



Santa Cruz County Seniors Commission

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Meeting Minutes

DATE: Tuesday, October 21, 2025
TIME: 12:30 PM
LOCATION: United Way, 4450 Capitola Road, Ste 106, Capitola CA 95010
PRESENT: Dena Taylor (*1st District*), Suzanne Doty (*Chair - 1st District*), Antonio Rivas (*2nd District*), Lois Sones (*3rd District*), Katie Limas (*Vice Chair - 4th District*), Carol Childers (*5th District*), Roger Wapner (*5th District*),
EXCUSED: Mark Johannessen (*2nd District*), Alicia Rodriguez (*3rd District*)
ABSENT: None
STAFF: Kaite McGrew (*Commissions Manager*)
GUESTS: Shandra Handley (*Assistant District Attorney*) and Gami Gutman (*Paralegal*) and no members of the public were present.

1. Call to Order/Roll Call/Agenda Review

Meeting convened at 12:35 PM.

2. **Motion to Approve August 19, 2025 Meeting Minutes**

Motion to approve minutes as written.

Motion/Second: Taylor/Wapner

Motion passed unanimously.

3. Public Comment: None

4. New Business/Action Items:

4.1. Current Scams and How to Protect Yourself and Loved Ones Presentation

Handley provided a high-level overview of scams currently targeting seniors, including gift card, phone, text, online, Medicare, and contractor fraud schemes. Scammers often impersonate trusted agencies or relatives, pressure victims to act quickly, and may use tactics such as tampered gift cards, spoofed phone numbers, malicious links, AI-generated voices, or fraudulent offers like foreign lotteries and inheritances. Key recommendations include slowing down, verifying information directly with trusted contacts, not answering unknown numbers, using spam filters, checking contractor and Medicare information carefully, using tap-to-pay to avoid skimmers, freezing credit with all three bureaus, and reporting incidents to the FTC, local law enforcement, and any affected companies. Commissioners were encouraged to consider inviting their District Supervisors to offer this presentation in their district meetings with constituents.

Rivas arrived at 12:45.

4.2. Consider Establishing an Ad Hoc Strategic Action Plan (SAP) Subcommittee

Commission discussed establishing an ad hoc Strategic Action Plan Subcommittee to update the Commission's SAP to align with the priorities established in the Master Plan for Aging.

Motion to establish an ad hoc Strategic Action Plan Subcommittee

Motion/Second: Childers/Taylor

Motion passed unanimously.

Chair appointed Childers, Doty, Limas, Rodriguez, and Johannessen to the subcommittee.

5. District Reports

5.1. District 1

Taylor reported that the Mid-County Senior Center Resource Fair event was very successful, with more than thirty vendors participating and strong public interest. Taylor recently attended a webinar on the “Ten Warning Signs of Alzheimer’s,” and will share the checklist with the Commission. Doty is compiling a contact list for senior mobile home parks and other senior communities to facilitate sharing information and resources.

5.2. District 2

Rivas reported that the Watsonville Senior Center Advisory Board is presenting a master class to the Watsonville City Council on the services and resources they plan to provide for Watsonville’s senior community, with the goal of securing funding. The Center has recently added a new elevator and kitchen, is replacing windows, and is reconfiguring the site to increase parking. They are also planning a front-facing mural, gathering ideas from seniors, and seeking an artist. The Center is exploring new branding language beyond “seniors” or “elders.” The recent senior prom was a great success. Rivas also noted that Sones received a Lifetime Achievement Award for her work with Elderday and other contributions.

5.3. District 3

Sones reported that she received an update this week on the CORE process. The Board of Supervisors formed a subcommittee—Supervisors Cummings and De Serpa—which presented preliminary recommendations for the future of CORE. The recommendations were very positive for seniors, particularly regarding process improvements. The item was presented at the October 21 Board of Supervisors meeting on the consent agenda.

5.4. District 4: No Report

5.5. District 5:

Wapner reported issues at the Highland Senior Center involving the original charter and responsibilities between Parks (outside and bathrooms) and renters (interior); attorneys are in discussion, but no legal action has occurred. Childers noted well-attended resource fairs in Watsonville and Ben Lomond, with fewer for-profit vendors and more nonprofit participation, though presentation turnout was low due to unannounced speakers. Home-delivery clients losing SNAP will be provided with information on alternative low-cost food resources in the San Lorenzo Valley and throughout the County eventually.

6. Senior Legislature Report

Staff reported that SB-239 (Brown Act Telecommunications) remains in the Inactive File. It could be brought back next year but is currently not under consideration. Next Monday Rivas will be in the annual state legislature meeting, and he will return with an update in December.

7. Staff Report: No Report

8. Correspondence: None

9. Emerging Matters and Commissioner Announcements: None

10. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 2:19 PM.

Respectfully submitted by:

Kaite McGrew, *Commissions Manager*