



# Sonoma County Aging & Disability Commission Meeting



## Minutes

Wednesday, September 17th, 2025 | 1:00PM-3:00PM

Carnelian Conference Room, 3725 Westwind Blvd. Santa Rosa 95403

**In-person Attendance:** Deanna Shaat, Robin Thompson, Trayce Beards, Denise Johnson, Priyanka Varma, Suzanne Edwards, Jenny Helman, Jaime Penaherrera, Rick Baum, Don Streeper (*Emeritus Member*)

**Virtual Attendance:**

**Absent:** Alain Serkissian (*Leave of Absence*), Monte Cimino (*Leave of Absence*), Diane Spain, Sandra Hoevertsz, Terry Kelley, Eddie Estrada

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

**1. Welcome & Commission Member Introductions** (Helman) (1:04PM)

**2. Approval of the 6.18.25 & 8.20.25 Commission Meeting Minutes** (Helman)

Approved as written.

**3. Public Comment and Commission Member Open Forum**

Jamie Escoubas, Council on Aging (COA): Expressed the reduction in supportive services funding and the growing needs of the community.

Megan Kelly, Petaluma People Services Center (PPSC): Echoed COA's comments regarding supportive services

Suzanne Edwards (with Jaime Penaherrera): Participated in the Fall Prevention Forum.

There was a variety of presenters on the panels. Discussed programs that are losing funding through CalFresh cuts. One program highlighted was the Walking Buddy Program that meets at Sonoma State University (flyers handed out).

Kathleen Cortez, AAA Staff: Shared Agism Awareness Day flyers.

**4. Chair Updates** (Helman)

Planning Day Update:

- Reviewed the Evaluation Graph.
- There was a desire for more time for discussions and more practice developing language to describe the Commission.
- Diane Spain reported that the Zoom feature worked smoothly for her.



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### 5. Director/Staff Updates (Dunaway, Milner, Huntsperger)

#### Director Update:

##### Updates on Medi-Cal, SNAP, CalFresh, and CFCO:

- Potential Government Shutdown: In the event of a shutdown, CDA and the County are prepared to float funds for up to three months.
- Medi-Cal Services: Proposed changes could eliminate coverage for approximately 3.4 million Californians.
- Asset Limits: Asset thresholds are being reset to \$130,000, with one primary residence excluded from the calculation.
- CFCO (High-Risk IHSS Cases): The State will begin issuing fines to counties for late assessments. Sonoma County has significantly reduced overdue cases and is prioritizing timely reassessments.
- Federal Reductions: Funding reductions are planned to extend over the next 10 years.
- Impact on Medical Centers: Smaller medical centers are expected to be disproportionately affected by Medicaid cuts, potentially leading to closures and reduced access to care.

#### Staff Updates:

##### Cal Cares – CDA Grant for the Caregiver Action Team:

- CDA is partnering with 3 counties.
- Focus Areas: Increase awareness to help individuals identify as caregivers, develop outreach and resources, and provide caregiver education and training.

##### Home Delivered Meals in the Coastal Region:

- CMAC Presentation (Sept. 18): AAA staff will attend and present, with a focus on increasing awareness of 565-INFO, ADRH, and related resources.
- RFP Status: Coastal Seniors did not submit an application for the 2024–2025 funding cycle.
- Next Steps with Coastal Seniors: AAA staff will meet with Coastal Seniors to discuss collaboration and explore a potential Sole Source Waiver for a mid-season contract.
- Partnership and Oversight: AAA Sonoma County will partner with AAA Mendocino to support funding and monitoring of the Coastal Seniors program.

##### Community Events for Commission Participation:

- Los Cien – State of the Latino Community, September 25, 2025, 8:30 AM–1:30 PM
  - Sonoma State University - 3rd Floor Ballroom
- Many Moons Festival, October 4, 2025, 11:00 AM – 7:00 PM



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- Ives Park, 7400 Willow St., Sebastopol, CA
- Golden Harvest Senior Wellness, October 11, 2025, 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM
  - Sonoma Community Center, 276 E Napa St., Sonoma, CA 95476
- Potential: Senior Symposium, October 11, 2025, 8:00 AM - 3:30 PM
  - Petaluma Community Center

### Changes to FY 25/26 contracts:

- Reviewed the changes in funding from 2024-2025 and 2025-2026.
- Review a list of the programs AAA will continue to fund for 2025-2026.

### MPA and LADAP Update:

#### Action Team Updates:

- Economic Security Action Group: Identified community-wide challenges related to access to services. Exploring the need for a broad communication strategy to improve outreach and awareness. Focusing on enhancing navigation to available resources. Planning to survey service providers and organizations to assess how they are currently connecting individuals to resources.

#### ECO Group:

- Equity Community Organizing Group.
- Focus area of Cloverdale.

#### Catalyst Group:

- Hosted an event in Sonoma Valley that focused on the needs/priorities for Sonoma residents. Looking at improving connections to local resources.

## **BREAK**

### **6. Board of Supervisors Progress Report (Helman, Beards)**

- Trayce Beards will provide the Fall Progress Report Document to the Commission for review.
- Reviewed the listed Accomplishments of the Commission, March 2025-September 2025.
- Reviewed the Commission's next steps/objectives.
- Commissioners discussed which objectives they felt were most important to discuss with their District Supervisor.
  - Research Report
  - Member Recruitment
  - Website Update



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- Additional Topics: Include demographics of older adults & people with disabilities in Sonoma County. (By distinct breakdowns)
- Reviewed the Commissioner's Bio page.
  - Recommendation: Include this document in the Commission Orientation Packet.
- Commissioners will be expected to meet with their District Supervisors to present the report.
- Report out at the January Commission meeting.

### 7. Standing & Ad Hoc Committee Report (Helman)

#### No Wrong Door Committee:

- Met in June 2025.
- Developing a toolbox for presenting ADRH information.
- Discussed common language/programs, MPA coordination, and coordination with transition programs/health workers.
- Betsey Harper presented on marketing outreach.
- The Executive Committee has requested a meeting time extension and to move meeting dates to earlier in the month.

#### Ad Hoc Committee:

##### Commission Recruitment Plan (new) – Action

- Task: Recommend recruitment activities based on outreach priorities.
- Due Date: October 29<sup>th</sup>, 2025

**Motion:** Stand up the Commission Recruitment Plan Ad Hoc Committee.

**1<sup>st</sup> Motion:** Trayce Beards **2<sup>nd</sup> Motion:** Deanna Shaat **Vote Result:** Approved

- Interested Committee Members: Suzanne Edwards, Jenny Helman, Trayce Beards, Priyanka Varma

##### IIIB Support Service Program Prioritization (new) – Action

- Task: Recommend which IIIB Supportive Services Programs the Commission would like to see prioritized in 2026-2027.
- Due Date: October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2025

**Motion:** Stand up the IIIB Support Service Program Prioritization Ad Hoc Committee.

**1<sup>st</sup> Motion:** Rick Baum **2<sup>nd</sup> Motion:** Robin Thompson **Vote Result:** Approved

- Interested Committee Members: Deanna Shaat, Diane Spain, Jaime Penaherrera, Robin Thompson, Rick Baum (Lead), Don Streeper.

##### Research Report (new) - Action



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- Task: Research and summarize the ways that older adults, people with disabilities, and their caregivers within your supervisorial district learn about services and supports to help maintain dignity and independence.
- Due Date: January 7, 2026

**Motion:** Stand up the 5 District -Specific Research Report Ad Hoc Committee.

**1st Motion:** Deanna Shaat **2nd Motion:** Priyanka Varma **Vote Result:** Approved

**D1 Lead:** Suzanne Edwards

**D2 Lead:** Deanna Shaat

**D3 Lead:** Trayce Beards

**D4 Lead:** Jenny Helman

**D5 Lead:** Robin Thompson

### 8. Adjourn (Helman)(3:00PM)

*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](mailto: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](mailto:AAA@schsd.org)*

#### **Upcoming Meetings:**

- Executive Committee: Tuesday, October 7, 2025
- Commission Meeting: Wednesday, October 15, 2025

#### **Upcoming ADRU Table Events:**

- Los Cien – State of the Latino Community, September 25, 2025, 8:30 AM–1:30 PM, Sonoma State University - 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Ballroom
- Many Moons Festival, October 4, 2025, 11:00 AM – 7:00 PM, Ives Park, 7400 Willow St., Sebastopol, CA
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