



Sonoma County Aging & Disability Commission Meeting



Minutes

Wednesday, March 18th, 2026 | 1:00PM-3:00PM

Carnelian Conference Room, 3725 Westwind Blvd. Santa Rosa 95403

In-person Attendance: Deanna Shaat, Robin Thompson, Suzanne Edwards, Jenny Helman, Rick Baum, Priyanka Varma, Jaime Penaherrera, Alain Serkissian, Terry Kelley, Trayce Beards, Pam Law (*voted in as Member during session*)

Virtual Attendance: Heather Hanna-Kramer, Priyanka Varma

Absent: Eddie Estrada, Diane Spain

Staff Attendance: Paul Dunaway, Cody Souza-Milner, Cassandra Denson (Zoom), Joni Huntsperger

1. Welcome & Commission Member Introductions (Helman) (1:00PM)

2. New Commission Member Application – Action

Motion: Nominate Pam Law for a seat on the Commission.

1st Motion: Robin Thompson | **2nd Motion:** Deanna Shaat | **Vote Result:** Passed

3. Public Hearing - FY 2024 – 2028 Area Plan Update: Year 2 FY 25/26 (Souza-Milner)

Presentation and Fact Sheet Handout were provided to the Commission and the Public.

- Reviewed the current 4-Year plan focus areas.
- Reviewed the first 2 years of progress with the Area Plan and the programs that were offered.
- Reviewed the Fiscal Year 2026-2027 funding of programs.
 - Shared types of funding sources.
 - Discussed the changes in available funding.
 - Sunset of Cal Fresh Healthy Living Grant September 2025.
 - Sunset of Older Californians Act Supportive Services- *Ageing Better Sonoma County, Disaster Preparedness programs are discontinued.*
 - Older Americans Act Reductions- *FallProof and SAIL programs discontinued, Alzheimer's Day and Adult Day programs reduced.*
 - New Pilot Program starting in Sonoma Valley- *Eric Larson selected as consultant.*
- Area Plan Public Comment
 - Cody Souza- Milner took notes on any questions/topics that needed follow-up.



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4. Approval of the 2.18.2026 Commission Meeting Minutes (Helman)

- Approved as Written.

5. Public Comment and Commission Member Open Forum

Introductions of public participants who wish to be recognized.

Krista Barnett-Nelson, Senior Advocacy Services: Presented upcoming initiatives.

Jamie Escoubas, Council on Aging: Shared upcoming events. Announced their team won the Non-Profit of Excellence Award. Shared about the Cloverdale congregate dining pilot program.

Mary Flett, California Senior Legislature: Discussed the current challenge of funding in California. Shared information regarding CSL's initiatives.

BREAK

6. Chair Updates (Helman)

Marge Ling Nominations Update

- The Executive Committee is discussing a new process for selecting a candidate next year.
- The Executive Comm. also determined a nominee for this year.

Change Planning Day Date:

- June 17th 2026, 9:00AM-2:00PM
- Regular Commission meeting for August.

7. Director Updates (Dunaway)

County Budget Update

- Budget has been submitted, will be approved in June.
- No staffing cuts proposed.

State Budget Update

- The May revised state budget is unknown.
- C4A budget requesting permanent funding for Nutrition and budget requests for programs related to SB 1249, which could include ADRC funding.

Federal Budget Update

Approved by Commission: 4/15/2026



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- No updates.

Additional Updates:

- Chief Consultant for the Assembly on Aging and Long-Term Care, Liz Fuller, toured Sonoma County programs funded by AAA contracts with Cody Souza-Milner.

8. Written Report Discussion (Helman)

- Sonoma Seniors Today Article on Jenny Helman.
- Becoming Independent Report
- TACC Report
- Behavioral Health Services Act Report
- Master Plan for Aging Updates

9. Recruitment Membership Task Update (Helman)

- Discussed responses and lack of responses from individuals and organizations.
- Discussed meetings with Christ Church United Methodist, Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria, and the California Indian Museum & Cultural Center.

10. Board of Supervisors Meeting – Spring 2026

Spring 2026: Meetings with the Supervisors should be completed by May 2026.

Meeting Updates:

- District 1: Just completed meeting for Fall and need to work towards scheduling the Spring meeting.
- District 2: No response
- District 3: Meeting Scheduled for May 7th.
- District 4: No response- Reaching out to the 3 candidates that are running for seats instead.
- District 5: Meeting Scheduled for April 6th.
- Submit report ideas and feedback to Jenny Helman.

11. Standing & Ad Hoc Committee Reports (Helman)

Standing Committee: No Wrong Door

The Committee will provide an update on the progress of the work.

Interim Chair: Suzanne Edwards

Vice Chair: Priyanka Varma

- Met on February 24th.

Approved by Commission: 4/15/2026



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- Elected Priyanka Varma as Vice Chair.
- Committee worked on the NWD Committee Work Plan.
- Focus topics on the plan were:
 - Connection
 - Educating the Community and Sharing Information
 - Data Collection and Advocacy

Ad Hoc Committee:

- Website Design - **Action**

Ad Hoc group to develop recommendations for updates to the Commission webpage to make it more welcoming, informative, and simple to navigate.

Lead: Jaime Peñaherrera

Due: March 4, 2026

Motion: Accept the recommendations of the Website Design Committee

1st Motion: Suzanne Edwards | 2nd Motion: Deanna Shaat | Vote Result: Passed

- FY 26/27 Area Plan Objectives - **Action**

Ad Hoc group to develop recommendation for FY 2026-27 objectives in the Area Plan – Year 2 Update.

Lead: Deanna Shaat

Due: March 4, 2026

Motion: Approve the F2026-2027 Area Plan Goals and Objectives.

1st Motion: Tracye Bears | 2nd Motion: Deanna Shaat | Vote Result: Passed

- Community Convening Topics #2

Develop a Panel for a local Senior Expo

Lead: Eddie Estrada

Due: April 15, 2026

- *Update: DSLC is not partnering for a panel during the Expo. Eddie Estrada is going to meet with DSLC next week to discuss other options.*

- Legislative Ad Hoc (New) – **Action**

Coming up with questions for the Legislative Representatives

Lead: Robin Thompson

Due: March 30, 2026

Motion: Stand up a Legislative Ad Hoc.

1st Motion: Deanna Shaat | 2nd Motion: Rick Baum | Vote Result: Passed

- Interested members: Rick Baum, Eric Larson, Pam Law, Deanna Shaat

- No Wrong Door Ad Hoc (New) – **Action**

Approved by Commission: 4/15/2026



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Prioritize work plan activities so the plan can be discussed and approved by the Commission.

Lead: TBD

Due: April 9th, 2026

Motion: Stand up a No Wrong Door Ad Hoc Committee.

1st Motion: Rick Baum | 2nd Motion: Robin Thompson | Vote Result: Passed

- Interested Participants: Eric Larson, Susan Edwards, Priyanka Varma, Jenny Helman, Trayce Beards
- First Meeting: Thursday next week (Zoom)

12. Adjourn (Helman)(2:56PM)

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 Events:

- Executive Meeting: Tuesday, April 7, 2026, from 11:00 AM – 12:30 PM
- Commission Meeting: Wednesday, April 15, 2026, from 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM
- California Senior Legislature Applications Due March 31, 2026
 - To be sworn in during the October 2026 Annual Legislative Session
- Legislative Representatives to be invited to the April 2026 Commission Meeting
- North County Senior Resource Fair: June 7, 2026, from 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM
 - At Huerta Gym, Windsor
- African Soul Festival: August 29, 2026, from 11:00 to 5:00PM
 - 475 City Center Drive, Rohnert Park

Upcoming ADRU Table Events:

- None at this time