



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@santacruzcountyca.gov

www.sccseniors.org

Notice of Public Meeting and Agenda

DATE Tuesday, April 16, 2024
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*.****

AGENDA

1. Call to Order/Roll Call/Agenda Review
2. Approval of *February 20, 2024 Meeting Minutes*
3. Public Comment
Any member of the public may address the Commission for a period not to exceed 3 minutes on any issue within the jurisdiction of the Commission not on the agenda.
4. New and Continuing Business/Action Items:
 - 4.1. Senate Bill 1249 – Older Americans Act – Clay Kempf (*Executive Director, Seniors Council*)
 - 4.2. Enhanced Care Management (ECM) and Multi-purpose Senior Services Programs (MSSPs) - John Beleutz (*Executive Director, Health Projects Center*)
 - 4.3. Election of Officers
 - 4.4. Consider 2025 Meeting Schedule
5. District Reports
 - 5.1. District 1
 - 5.2. District 2
 - 5.3. District 3
 - 5.4. District 4
 - 5.5. District 5
6. Senior Legislature Report
7. Staff Report
8. Correspondence
9. Emerging Matters and Commissioner Announcements
10. Adjournment

Next Regular Meeting: June 18, 2024 at 12:30 PM United Way, Capitola CA 95010

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.



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Meeting Minutes

DATE: Tuesday, February 20, 2024

TIME: 12:30 PM

LOCATION: United Way, 4450 Capitola Road, Ste 106, Capitola CA 95010

PRESENT: Dena Taylor (1st District), Suzanne Doty (Vice Chair - 1st District), Mark Johannessen (2nd District), Antonio Rivas (2nd District) Lois Sones (3rd District), Patricia Fohrman (4th District), Katie Limas (4th District), Carol Childers (Chair -5th District), Lynn McKibbin (5th District)

EXCUSED: None

ABSENT: None

STAFF: Kaite McGrew (Commissions Manager)

GUESTS: Elizabeth Byrd (Sr. HSA Analyst), Teri Mantz, (Mid-County Senior Center Board Vice President), and Clay Kempf (AAA/Seniors Council Executive Director) were present.

1. Call to Order/Roll Call/Agenda Review

Meeting convened at 12:31 PM.

2. Motion to Approve December 19 Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve minutes as written.

Motion/Second: Doty/Fohrman

Motion passed unanimously.

3. Public Comment:

Kempf provided an update on Virtual Candidate Forums, AB-1249, Ombudsman Program defunding crisis, and an update on the LOSD Capitola property negotiation including information on an upcoming bond act.

4. New Business/Action Items:

4.1. Age Well Community Needs Assessment Report

Byrd provided an update on the senior needs assessment survey being conducted as part of the County's *Master Plan for Aging* efforts. A 10-person steering committee of deeply connected community members designed the outreach campaign. Hundreds of local community partners are delivering and collecting paper surveys in addition to the traditional media (newspaper, newsletter, radio, and magazine) advertisements. A dedicated email and phone number are available to request paper surveys. Responses are being analyzed responses for targeted outreach opportunities resulting in greater engagement with unhoused seniors, veterans, and those living in facilities. So far, the response has been very good.

4.2. Mid-County Senior Center Report

Mantz provided detailed information about the Mid-County Senior Center's programs and services including social, educational, recreational, and healthy lifestyle events for seniors and non-seniors alike. 515 members support the center paying \$45/year in dues. The center is self-supporting except for some grant funding and member donations for special projects. Fundraisers and venue rentals provide additional income. Activities include games, dances, book signings, organic gardening, workshops, yoga, dances, and barbeques, to name a few. The

building needs repairs and increased membership would help to provide the resources to make the necessary repairs. Commissioners are encouraged to share information about the great senior programming available at the Mid-County Senior Center.

Motion to Establish an *Ad Hoc Senior Center Advocacy Subcommittee* to develop a recommendation of the purpose and scope of a special project for consideration by the Commission.

Motion/Second: Taylor/Doty

Motion passed unanimously.

Childers appointed Doty, McKibbin, Taylor, and Childers to the subcommittee.

4.3. Commission Restructure Update

Staff reported that the Commission was not mentioned in the County's advisory body streamlining recommendations that were presented to the Board in January. A second round of recommendations are due in August, so the Commission will postpone their advocacy letter.

5. District Reports:

5.1. District 1:

Taylor reported attending two informative webinars, focused on diversity and one focused on housing needs for people with disabilities and seniors.

5.2. District 2:

Johannessen provided an update on *2024 Solutions Summit* planning and reported that seniors were well represented at the polls. Rivas reported on a Watsonville Senior Center meeting regarding capital repairs and potential expansion they will propose to the City Council. Rivas also attended a Meals on Wheels event at the Chaminade.

5.3. District 3:

Sones met with state legislators to advocate for senior needs.

5.4. District 4:

Fohrmann reported attending an Interlaken flood control event and heard a report on the impact of fentanyl on the community. Fohrman also advised contacting the Justice Department to report any unusable parking spaces for people with disabilities.

5.5. District 5:

McKibbin reported that the Valley Community Center received a grant funding from the State for capital improvements which are scheduled to begin. Childers recommended the Patty Maxine documentary "Being Eighty" on PBS.

6. Senior Legislature Report: No Report

7. Staff Report: No Report

8. Correspondence: None

9. Emerging Matters and Commissioner Announcements: None

10. Adjournment:

Meeting adjourned at 2:21 PM.

Respectfully submitted by: Kaite McGrew, *Commissions Manager*

Introduced by Senator RothFebruary 15, 2024

An act to amend Section 9000 of, to add Section 9103.5 to, and to repeal and add Sections 9001 and 9002 of, the Welfare and Institutions Code, relating to older adults.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1249, as introduced, Roth. Mello-Granlund Older Californians Act.

Existing law, the Mello-Granlund Older Californians Act, establishes the California Department of Aging in the California Health and Human Services Agency, and sets forth its mission to provide leadership to the area agencies on aging in developing systems of home- and community-based services that maintain individuals in their own homes or the least restrictive homelike environments. Existing law requires the department to designate various private nonprofit or public agencies as area agencies on aging to work within a planning and service area and provide a broad array of social and nutritional services. Existing law includes various findings and declarations relating to the purposes of the act

This bill would update and revise those legislative findings and declarations, including recognizing the state's major demographic shift towards an older, more diverse population and declaring the intent to reform provisions of the act related to various functions of the area agencies on aging. The bill, within specified time periods, would require the department to take various actions to reform the act, including giving counties the option to petition the department to assume control of the area agency on aging that serves the local jurisdiction, developing core programs and services, and developing a statewide public awareness

engagement strategy. The bill would authorize the department to enter into exclusive or nonexclusive contracts, as specified, for purposes of administering and implementing the act, and to implement, interpret, or make specific that authority by means of information notices, provider bulletins, or other similar instructions.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 9000 of the Welfare and Institutions Code
2 is amended to read:

3 9000. This division shall be known, and may be cited, as the
4 Mello-Granlund Older Californians Act, that reflects the policy
5 mandates and directives of the Older Americans Act of 1965, as
6 amended, and sets forth the state's commitment to ~~its older~~
7 ~~population and other populations~~ *older adults, people with*
8 *disabilities, and family caregivers* served by the programs
9 administered by the California Department of Aging.

10 SEC. 2. Section 9001 of the Welfare and Institutions Code is
11 repealed.

12 ~~9001. The Legislature hereby finds and recognizes all of the~~
13 ~~following:~~

14 ~~(a) Older individuals constitute a fundamental resource of the~~
15 ~~state that previously has been undervalued and poorly utilized, and~~
16 ~~ways must be found to enable older individuals to apply their~~
17 ~~competence, wisdom, and experience for the benefit of all~~
18 ~~Californians.~~

19 ~~(b) There is a continuing increase in the number of older~~
20 ~~individuals in proportion to the total population.~~

21 ~~(c) Today, 14 percent of California's population currently is 60~~
22 ~~years of age and over.~~

23 ~~(d) By the year 2010, the first influx of baby boomers will~~
24 ~~constitute 29.2 percent of California's total population over 60~~
25 ~~years of age. By the year 2020, baby boomers will constitute 70.2~~
26 ~~percent of California's total population over 60 years of age.~~

27 ~~(e) By the year 2020, older individuals will represent 21 percent~~
28 ~~of California's total population.~~

1 ~~(f) While the number of persons over 60 years of age is~~
2 ~~increasing rapidly, the number of older women, minorities and~~
3 ~~persons over the age of 75 are increasing at an even greater rate.~~

4 ~~(g) Among persons over 75 years of age, there is a higher~~
5 ~~incidence of functional disabilities.~~

6 ~~(h) The social and health problems of the older individual are~~
7 ~~further compounded by inaccessibility to existing services and by~~
8 ~~the unavailability of a complete range of services.~~

9 ~~(i) Services to older individuals are administered by many~~
10 ~~different agencies and departments at both the state and local level.~~

11 ~~(j) The planning and delivery of these services is not carried~~
12 ~~out with any degree of coordination among those agencies.~~

13 ~~(k) Enhanced coordination reduces duplication, eliminates~~
14 ~~inefficiencies, and enhances service delivery for the consumer.~~

15 ~~(l) The ability of the constantly increasing number of aged in~~
16 ~~the state to maintain self-sufficiency and personal well-being with~~
17 ~~the dignity to which their years of labor entitle them and to realize~~
18 ~~their maximum potential as creative and productive individuals~~
19 ~~are matters of profound importance and concern for all of the~~
20 ~~people of this state.~~

21 SEC. 3. Section 9001 is added to the Welfare and Institutions
22 Code, to read:

23 9001. The Legislature hereby finds and recognizes all of the
24 following:

25 (a) In June 2019, Governor Gavin Newsom issued Executive
26 Order No. N-14-19, calling for the creation of a Master Plan for
27 Aging (MPA), which seeks to prepare local communities for the
28 year 2030 when 10.8 million Californians – one in four residents
29 – will be 60 years of age or older. The executive order affirms the
30 priority of the health and well-being of older Californians and the
31 need for policies that promote aging with dignity and independence.

32 (b) The state's major demographic shift towards an older, more
33 diverse population requires statewide systems and local structures
34 that do all of the following:

35 (1) Offer, coordinate, and integrate increasingly complex social,
36 medical, cognitive, and behavioral health supports.

37 (2) Respond to the needs of a growing number of older adults,
38 people with disabilities and family caregivers.

39 (3) Affirm the important values of race, ethnicity, language,
40 culture, sexual orientation, and gender identity.

1 (c) In preparing for the aging of California's population, the
2 state seeks to eliminate disparities and improve access to services
3 and supports to meet the needs of older adults, people with
4 disabilities, and caregivers.

5 (d) It is the intent of the Legislature to reform provisions of the
6 Mello-Granlund Older Californians Act related to area agencies
7 on aging with respect to all of the following:

8 (1) Geography and demographics.

9 (2) Governance, including area agency on aging designations
10 and planning service area boundaries.

11 (3) Programs and services.

12 (4) Performance measures.

13 (5) Funding sources and capacities.

14 (6) Public awareness.

15 SEC. 4. Section 9002 of the Welfare and Institutions Code is
16 repealed.

17 ~~9002. The Legislature finds and declares all of the following:~~

18 ~~(a) Programs shall be initiated, promoted, and developed through~~
19 ~~all of the following:~~

20 ~~(1) Volunteers and volunteer groups.~~

21 ~~(2) Partnership with local governmental agencies.~~

22 ~~(3) Coordinated efforts of state agencies.~~

23 ~~(4) Coordination and cooperation with federal programs.~~

24 ~~(5) Partnership with private health and social service agencies.~~

25 ~~(6) Participation by older individuals in the planning and~~
26 ~~operation of all programs and services that may affect them.~~

27 ~~(b) It shall be the policy of this state to give attention to the~~
28 ~~unique concerns of our most frail and vulnerable older individuals.~~

29 ~~(c) Recognizing the diversity in geography, economy, culture,~~
30 ~~and lifestyles in California and the diversity of local senior citizen~~
31 ~~networks, it shall be the policy of this state to encourage and~~
32 ~~emphasize local control to achieve the most effective blend of state~~
33 ~~and local authority.~~

34 ~~(d) In recognition of the many governmental programs serving~~
35 ~~seniors, and as specified in paragraph (2) of subdivision (c) of~~
36 ~~Section 9102, the California Department of Aging should~~
37 ~~coordinate, as existing resources permit, with other state~~
38 ~~departments in doing all of the following:~~

39 ~~(1) Promote clear and simplified access to information assistance~~
40 ~~and services arrangements.~~

- 1 ~~(2) Ensure that older individuals retain the right of free choice~~
2 ~~in planning and managing their lives.~~
- 3 ~~(3) Ensure that health and social services are available that do~~
4 ~~all of the following:~~
- 5 ~~(A) Allow older individuals to live independently at home or~~
6 ~~with others.~~
- 7 ~~(B) Provide for advocaey for expansion of existing programs~~
8 ~~that prevent or minimize illness or social isolation, and allow~~
9 ~~individuals to maximize their dignity and choice of living.~~
- 10 ~~(C) Provide for protection of older individuals from physical~~
11 ~~and mental abuse, neglect, and fraudulent practices.~~
- 12 ~~(4) Foster both preventive and primary health care, including~~
13 ~~mental and physical health care, to keep older individuals active~~
14 ~~and contributing members of society.~~
- 15 ~~(5) Encourage public and private development of suitable~~
16 ~~housing.~~
- 17 ~~(6) Develop and seek support for plans to ensure access to~~
18 ~~information, counseling, and screening.~~
- 19 ~~(7) Encourage public and private development of suitable~~
20 ~~housing and recreational opportunities to meet the needs of older~~
21 ~~individuals.~~
- 22 ~~(8) Encourage development of efficient community services~~
23 ~~including access to low-cost transportation services, that provide~~
24 ~~a choice in supported living arrangements and social assistance in~~
25 ~~a coordinated manner and that are readily available when needed.~~
- 26 ~~(9) Encourage and develop meaningful employment~~
27 ~~opportunities for older individuals.~~
- 28 ~~(10) Encourage the development of barrier-free construction~~
29 ~~and the removal of architectural barriers, so that more facilities~~
30 ~~are accessible to older individuals.~~
- 31 ~~(11) Promote development of programs to educate persons who~~
32 ~~work with older individuals in gerontology and geriatrics.~~
- 33 ~~(12) Encourage and support intergenerational programming and~~
34 ~~participation by community organizations and institutions to~~
35 ~~promote better understanding among the generations.~~
- 36 ~~(e) The California Department of Aging shall ensure that, to the~~
37 ~~extent possible, the services provided for in accordance with this~~
38 ~~division shall be coordinated and integrated with services provided~~
39 ~~to older individuals by other entities of the state. That integration~~
40 ~~may include, but not be limited to, the reconfiguration of state~~

1 ~~departments into a coordinated unit that can provide for multiple~~
2 ~~services to the same consumers. Services provided under this~~
3 ~~division shall be managed, directly or through contract, by local~~
4 ~~area agencies on aging or other local systems.~~

5 SEC. 5. Section 9002 is added to the Welfare and Institutions
6 Code, to read:

7 9002. (a) The California Department of Aging shall ensure
8 that, to the extent possible, the services provided for in accordance
9 with this division shall be, directly or through contract, provided
10 by local area agencies on aging.

11 (b) Effective January 1, 2025, a county shall be given the option
12 to petition the department to assume control of the area agency on
13 aging that serves the local jurisdiction. A county shall notify the
14 department of its intent to petition to assume control of the area
15 agency on aging that serves its jurisdiction by June 30, 2025. In
16 consultation with area agencies on aging and stakeholders, the
17 department shall develop and submit regulations to the Office of
18 Administrative Law to effect changes in area agencies on aging
19 designations as contemplated in this paragraph. The department
20 shall submit the updated area agency on aging designations and
21 planning service area map to the Legislature within 90 days of
22 final adoption.

23 (c) On or before September 30, 2026, and in consultation with
24 area agencies on aging and stakeholders, the department shall
25 develop the core programs and services to be provided by all area
26 agencies on aging.

27 (d) On or before September 1, 2026, in consultation with area
28 agencies on aging and stakeholders, the department shall submit
29 to the Legislature and the federal Administration for Community
30 Living an update to the intrastate funding formula, based on the
31 revised area agencies on aging designations and planning service
32 area map boundaries, and other factors and weights as required
33 under state and federal statute and regulations.

34 (e) On or before September 30, 2026, and in consultation with
35 area agencies on aging and stakeholders, the department shall
36 develop objectives, key results, and a performance measurement
37 methodology for core programs and services for adoption by the
38 area agencies on aging. The department shall maintain California's
39 Data Dashboard for Aging, which shall include updates to reflect
40 demographic changes using validated sources including the United

1 States Census, the Department of Finance, the Elder Index, and
2 the California Healthy Places Index.

3 (f) In consultation with area agencies on aging and stakeholders,
4 the department shall develop a statewide engagement plan by
5 September 30, 2026. The statewide plan shall seek to raise public
6 awareness of programs and services, identify access points, provide
7 consistent messaging to all audiences, and improve outreach to
8 underrepresented and underserved populations, including
9 Asian-Pacific Islander, Black, Latino, Indigenous, LGBTQ+ older
10 adults, people with disabilities, and caregivers.

11 SEC. 6. Section 9103.5 is added to the Welfare and Institutions
12 Code, to read:

13 9103.5. (a) The department may enter into exclusive or
14 nonexclusive contracts, or amend existing contracts, on a bid or
15 negotiated basis for purposes of administering or implementing
16 the requirements of this division.

17 (b) Contracts entered into or amended pursuant to this section
18 shall be exempt from Chapter 6 (commencing with Section 14825)
19 of Part 5.5 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code,
20 Section 19130 of the Government Code, and Part 2 (commencing
21 with Section 10100) of Division 2 of the Public Contract Code,
22 and shall be exempt from the review or approval of any division
23 of the Department of General Services.

24 (c) Notwithstanding Chapter 3.5 (commencing with Section
25 11340) of Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code,
26 the department may implement, interpret, or make specific this
27 section, in whole or in part, by means of information notices,
28 provider bulletins, or other similar instructions, without further
29 regulatory action.

O

SB 1249 – Recommended Amendments

SB 1249 needs some significant amendments to be effective, but there is a path forward. The biggest challenge the bill faces is that the most significantly affected parties (multi-jurisdiction Area Agencies on Aging) have only been provided with minimal opportunities for input.

Amendments that would make SB 1249 effective include the following:

- 1) The Area Agency on Aging (AAA) Planning and Service Area (PSA) reassessment should be a discussion involving ALL AAAs, including non-profit AAAs, all JPA AAA's, AND Counties with each having equitable authority and input. Excluding those currently doing the work essentially leaves the least informed entities to make the most important decisions.
- 2) The state should NOT set statewide service priorities. One size does NOT fit all; everyone knows that, the Older Americans Act states that; USAging champions local control. C4A - regardless of the PSA format - knows the same. This aspect of the bill alone could be reason for wide opposition. Best to remove.
- 3) County takeover should require documented efforts that any County wanting to takeover a AAA has provided appropriate local match to AAA programs over the last 5-10 years. Have they increased their allocations in proportion to population growth? Have they kept up with inflation? If the answer is no, that is a strong indicator that older adults are not a county priority, and the individual County should not be considered a good candidate for takeover
- 4) Perhaps most importantly, there needs to be guidelines for COMBINING or RE-COMBINING different counties within a given PSA, NOT just for splitting them up. Should a two-county AAA become a three-county AAA? Should adjacent multi-county AAA's re-assign individual counties from one PSA to another? This is the only way to improve PSA alignment; it has to be comprehensive, inclusive, and consider a diversity of options for any and all reconfigurations.
- 5) The Intrastate Funding Formula (IFF) is a huge can of worms. Re-opening it could mean the AAA focus and the legislature is stuck in litigation and legislation for years, merely to address this aspect of the bill.

SB 1249 (Roth): Fact vs. Fiction

Regarding California’s Network of Local Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs) which are responsible for providing Meals on Wheels and other Federal Programs.

FACT: From People Who Operate the 14 Independent Area Agencies on Aging	FICTION: From Select Staff at the California Department of Aging and the California Commission on Aging
SB 1249 is not necessary. Existing State and Federal law and statute allow for the re-designation of AAAs	SB 1249 is necessary to re-designate AAAs
SB 1249 <u>undermines</u> the legitimacy of the existing Agencies on Aging (AAAs) that are not directly governed by a County.	SB 1249 is purely exploratory.
SB 1249 engineers a series of events that threaten to <u>dismantle</u> the 14 existing AAAs that serve 39 Counties* and the City of Los Angeles.	SB 1249 will not dismantle existing AAAs.
SB 1249 deliberately <u>circumvents</u> federal due process protections for existing AAAs under the Older Americans Act of 1965 and the Code of Federal Regulations.	SB 1249 allows for stakeholder involvement before Counties have exercised their first right of refusal to “assume control” of local AAAs.
SB 1249 provides no resources to expand services, but it will increase administrative costs. It proposes to replace local control & service prioritization with a one-size-fits-all model; naively assuming there are no differences between our largest cities and our most rural counties.	SB 1249 responds to recent surveys about the lack of adequate senior services in California, and increases service delivery
SB 1249 introduces arbitrary deadlines that will force mapping and governance decisions to be made in California <u>before</u> stronger federal protections for existing AAAs go into effect in October of 2025 (45 CFR).	SB 1249 aligns with the intent of the federal government.
SB 1249 sends the AAA network four decades <u>backwards</u> in time to when the Governor capped the number of Agencies on Aging and lawsuits raged over the controversial IFF.	SB 1249 modernizes the AAA network.

SB 1249 poses an existential threat to the AAAs that serve the following California Counties: Alpine, Amador, Butte, Calaveras, Colusa, Glenn, Del Norte, Fresno, Humboldt, Inyo, Kings, Lake, Lassen, Madera, Mariposa, Mendocino, Modoc, Mono, Napa, Nevada, Placer, Plumas, Sacramento, San Benito, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Shasta, Sierra, Siskiyou, Solano, Sutter, Tehama, Trinity, Tulare, Tuolumne, Yolo and Yuba.

Together, these 39 counties are home to 2,109,838 Californians age 60 and older. The City of Los Angeles alone is home to an additional 866,046 Californians age 60+.

Take Action! Contact your State Representatives at: <https://findyourrep.legislature.ca.gov/>

WORKING DRAFT: March 27, 2024



AREA AGENCY ON AGING
San Benito & Santa Cruz Counties

FOSTER GRANDPARENT/SENIOR COMPANION PROGRAM
Monterey, San Benito, Santa Clara & Santa Cruz Counties

PROJECT SCOUT
Tax Counseling Assistance

AGING & DISABILITY RESOURCE CONNECTION
Navigating the San Benito County Senior & Disability Services Network

March 28, 2024

The Honorable State Senator Richard Roth
1021 O Street, Suite 7510 Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Opposition to SB 1249

Dear Senator,

The Area Agency on Aging Advisory Council voted unanimously to oppose SB 1249 during our March meeting, and urge your withdrawal of the legislation.

SB 1249 amends the Mello-Granlund Older Californians Act, and has several items of concern leading to our opposition. These include:

- 1) Inviting California Counties to petition to take over non-profit and/or Joint Power Agreement (JPA) Area Agencies on Aging without cause. We consider this especially dire for our Planning and Service Area (Santa Cruz & San Benito Counties), as it enables either county to undermine the long-standing two-county approach and leave their neighboring county with inadequate resources to conduct AAA administrative duties; duties that will duplicate the work currently being performed by our single AAA.
- 2) Providing the California Department of Aging the authority to create statewide service priorities rather than honor the core value of the Older Americans Act (OAA). The OAA recognizes that needs of Santa Cruz & San Benito County seniors is not best served by a one-size-fits-all approach to aging, and one of the absolutely beautiful aspects of the Act is that it allows for local control over the use of federal dollars. The needs and challenges of older adults in rural San Benito County are not the same as in downtown Los Angeles, and vice versa. SB 1249 proposes to severely compromise existing flexibility. Experts around our State and our Country site the local control of federal dollars as one of the most innovative and effective aspects of the OAA.
- 3) SB 1249 references re-opening the Intrastate Funding Formula (IFF) as a means to correct budget shortfalls and allocations, and implies this will be a simple process. The roots of the IFF are that it was initiated as a way to redistribute Older Americans Act funding and resulted in 10+ years of legal and legislative action before it was finally resolved. Bitter fights occurred throughout the state; past partnerships were destroyed; hundreds of thousands of dollars were spent on legal battles, services were neglected, and no new services were provided; no innovation occurred, and more resources were poured into litigation rather than into services. Re-opening this deep

234 Santa Cruz Avenue • Aptos, California 95003 **www.seniorscouncil.org**
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scar in the aging network will not produce positive results; we must learn from our own history and avoid repeating a past failure.

- 4) Revisiting the alignment of AAA's throughout the state is not something we object to. However, action to do so needs to move forward in a comprehensive manner, with the opportunity to increase partnerships; with input from existing AAAs and the aging services network as well as counties, and with the thorough review & appeals process that is in the Federal Older Americans Act. SB 1249 undermines all of those components; it only considers splitting partnerships apart rather than augmenting or building new ones; it provides no input from the agencies currently leading those partnerships; it bypasses federally proposed processes, and, perhaps most important of all, it will result in duplication of effort and will increase the administrative costs of providing services. At a time when California is facing major budget challenges, we can not afford to waste dollars on duplicating administrative functions.

Thanks for your consideration of our concerns. Feel free to contact us if you would like to discuss.

Respectfully,



Clay Kempf, Executive Director
(831) 688-0400 ext. 115



Sandy Brown, Chair
AAA Advisory Council

CC: *California State Senator John Laird*
California State Assembly Speaker Robert Rivas
California State Assemblymember Gail Pellerin
California State Assemblymember Dawn Addis
Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors
San Benito County Board of Supervisors
Area Agency on Aging of Santa Cruz & San Benito Counties Advisory Council
Seniors Council Board of Directors



Santa Cruz County Seniors Commission

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Scheduled Meetings

Unless otherwise specified, regularly scheduled Seniors Commission meetings are generally held as follows:

DAY: Third (3rd) Tuesday
MONTH: Every other month (February, April, June, August, October, and December)
TIME: 12:30 PM – 2:30 PM
LOCATION: **United Way of Santa Cruz County***
4450 Capitola Road, Ste 106, Capitola, CA 95010

* Unless noted otherwise below

Changes to the schedule, including special meetings, changes of location, or meeting cancellations, will be listed on the website at www.sccseniors.org as soon as information becomes available.

2025 Meeting Dates		
DATE	TIME	LOCATION
February 18, 2025	12:30 – 2:30 PM	United Way
April 15, 2025	12:30 – 2:30 PM	United Way
June 17, 2025	12:30 – 2:30 PM	United Way
August 19, 2025	12:30 – 2:30 PM	United Way
October 21, 2025	12:30 – 2:30 PM	United Way
December 16, 2025	12:30 – 2:30 PM	United Way

Public Participation

- Please check the meeting agenda to learn details about how to participate in the commission meeting.
- If you need special accommodations, please call 454-2935 or TDD: 711 (California Relay Service) at least 48 hours before the meeting.

2024 SOLUTIONS SUMMIT

Developing a Local Playbook for California's Master Plan for Aging

Presented By:

The Seniors Council/Area Agency on Aging
of Santa Cruz & San Benito Counties

in partnership with

The Community Foundation for San Benito County

Agenda

9:00 a.m. **Arrival & Registration**

9:30 **Introduction & Overview**

Pam Arnsberger, President, Seniors Council

Bea Gonzales, Chair, BOS?

Sandy Brown, Chair, Area Agency on Aging Advisory Council?

*Master of Ceremonies - Gary Byrne, Executive Director – Community
Foundation for San Benito County*

9:45 **Official Welcome – Greeting to Elected Officials**

TBD

10:00 **Ice-Breaker Exercise?**

10:15 **Overview of California's Master Plan For Aging**

- Creation of the Master Plan for Aging
- A Dynamic Plan designed for Local Implementation
- The Five Bold Goals
 1. Housing for all Ages & Stages
 2. Caregiving that Works
 3. Health Reimagined
 4. Affording Aging

5. Inclusion & Equity, Not Isolation

- Creating Local Actions & Workgroups
 1. What do we Know Already?
 2. Who Are Some of Our Community Leaders?
 3. What Will We Do Today and After Today?

- 11:00 **Breakout Group Discussions** – (Solutions Development)
- 12:15 LUNCH BREAK
- 1:00 **Solution Reports Presented by the Breakout Groups**
- 1:45 **Action Steps: Formation of Work Groups, Convening Plans, & Report Back Process**
- 2:00 **Wrap up** – Acknowledgements and Thanks, and, Next Steps!

We graciously thank the following businesses & organizations for their Support:

This event was funded by: California Department of Aging Local Aging & Disability Action Planning Grant, and the Area Agency on Aging of Santa Cruz & San Benito Counties - a program of the Seniors Council.

8.2-2



Santa Cruz County Seniors Commission

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www.sccseniors.org

Scheduled Meetings

Unless otherwise specified, regularly scheduled Seniors Commission meetings are generally held as follows:

DAY: Third (3rd) Tuesday
MONTH: Every other month (February, April, June, August, October, and December)
TIME: 12:30 PM – 2:30 PM
LOCATION: **United Way of Santa Cruz County***
4450 Capitola Road, Ste 106, Capitola, CA 95010

* Unless noted otherwise below

Changes to the schedule, including special meetings, changes of location, or meeting cancellations, will be listed on the website at www.sccseniors.org as soon as information becomes available.

2024 Meeting Dates		
DATE	TIME	LOCATION
February 20, 2024	12:30 – 2:30 PM	United Way
April 16, 2024	12:30 – 2:30 PM	United Way
June 18, 2024	12:30 – 2:30 PM	United Way
August 20, 2024	12:30 – 2:30 PM	United Way
October 15, 2024	12:30 – 2:30 PM	United Way
December 17, 2024	12:30 – 2:30 PM	United Way

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