continue to support the community.

9. Staff Report

Staff reported that the Commission on Disabilities will be discussing the lack of respite caregivers during the pandemic which also impacts many senior family caregivers. Commissioners are invited to attend.

10. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 2:02 PM.

Respectfully submitted by: Kaite McGrew, *Commissions Coordinator*



Santa Cruz County Seniors Commission

701 Ocean Street, Room 510, Santa Cruz, CA 95060
P: (831) 454-2772 F: (831) 454-2411 TTY/TDD 711
commissions@santacruzcounty.us
www.sccseniors.org

Notice of Public Meeting and Agenda

DATE Tuesday, December 15, 2020

TIME: 12:30 PM – 2:30 PM

IN RESPONSE TO THE COVID-19 PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY AND PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF THE GOVERNOR'S EXECUTIVE ORDER N-29-20, ISSUED MARCH 17, 2020, THIS WILL BE A REMOTE MEETING. NO PHYSICAL LOCATION WILL BE AVAILABLE, BUT ACCESS TO THE MEETING AND AN OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT WILL BE PROVIDED. PLEASE DIAL-IN TO THE TELECONFERENCE BETWEEN 12:20 AND 12:30 USING THE INFORMATION LISTED BELOW:

TELECONFERENCE INFORMATION

United States: (571) 317-3129

United States (Toll Free): (877) 568-4106

Access Code: 615-567-861

AGENDA

1. Call to Order/Roll Call/Agenda Review
2. Approval of *October 20, 2020 Meeting Minutes*
3. Public Comment: *Any member of the public may address the Commission for a period not to exceed 5 minutes on any issue within the jurisdiction of the Commission not on the agenda.*
4. Senior Legislature Report
5. New Business/Action Items: None
6. District Reports
 - 6.1. District 1
 - 6.2. District 2
 - 6.3. District 3
 - 6.4. District 4
 - 6.5. District 5
7. Staff Report
8. Adjournment

Next Regular Meeting: February 16, 2021 from 12:30 to 2:30 PM, (Remote Meeting)

The County of Santa Cruz does not discriminate on the basis of disability, and no person shall, by reason of a disability, be denied the benefits of its services, programs, or activities. If you are a person with a disability and require assistance to participate in the meeting, please contact (831) 454-2772 TTY/TDD:711 at least 72 hours in advance of the meeting to make arrangements.



Santa Cruz County Seniors Commission

701 Ocean Street, Room 510, Santa Cruz, CA 95060

P: (831) 454-2772 F: (831) 454-2411 TTY/TDD 711

commissions@santacruzcounty.us

www.sccseniors.org

Meeting Minutes

DATE: Tuesday, December 15, 2020

TIME: 12:30 PM

LOCATION: Remote Meeting

PRESENT: Lynne Simpson (*1st District*), Mark Johannessen (*2nd District*), Lois Sones (*3rd District*), Enda Brennan (*3rd District*), Patricia Fohrman (*4th District*), Carol Childers (*Chair - 5th District*), Lynn McKibbin (*5th District*)

EXCUSED: Michael Lewis (*1st District*), Charles Molnar (*CSL Ex Officio Member*)

ABSENT: Louis J. Tuosto (*4th District*), Antonio Rivas (*Vice Chair - 2nd District*)

STAFF: Kaite McGrew (*Commissions Coordinator*), Mitsuno Baurmeister (*County EEO Officer*)

GUESTS: Patty Talbot (*Seniors Council Administrator*), John Daugherty (*Santa Cruz Metro Liaison*), Britt Bassoni, (*Seniors Council Director of Programs and Special Projects*)

1. Call to Order/Roll Call/Agenda Review

Meeting convened at 12:36 PM.

2. Approve October 20, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Motion/Second: Sones/Simpson

Motion passed unanimously.

3. Public Comment:

Daugherty reported on the Metro's new Splash Pass program, recent route suspensions, and his upcoming retirement from Metro. Commission consider advocacy and commendation opportunities during the February 2021 meeting.

4. Senior Legislature Report: No Report

5. New Business/Action Items:

Commission will discuss the COVID-19 vaccinations for seniors at the February meeting.

6. District Reports:

6.1. District 1:

Simpson reported that Supervisor-elect Koenig is meeting with District 1 Commissioners to discuss potential reappointments.

6.2. District 2: No Report

6.3. District 3:

Sones reported that the IHSS Commission is also discussing the COVID-19 vaccination as well as the need to address PPE/disease prevention protocols for IHSS providers who visit multiple clients. Commission will monitor the situation with a view to advocating where appropriate.

6.4. District 4:

Fohrman reported that COVID-19 prevention information is emailed to IHSS providers regularly, but trainings are difficult to schedule without impacting clients.

6.5. District 5:

McKibbin reported that debris flow response preparations are underway. Additionally, seniors in District 5 are concerned about the onset of colder weather with PG&E still not having been restored in many places. Childers reported that promoting emergency preparedness is a key concern, especially for either evacuation in advance of debris flow, or having supplies if debris flow isolates residents temporarily.

7. Staff Report:

Staff reported that confirmed positive COVID-19 cases for Santa Cruz County seniors (65+) represent 11% of the total known cases, with senior women being slightly more impacted than their male counterparts. Talbot confirmed the extreme difficulty involved in identifying how many are residents in long-term care and skilled nursing facilities have tested positive. The only source for this data is the State website.

8. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 1:26 PM.

Respectfully submitted by: Kaite McGrew, *Commissions Coordinator*