SENIORS COUNCIL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Thursday, April 20, 2023

10 a.m. – 12 Noon

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AGENDA

10 a.m. 1. Welcome, Call to Order and Introductions

2. Additions & Deletions to the Agenda

3. Receive Announcements from Board Members

4. Comments from Members of the Public on Items Not on the Agenda

5. CONSENT AGENDA
   Approve minutes of March 2023 Board Meeting

10:15 6. 2023-24 Area Plan Update and Needs Assessments
10:35  7. Committee Reports
   1. Finance Committee (no meeting)
   2. Nominating & Board Development
   3. Advocacy Committee
      a. Live Oak Senior Center
      b. California Legislation
      c. California Senior Legislature Report
   4. Executive Committee

11:05  8. Board Resolutions - Contract Authorizations
   1. AP-2324-13, Area Plan Contract
   2. OM-2223-13, Modernizing Older Californians Act

11:10  9. Funding Allocations – Update
   1. Nutrition Infrastructure
   2. OARR & ARPA
   3. 2022-23 State Budget Augmentations

11:30  10. Executive Director’s Report
   1. Audits and Program Monitoring
   2. Master Plan for Aging
   3. State & Community Activities

11:40  11. Program Reports (written)
   1. Falls Prevention
   2. Area Agency on Aging & ADRC
   3. Project SCOUT
   4. Foster Grandparent/Senior Companion Program

11:55  12. Miscellaneous Correspondence & Other Items

12:00  13. Adjourn

Next Meeting:

Thursday, May 18, 2023 10 a.m. – 12 Noon
Questions, Clarifications or Additional Information:

If you have a question or wish clarification or additional information about any agenda item or attached materials, please telephone Seniors Council Executive Director Clay Kempf at 688-0400 ext. 115 before the meeting. If you get voicemail, please leave a detailed message so that a response can be made.

Distribution of Materials:

If you have information to share with members of the Board, a table or other suitable space will be provided on which you may make it available. It is the wish of the Executive Committee that meetings not be disrupted by distribution of paperwork or other items.

Accessibility:

This organization attempts to make meeting content understandable in languages other than English. All Meeting rooms are accessible for people with disabilities. If you wish to discuss reasonable modifications or accommodations for language or disability, please contact the Seniors Council office at 688-0400 at least 48 hours before the meeting.

Seniors Council Mission Statement

It is the mission of the Seniors Council to enable older persons to function with independence and dignity in their homes and in the community to their fullest capacity.

Area Agency on Aging Mission

To provide leadership in addressing issues that relate to older Californians; to develop community-based systems of care that provide services which support independence within California’s interdependent society, and which protect the quality of life of older persons and persons with functional impairment; and to promote citizen involvement in the planning and delivery of services.
SENIORS COUNCIL BOARD OF DIRECTORS
(Held by Zoom in accordance with COVID-19 social distancing requirements)
THURSDAY, March 16, 2023

MINUTES

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:
Wayne Norton (President); Pam Arnsberger (Vice President); Jane Schwickerath (Treasurer); Gwen Yeo (Secretary); Creighton Mendivil; Tami Aviles; Antonio Rivas; Mark Trabing

VACANCIES:

OTHERS PRESENT:
Connie Padron (Executive Director, Jovenes de Antaño)

STAFF PRESENT:
Clay Kempf (Seniors Council Executive Director); Leanne Oliveira (Seniors Council ADRC Coordinator); Britt Bassoni (Seniors Council ADRC Director); Cristina Bañuelos (Seniors Council FGP/SCP Director); Hilary Minugh (Seniors Council Fiscal Specialist); Patty Talbott (Seniors Council AAA Administrator); Zach Johnson (Seniors Council Administrative Services Officer)

1. **Welcome, Call to Order and Introductions**
Meeting called to order at 10:07 AM

2. **Additions & Deletions to the Agenda**
None.

3. **Receive Announcements from Board Members**
Antonio announced 360 evacuees are being helped at the fairground with 40 on waiting list, and a new shelter has been opened at the veteran’s hall. Gave kudos to Community Bridges for installing temporary laundromat and shower services. Also thanked Latino Coalition of South Hollister for aiding children and donating clothing and gift cards. Asked what Seniors Council can do to aid families as they return to housing, i.e. funding for Community Bridges. Patty asked about residency of evacuees, Antonio said most are from Pajero, some from Watsonville.

4. **Comments from Members of the Public on Items Not on the Agenda**
None.

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5. **CONSENT AGENDA**
   **MOTION** Arnsberger/Rivas, to approve minutes of February 2023 Board Meeting, **PASSED**.

6. **Personnel Policy Amendment**
   **Recommendation to Change Caesar Chavez Holiday to March 31**
   Clay said we adopted the holiday before state/national recognition and we chose last Monday of month. Now, March 31 is official date so recommend we change policy to reflect that. Wayne said he preferred keeping a three-day weekend. Hilary said we have to change to align with other businesses, helps FGP. Clay said this year we will honor either day (not both). **MOTION**, Yeo/Mendivil, to move recognition of Cesar Chavez Day to March 31 to align with federal holiday, **PASSED**.

7. **Committee Reports**
   **Finance Committee**
   Jane said all programs are fiscally strong with good reserves. Fiscal staff have been doing great job. Clay said Krystal Weaver has been out sick which has delayed audit presentation. Tami asked if City of Hollister still owes money; Hilary said they have committed to making payment and have accepted our invoices. Jane thanked Mickie for assiting. Clay proposed an additional meeting to go over financial audit results. **MOTION** Arnsberger/Schwickerath, to approve and schedule special meeting date/time TBD, **PASSED**.
   **Nominating & Board Development**
   Pam said will email all Board Members and assume they want to continue, ask if they will not. We are expecting a few vacancies on Executive Committee. Current executives are willing to continue but open to replacements. There are a few potential candidates. Wayne said they will need to be flexible, and Pam said meeting date of EC is changing to second Thursday 1-3 PM, beginning July (with new terms).
   **Advocacy Committee**
   1. **Live Oak Senior Center** — Clay reported that Pageant St. site offers more potential sites, but LOSD moving ahead with plans for demolishing current facilities. School district pointed to bus route as rationale for choice. Efforts at dialogue did not go well at first. Three meetings have occurred so far, weighted heavily towards school employee vs. senior representatives. Some school representatives have called Clay and Corey ‘bullies’, Clay says they are just being honest about how partnerships are formed. Had productive meeting with school board president Kristen Pfotenhauer and will have follow-up. Feelings from LOSD are that defunct LOSC organization failed to buy property; implies the option to purchase is still there. LOSD’s long-term strategy is to pursue a bond act in next year, but they are concerned about public sentiment. Clay said we have been reserved so far and issue will not get better. Supervisor Manu Koenig has been meeting with Dr. Morales from LOSD and promising various waivers for planning process, has said little about senior center remaining in place. Currently eviction still in place for June 30, but last vote to make date permanent was tabled to allow for more discussion. Clay said a compromise solution would extend eviction for several years until project is shovel-ready. Three options: long term senior center; two-year extension; or LOSD’s current plan to evict soon. Mark asked about Sup. Koenig’s track record re: the promises he is making. Clay said he’s a first-timer. Mark asked if we have resources to buy the site. Clay answered ‘maybe’—meeting with County staff to discuss option. Currently unclear what value of property is. Community Foundation has $750,000 set
aside for purchase, but we would need more. Clay said ideal situation would be County purchase with CF down payment. Would prefer to avoid purchase by Community Bridges to avoid dependency issues but better than demolition. CB has submitted a grant for $2 million to renovate proposed site for relocation. Mark asked if Community Bridges have considered partnering with a commercial restaurant kitchen to meet needs. Clay said all options are being explored. Wayne said uncertainty of CB’s commitment, and pursuit of alternative site, strengthens LOSD’s position and deserves further discussion. Clay said school employees will be polled on their interest in housing. Wayne asked about employment restrictions on housing eligibility, and said it should be publicized for clarity. Jane raised concerns about Sup. Koenig’s promises to school superintendent. Antonio said there will be opposition regardless. Clay reported that Sandy Brown was told by County counsel not to attend Advisory Council because it would form quorum of Board of Supervisors, Felipe Hernandez and Justin Cummings will switch who is appointee to allow her to continue. Clay replied to Wayne that residents must be employees. Jane asked if it is confirmed that Community Fund/Susan True agreed to use $750,000 on this project. Clay said there has not been a recent conversation but was discussed, should circle back with them to confirm. Jane said we should confirm before going public.

2. Master Plan for Aging – Grant application in process, for projects in both counties. Santa Cruz County endorsing us as lead agency. Clay said recent listening session in San Benito was a good start, also pull in ADRC and LTCC. Will apply for either $150,000-$175,000. SCCO is conducting their own needs assessment. Statewide needs assessment will be conducted by firm (POLCO) hired by CDA; do we have access to the questions that will be asked. Jane asked if state funding will be cut because not doing needs assessment. Patty said we have never received funding for that, so no cuts. Gwen asked if there will be any input period on questions. Clay said we’ve asked about supplemental questions, CDA answer is ‘probably, for a reasonable price’, waiting for more information on this. Patty said POLCO’s track record includes state-wide needs assessment in seven states. Clay said they plan to release it in July or August. Patty said one AAA has already contracted with POLCO and are confident in their process. Wayne asked if there are any updates or next steps for Solutions Summits. Clay said grant funding would be effective July 1, so hold Solutions Summit after that.

3. California Senior Legislature Report – no report. One vacancy, two applicants pending. Vote will be at May meeting of Advisory Council.

Executive Committee – topics already discussed.

Clay said it is similar to CHAT program; better designed in some ways, but does not come with local company for connectivity. Funding amount is unknown and we have not seen the contract. Britt clarified that there is connectivity included through the end of this calendar year (2023), but not after that date. Surveying and eligibility screening will be responsibility of CDA, and ownership and inventory is by Seniors Council, not CDA. Gwen asked about inventory requirements. Britt said best practices say we should know where devices are, but it will be Seniors Council authority to write off lost/broken equipment. Jane asked if there will be a 25/75 County split. Britt said this is TBD, but that seems likely. MOTION Schwickerath/Aviles, to allow staff to take action should logistics be worked out, PASSED, Gwen and Mark opposed. Clay said we will likely over-serve San Benito County.
9. **Funding Allocations – Update**

Nutrition Infrastructure –

OARR & ARPA – Intergenerational nutrition dollars still to distribute. Potentially add people aged 58 and above or in significant need. Gwen asked if these funds have to be spent by Dec. 31, Clay answered that they do in fact. Same info as last month, still awaiting action.

2022-23 State Budget Augmentations –

10. **Executive Director’s Report**

CDA Auditing of the AAA – Draft audit report received, two minor findings (missing piece of equipment but no monetary value, unrestricted funds used on meal incorrectly), neither have recoverable funds attached. Response to draft will be sent next week.

CDA Monitoring of the AAA – Includes fiscal, ended a month ago. Written report expected in next 30 days, no major issues expected. Gwen made a point to thank staff for their efforts.

Website Update – Beta is live, Zach requested any feedback be sent to him.

11. **Program Reports (written)**

Falls Prevention

Area Agency on Aging & ADRC

Project SCOUT

Foster Grandparent/Senior Companion Program

12. **Miscellaneous Correspondence & Other Items**

Clay congratulated the Meals on Wheels awards recipients being recognized tomorrow. Wayne raised possibility of returning to in-person meetings.

13. **Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:57 AM.

Next Meeting: April 20, 2023 10 a.m. – 12 Noon

Minutes prepared by: Zachary Johnson
SENIORS COUNCIL BOARD OF DIRECTORS
(Held by Zoom to accommodate scheduling)
TUESDAY, March 28, 2023

MINUTES

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:
Wayne Norton (President); Pam Arnsberger (Vice President); Jane Schwickerath (Treasurer); Gwen Yeo (Secretary); Antonio Rivas; Mickie Luna; Mark Trabing

VACANCIES:

STAFF PRESENT:
Clay Kempf (Seniors Council Executive Director); Britt Bassoni (Seniors Council ADRC Director); Cristina Bañuelos (Seniors Council FGP/SCP Director); Hilary Minugh (Seniors Council Fiscal Specialist); Patty Talbott (Seniors Council AAA Administrator); Zach Johnson (Seniors Council Administrative Services Officer)

1. Welcome, Call to Order and Introductions
   Meeting was called to order at 4:07 PM
   Krystal Weaver introduced herself, from Walters and Kondrasheff, official audit agency.

2. Additions & Deletions to the Agenda
   None.

3. Receive Announcements from Board Members
   Antonio offered thoughts to those sheltering from evacuations.

4. Comments from Members of the Public on Items Not on the Agenda
   None.

5. Presentation of FY 2021-22 Independent Financial Audit
   Clay introduced the reasons for having an independent audit. Audit took several months of work, delayed due to unavoidable health issues.
   Krystal reviewed assets, liabilities, and net assets. Primary liability is service providers. Federal and state grants largest source of income, $4.7 million. Change in net assets is about $3,700, just about even, ideal for non-profit. AAA split out from all other senior programs in expenses. Net cash flow - $34,408. Cash at end of year $553,077. Notes are available at end of report. Pam asked if we have
used our line of credit, Krystal answered that we have not. Reviewed schedule of expenditures of federal and state awards. Reviewed schedule of findings and questioned costs; none of either this year or last, so no follow-ups. Reviewed final two reports, no findings in this either. Supplemental information included on breakdown by each program and funding source.
Barbara complimented the work of the fiscal team, Krystal, many concurred. Antonio asked if she has any concerns or recommendations, Krystal mentioned FGP could spend down their funds faster.
MOTION Kaiser/Rivas, to approve audit as presented, PASSED.

11. **Miscellaneous Correspondence & Other Items**
   None.

12. **Adjourn**
The meeting was adjourned at 4:38 PM

   Next Meeting: Thursday, April 20, 2023 10 a.m. – 12 Noon

   Minutes prepared by: Zachary Johnson
DATE: April 14, 2023

TO: AAA Advisory Council
    Seniors Council Board of Directors

FROM: Patty Talbott, Planner

RE: 2023-24 Update to the 2020-24 AREA PLAN

Included with this report is the draft summary of the final update to the 2020-24 Area Plan on Aging. Because this is the final year of the plan, we are not proposing any major changes to our activities.

This report summarizes the key components of the full Area Plan including:

- **Goals and objectives.** No changes to the Goals were made. Two new objectives were added 3.3.3 and 4.1.1. Proposed revisions to objectives are highlighted in blue. Please note that objectives with a “C” are funded with a very small amount of allowable direct service Title III B funding. These objectives must be approved for use of Coordination funds by the Department of Aging.

- **Proposed service units and funding.** We have not yet received funding awards or the CDA contract for 2023-24. We do not anticipate any significant changes in Area Plan funding or contract service units. Any necessary changes will be done as part of the contract renewal process. Current contracted service unit are provided for reference. Updated funding awards and contracted services will be provided when we have received the 2023-24 CDA contract award and finalized awards.

Services in the plan do not reflect additional services funded by COVID relief funding. These services may not be included in the Area Plan and must be tracked and reported separately.

The Area Plan is a comprehensive document that is nearly 75 pages long. It is completed in accordance with a prescribed template provided by the California Department of Aging, and the content required is very specific. The 2022-23 approved full plan with last year’s update is located on our website. The updated full plan will uploaded to our website upon completion of service unit plans and other required updates as soon as the information is received.

**ACTION REQUESTED**
- Review draft Update summary and revised goals and objectives.
- Approve draft Area Plan Update Summary
AREA AGENCY ON AGING
FOR SANTA CRUZ AND SAN BENITO COUNTIES
Committed to maximizing the health and independence of seniors since 1979

2020-24
AREA PLAN ON AGING
2023-24 UPDATE

PLANNING AND SERVICE AREA 13
Santa Cruz and San Benito Counties

234 Santa Cruz Avenue, Aptos, CA 95003
www.seniorscouncil.org
Comments may be submitted to:
Patty Talbott, AAA Planner at pattyt@seniorscouncil.org.
OVERVIEW OF THE AREA AGENCY ON AGING

WHAT IS THE AREA AGENCY ON AGING?
For over 40 years, the Seniors Council has been the designated Area Agency on Aging (AAA) for Santa Cruz and San Benito Counties, part of a network of 33 such agencies in California. So what does an Area Agency on Aging do?

- **Assess** the needs of seniors.
- **Advocate** at the local and state level for the needs of seniors.
- **Provide visible leadership** on senior issues in the community by monitoring and evaluating and commenting, or providing technical support on issues affecting seniors.
- **Plan for services** for the more than 85,000 seniors (age 60+) and their caregivers in Santa Cruz and San Benito Counties, and ensure that all senior services are well-coordinated.
- **Receive and allocate Older Americans Act funding and Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Program funds in our two-county planning region.** During Program Year 2022-23 these funds totaled more $2.6 million. Nearly all program funding contracted out to local service providers. *(Funding amount includes only ongoing Area Plan funding, and does not include COVID response or other limited term funding)*
- **Receive and allocate AAA COVID response funding, including American Rescue Plan Act**
- **Ensure that AAA-funded programs provide quality, efficient, effective services** that meet all OAA program and regulatory requirements and service delivery methods.
- **Ensure that the senior service delivery network is well-coordinated.**
- **Monitor emerging needs and support the development of innovative programs**

WHO DO WE SERVE?

- In general, Older Americans Act programs are available to those age 60 or older. Some programs, such as Family Caregiver Support are available to those under 60.
- Programs are available to all seniors, but the Older Americans Act requires that services are targeted to those in greatest economic and social need.
- More than half of clients receiving meals through our nutrition programs reported incomes at or below the federal poverty level.

The California Department of Aging estimates that in 2022, the 60+ population is:
- **Santa Cruz County:** 72,021 persons age 60 or older with 16,158 age 75+
- **San Benito County:** 13,452 persons age 60 or older with 2,101 age 75+

*Source: 2023 California Department of Finance Population Projections.*
THE AREA AGENCY ON AGING PLANNING AND CONTRACT CYCLE

Assess needs ➔ Develop a plan ➔ Allocate Funds ➔ Ensure Quality & Accountability

→ ASSESSING LOCAL NEEDS
The federal Older Americans Act required the establishment of local Area Agencies on Aging. Local planning allows areas to tailor program funding to the unique needs and resources in each area. Every four years, the AAA conducts a senior needs assessment survey, which is the foundation of the planning process. It also provides an important opportunity for seniors to participate directly in the planning process, and for their voices to be heard. Some issues identified can be addressed with program funding, while others become advocacy priorities.

The survey was conducted in 2019, and nearly 900 seniors completed and returned during the survey. The top 10 self-identified needs identified were, in order:

1. Maintaining Home/Yard Work
2. Doing Housework
3. Understanding Medicare/Medi-Cal
4. Paying for dental care
5. Paying for Help in My Home if I Need It
6. Finding Reliable Help if I Need it
7. Feeling Sad or Depressed
8. Feeling Lonely or Isolated
9. No money saved for emergencies*
10. Paying for Healthcare Costs mortgage or rent

These needs and others identified in the senior needs assessment survey, are incorporated into our planning, requests for proposals as well as local and state advocacy efforts. Beginning in June, 2023, the AAA will be participating in a first-ever statewide senior needs assessment survey conducted by the California Department of Aging. This will allow a uniform collection of data across the state and provide a valuable tool for tracking needs by locally, within our two county PSA and allow us to compare data and trends with other areas and statewide.

→ DEVELOPING THE AREA PLAN ON AGING
We then prepare the 4-year Area Plan on Aging for submittal to the California Department on Aging. The plan outlines our goals and what services that will be provided with the federal and state program funds that the AAA receives and contracts for. The Area Plan has specific regulatory requirements and formats, and while it will include AAA-related Master Plan for Aging elements, it is distinct from MPA local plans and playbooks. It also highlights the AAA’s unique role in providing advocacy and leadership on senior issues and ensuring a well-coordinated senior service delivery network. The Plan and its annual updates are submitted to the California Department of Aging for review and approval. This update will be the final one for this plan and during 2023-24, the 2024-28 Area Plan will be developed.
ALLOCATING FUNDS

The funding for Area Agency on Aging programs originates at the federal level with the Older Americans Act, and is augmented by state matching funds. These funds come in specific service categories. AAA’s are also required to obtain local matching funds, these local funds are critical to service delivery. Typically, Area Agency on Aging services are put out to bid every four years and 2020-21 would have been the final year of the 4-year funding cycle for AAA-contractors. However, due to the COVID emergency, AAA’s were granted the authority to extend contracts for an additional year and provider contracts were extended through June 30, 2022. The AAA then completed a Request for Proposals for services for a 2022-25 Contract Cycle. Approved service providers were awarded funds on a 3-year funding cycle to bring the contract cycle back in alignment. Contracts are one-year renewable contracts, pending funding availability and provided that the provider remains in good standing with contract terms. Contracted providers have just completed the first year of this 3-year contract cycle.

ENSURING QUALITY & ACCOUNTABILITY

The AAA is regulated and monitored by the California Department of Aging, and overseen by an AAA Advisory Council which includes representatives from each county’s Board of Supervisors and City Councils from both counties, and by the Seniors Council Board of Directors. Services provided by the AAA and its contracted services providers must fully comply with state and federal requirements for Older Americans Act programs, including a requirement to target services to seniors in greatest need, which includes low-income and ethnic minority seniors. All contracted providers receive ongoing desk monitoring, technical support as needed, and on site visits at least every two years. Nutrition programs receive annual onsite monitoring and quarterly reviews.

RESPONDING TO UNPRECEDENTED CHALLENGES

After the devastating CZU Lightning Complex fires, navigating three years of the COVID-19 pandemic, and experiencing major flooding and damage from the 2023 winter storms and levee breech in Pajaro, the AAA and its contracted service provider network continue to rise to the occasion as we move towards full reopening of services. The AAA service provider network and the senior service delivery network as whole has truly been put to the test during these challenging times. Through the use of both time-tested service models and innovative modifications our network continues to provide high quality, essential services to seniors in Santa Cruz and San Benito Counties. We are proud to support this network of dedicated service providers. We will continue to be here for seniors as we transition out of these challenging times and into the future.
PROPOSED CHANGES FOR 2023-24 AREA PLAN UPDATE

2023-24 FUNDING: Funding awards for 2022-23 Area Plan contract funds have not been released at this time. As the COVID-related relief funding begins winds down, AAA’s will also begin receiving additional new temporary State funds. This will be multi-year funding as part of the Older Californians Act Modernization plan. Specific details of this funding process have not yet been released.

2023-24 SERVICE DELIVERY: Proposed service units for ongoing Older Americans Act programs will be modified as needed with the finalization of Area Plan funding awards from the Department of Aging. If funding is increased or decreased, service units will be renegotiated with contracted service providers if necessary. All services provided with COVID relief funding are not included in the Area Plan and are tracked and reported separately.

2022-23 GOALS AND OBJECTIVES:
- No changes to existing objectives.
- New objectives added; 3.3.3 and 4.1.1
- Proposed revisions to existing objectives are in blue.
- Objectives funded with Direct Service Coordination funds are indicated with “C”

PRIORITIES FOR THE AREA AGENCY ON AGING IN 2023-24
- Continue efforts to preserve the Live Oak Senior Center as key focal point for senior services in Santa Cruz County
- Monitor new and emerging needs. Promote the 2023 California Department of Aging statewide senior survey and its results.
- Develop the 2024-28 Area Plan on Aging
- Complete the transition to safe reopening of all AAA-funded services
- Begin implementation of Older Californians Act Modernization multi-year State funding.
- Promote equity and inclusion in all facets of service delivery.
- Engage in the planning of, and provide expertise to, the development of local playbooks for the Master Plan for Aging.
- Provide expertise and technical support for local projects related to senior issues.
- Monitor proposals or legislation affecting seniors and coordinate advocacy efforts as needed.
- Provide support to the AAA contracted service provider network to ensure a sustainable and viable service delivery system of high quality, proven programs that support the greatest level of autonomy and independence for seniors.
2023-24 AREA PLAN UPDATE NARRATIVE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

GOAL 1: VISIBLE LEADERSHIP. The AAA will provide visible leadership and effective advocacy to promote the needs of seniors and caregivers. (see also Goal 4: Master Plan for Aging/Age Friendly Communities)

Rationale: The AAA is mandated to be a visible leader and advocate in the community on issues relating to seniors. The need to continue to educate elected officials and the public about the growth of the senior population, the needs of seniors in the PSA and advocacy for funding for senior programs continues to be a top priority.

Objectives funded with Title IIIIB Direct Service funding for Program Development or Coordination are indicated with a “PD” or “C.” These objectives are limited in scope and must be approved by the California Department of Aging.

Objectives

1.1 State leadership on senior issues. The AAA Executive Director will continue to work with former members of the State Master Plan on Aging Workgroup to share opportunities for improving OAA and non-OAA services and service delivery as well as identify unique equitable opportunities for older Californians to thrive and age in place. Measurement: State funding will be allocated that addresses objectives of the Master Plan for Aging 7/1/23-6/30/24 C

Status: Continued

1.2 Local leadership on senior issues. The AAA Executive Director will provide local leadership to educate and inform elected officials and the public about current and emerging issues affecting seniors, including, impacts of COVID-19 on seniors and the service delivery system and updated senior demographics for the PSA. Measurement: increased awareness about the needs of seniors in the PSA. 7/1/23-6/30/24

Status: Continued

1.3 Age Friendly California. The AAA Executive Director will continue work at the State level on both the Master Plan on Aging’s Age Friendly workgroup to promote the State becoming Age Friendly. Measurement: participation in Master Plan on Aging Age Friendly workgroup. 7/1/22-6/30/23

Status: Complete

1.4 Local Age Friendly Planning. The AAA Executive Director, and key staff, will engage in local efforts in the PSA to create Age Friendly communities in Santa Cruz and San Benito Counties, providing local expertise and planning support as appropriate, with a goal of a coordinated planning effort. Measurement: number of trainings, informational meetings and jurisdictions taking action to commit to Age Friendly/Livable Communities Projects. 7/1/23-6/30/24

Status: Continued C

1.5 Local advocacy and engagement. The Seniors Council Advocacy Committee will develop a legislative platform, identify local advocacy priorities and through advocacy alerts and updates on the Seniors Council website, promote civic engagement. Measurement: approved legislative platform, increased web visits to Seniors Council advocacy page. 7/1/23-6/30/24

Status: Continued
1.6 Active participation on local commissions and committees. The AAA Executive Director and key staff will actively participate on local committees and commissions including the Human Care Alliance, Santa Cruz County Seniors Commission, San Benito County Aging and Long Term Care Commission, Santa Cruz County RTC’s Elderly and Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee and San Benito County Social Services Transportation Advisory Committee. Measurement: regular attendance and participation at these meetings. 7/1/23-6/30/24 Status: Continued

1.7 COVID Response and Transitioning of Services. The AAA Executive Director will continue to lead local efforts, including regular meetings with local leaders and the Aging and Disability Service Provider Group to maintain a coordinated service delivery system. Efforts will focus on the safe delivery of services during the transition to reopening. The effort may also include development of new programs, partners and projects. Measurement: documentation of coordinated planning and communication within the service delivery network. 7/1/23-6/30/24 Status: Revised C
GOAL 2: ENSURE THE PROVISION OF HIGH QUALITY SERVICES THAT PROMOTE OPTIMAL WELL-BEING AND INDEPENDENCE. Provide resources and services that promote optimal well-being and are efficient, effective and delivered through a well-coordinated service network.

Rationale: A key function of the AAA is to oversee the contracting and service delivery process for program funding. During the contracting process, the AAA ensures that services are delivered by providers that meet all contract and regulatory requirements, and that services are delivered in an efficient and effective manner, in accordance with all mandates and applicable regulations.

Objectives:
2.1 Contracts and Allocations. AAA staff will ensure that AAA service delivery funds are allocated appropriately in accordance with the mandates and requirements of the AAA’s Area Plan Contract with the California Department of Aging and all applicable regulations. During 2021-22, the AAA completed the 2022-25 Requests for Proposals. During 2022-23, the AAA began the first year of the 3-year 2022-25 Service Provider Contract Cycle. Contracted providers were awarded one-year contracts, renewable annually up to two times, provided contractor remains in good standing and availability of funding. Measurement: Successful execution of AAA service provider funding contracts for the 2023-24 program year. 7/1/23-6/30/24 Status: Revised

2.2 Program Monitoring/Compliance. AAA program and fiscal staff will ensure that AAA-funded services are efficient, effective and high quality, and meet all contract and regulatory requirements. All service providers will receive ongoing fiscal and program desk monitoring, annual risk assessments and, at a minimum, on-site monitoring every two years with nutrition providers receiving the required annual onsite monitoring. Measurement: completion of ongoing contract and fiscal performance monitoring and site visits and technical support as needed. 7/1/23-6/30/24 Status: Continued

2.3 Quality Services, Measurable Results. In accordance with the service unit plan outlined in this Area Plan, the AAA will ensure the effective provision of services of Title IIB Supportive Services, Title IIC Nutrition Programs, Title IID Health Promotion, Title IIE Family Caregiver Support Program, Long Term Care Ombudsman, Title VIII Elder Abuse Prevention Program and Falls Prevention, as well as the Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Program. Expected outcome is provision of services that meets program service delivery requirements and that service targets contained in the Service Unit Plan and are delivered safely during the transition to reopening. Measurement: Documentation of ongoing service performance. 7/1/23-6/30/24 Status: Continued

2.4 Services Targeted to Those in Greatest Need. In accordance with the Older Americans Act, all AAA-funded service providers will be required by policy and contract language to target services to those in greatest economic and social need including low-income, ethnic minority seniors and the recognition of HIV positive seniors as a new population included in greatest social need. Measurement: client data reporting 7/1/23-6/30/24 Status: Continued
2.5 Ensure a coordinated service delivery network. The AAA Executive Director will convened monthly meetings of Aging and Disability Service Providers to ensure a high level of coordination and information sharing beyond the AAA-contracted network. Non-AAA contracted providers include: the, the Central Coast Center for Independent Living, Health Projects Center/MSSP/Caregiver Resource Center, the Cabrillo College Stroke Center, Elderday Adult Day Health Care, Grey Bears Brown Bag Program and Village Santa Cruz. As part of the efforts to develop a coordinated network, a plan to develop a Santa Cruz County ADRC will be explored. Measurement: coordinated response and sharing of information and best practices for reopening procedures and a plan Santa Cruz County ADRC will be explored.
7/1/23-6/30/24 Status: Continuing C

2.6 Coordinate with organizations beyond the traditional AAA network such as senior center directors, healthcare providers, Parks and Recreation Departments and others to encourage new partnerships and collaborations. Focus during 2023-24 will be senior center directors meetings and building relationships with healthcare providers such as Kaiser and the Central California Alliance for Health. Measurement: production of educational materials and webinars that educate and improve the health of older adults and persons with disabilities.
7/1/23-6/30/24 Status: Revised C
GOAL 3: ENSURE ACCESS TO INFORMATION, BENEFITS AND PROTECTION OF RIGHTS FOR COMMUNITY LIVING SENIORS, CAREGIVERS AND RESIDENTS OF FACILITIES

Rationale: Access to information about services is the foundation of the service delivery system. Seniors and their caregivers must have accurate information about available services and benefits in order to access services and ensure that the rights of seniors are protected.

Objectives

3.1 Information & Assistance Through the provision of Title IIIB and Title IIIIE information and assistance services by AAA contracted providers in both counties, the public will have access to accurate, up-to-date information about senior programs and services. Services will be available by phone, through agency web pages and via agency-developed resource guides. In San Benito County, services will be well coordinated with ADRC services. Measurement: achievement of service unit targets, distribution of resource guides and maintenance of websites. 7/1/23-6/30/24 Status: Continuing

3.2 ADRC San Benito County. After the successful transition of the San Benito County Aging and Disability Resource Connection (ADRC) from “emerging” to “designated” status by the Department of Aging, the AAA Executive Director and Special Projects Coordinator, in collaboration with Jovenes de Antaño and the Central Coast Independent Living Center, and the San Benito County Aging and Long Term Care Commission will continue their work to expand and enhance the “no wrong door” system in San Benito County for seniors and persons with disabilities. Measurement: increasing utilization of the ADRC for seniors and persons with disabilities 7/1/23-6/30/24 Status: Continuing

3.3 Maintain and support key focal points for senior services.

3.3.1 Working with key partners including County Supervisors, senior service providers, state legislators and other partners, the AAA Executive Director will continue efforts to preserve the Live Oak Senior Center, potentially slated to be converted to teacher housing, as a designated focal point for key AAA services including Information and Assistance, HICAP, the senior nutrition program and as a senior dining site. Measurement: Maintenance of the key focal point for senior services in the Greater Santa Cruz Area 7/1/23-6/30/24 Status: Continuing

3.3.2 The AAA Executive Director will actively participate in the City of Watsonville Senior Center/Community Program workgroup to address new, ongoing and emerging issues and services to support older adults living in the City of Watsonville and surrounding South Santa Cruz County areas. Measurement: improved coordination and continued strengthening of this key focal point for senior services and expanded opportunities for engagement for seniors. 7/1/23-6/30/24 Status: Continuing
3.3.3 The AAA Executive Director and other key AAA staff will provide support and technical assistance to Jovenes de Antaño, the designated focal point for senior service delivery in San Benito County, as they transition to new executive leadership. Staff will also engage with the San Juan Bautista Senior Organizing Committee to ensure that any efforts to expand non-AAA senior services are well-coordinated. 7/1/23-6/30/24 Status: New

3.4 Legal Assistance. Through a contract with Senior Citizens Legal Services, seniors in Santa Cruz and San Benito Counties will have access to free, high-quality Legal Assistance for issues such as benefits eligibility, consumer and housing issues. Measurement: program monitoring and achievement of service unit targets 7/1/23-6/30/24 Status: Continued

3.5 Ombudsman. Through a contract with Advocacy, Inc. the Long Term Care Ombudsman Program will provide facility-placed residents advocacy and rights protection, complaint investigation and resolution. It will also offer education, information and referrals to the community and facility staff as mandated by law. Measurement: achievement of program benchmarks. 7/1/23-6/30/24 Status: Continued

3.6 Elder Abuse Prevention. Through a contract with Advocacy Inc., Title VII Elder Abuse Prevention activities will result in greater awareness about elder abuse, including identifying and preventing elder/dependent adult abuse. Services may include: public education sessions, trainings for professionals or caregivers and support to develop a coordinated system for elder abuse prevention. Measurement: achievement of benchmarks in service unit plan. 7/1/23-6/30/24 Status: Continued

3.7 HICAP Through a contract with Senior Network Services Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy (HICAP) program, Medicare and Medicare-eligible seniors will receive accurate information about Medicare enrollment, benefits and supplemental insurance options. Funds provided by the Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act (MIPPA) will support HICAP to do targeted outreach to Medicare beneficiaries about the Low Income Subsidies and the Medicare Savings Program. Measurement: achievement of established benchmarks 7/1/23-6/30/24 Status: Continued

3.8 Project SCOUT/Tax Assistance. The AAA will, through use of direct service Title IIIIB funds, provide support to Project SCOUT to provide free tax assistance to seniors by IRS-trained volunteers, ensuring that seniors receive accurate tax assistance while actively engaging and coordinating with local partners such as local credit unions, United Way and Community Ventures. Expected outcome is completion of accurate tax returns, including any refunds, and assistance with late filing as needed and maximum program impact through local coordination of efforts and expansion of service delivery to San Benito County. Measurement: number of returns completed, total dollar amount of refunds and number of late filings prepared. 7/1/23-6/30/234 Status: Continued

3.9 Senior Farmers Market Vouchers. The AAA Registered Dietitian will oversee the distribution of Senior Farmers Market vouchers to qualifying seniors at senior market days in summer, 2023. Seniors will benefit from increased access to fresh fruits and vegetables. Measurement: distribution of vouchers qualifying seniors. 7/1/23-6/30/24 Status: Continued
GOAL 4: MASTER PLAN FOR AGING AND AGE-FRIENDLY, LIVABLE COMMUNITIES. The AAA will actively participate in the development of local playbooks for the Master Plan for Aging and Age Friendly Communities efforts in the PSA.

Rationale: Providing programs and supports that empower seniors to remain as healthy, independent and engaged in their communities to the greatest extent possible is the core mission of Area Agencies on Aging. In addition to the existing AAA needs assessment requirement, both the Master Plan for Aging and Age Friendly Communities provide a way to ensure that the needs of seniors are included in local planning processes. A recent survey by AARP found that 3% of survey respondents expressed a desire to stay in their current residence as long as possible.

4.1 Active engagement in the development of local playbooks for Master Plan for Aging. The AAA Executive Director and key staff will actively engage in efforts to development local playbooks with specific objectives for the Master Plan for Aging. In Santa Cruz County, staff will actively engage with the County’s MPA workgroup. In San Benito County, AAA staff will support the formation of, and participate in, a MPA workgroup to develop a local playbook.
Measurement: development of local playbooks with specific objectives for local implementation of the Master Plan for Aging  7/1/23-6/30/24 Status: Continuing

4.1.1 As part of the development of local playbooks for the Master Plan on Aging, the AAA will convene an MPA “Solutions Summit” in Santa Cruz County to bring community leaders, advocates and the public together to develop recommendations for local objectives for each of the five goals of the MPA. A similar event will be planned for San Benito County. 7/1/23-6/30/24 Status: New

4.2 Reduce senior loneliness and isolation Building on prior years work, AAA staff will continue efforts to coordinate local efforts to reduce senior loneliness and isolation. During 2023-24, the AAA, in coordination with the San Benito County ADRC, will complete implementation of the Department of Aging’s CHAT program, providing no-cost iPads and internet connectivity to low-income, isolated seniors. AAA staff will also oversee the distribution of a total of 150 additional iPads through the State’s Digital Connections Initiative in Santa Cruz and San Benito Counties. Measurement: Completed distribution of iPads provided through the Department of Aging’s CHAT and Digital Connections initiatives. 7/1/23-6/30/24 Status: Revised

4.3 Develop tools to help bridge the digital divide. In coordination with the CHAT program, partner with local counties and the Foster Grandparent/Senior Companion Program to bridge the digital divide with equipment, training and connectivity. Measurement: improved access to the internet for isolated seniors. 7/1/22-6/30/23 Status: Complete
4.4 Expand options for minor home repairs and yardwork. Home and yard maintenance ranked as the #1 need in the AAA senior survey. The COVID pandemic halted the delivery of minor home repair services for the past several years. During 2023-24, the AAA will support efforts to strengthen the program through volunteer recruitment and promotion of the service as reopening gets underway. AAA staff will also promote the importance of assistance with minor home maintenance and yard work and modifications such as installation of grab bars and hand rails as an important and highly cost-effective methods to support senior’s ability to remain safely independent in their homes. Title IIIB funded services will be coordinated with AAA Falls Prevention program efforts in the PSA. Measurement: number of seniors served and number of Title IIIB minor home modifications reported through NAPIS reporting. 7/1/23-6/30/24 Status: Continuing

4.5 Improve awareness and access to resources about Falls Prevention. Building on work done in 2021-22, through a grant from the California Department of Aging, the AAA Special Projects Director will continue to ensure the provision of falls prevention services through the completion of current funding in December, 2023. Components of the program will include an expanded awareness campaign, in home assessments and use of grant funds to purchase equipment and complete modifications such as installation of grab bars and hand rails. Services will be coordinated with the Seniors Council in-house emergency response devices program, Companion for Life. Services will continue in 2024 if additional funding is available. Measurement: successful completion of CDA Falls Prevention grant objectives. 7/1/23-6/30/24 Status: Revised

4.6 Provide Health Promotion Programs: Through the use of Title IIID Health Promotion funds, the AAA will support the provision of evidence-based classes, with a focus on programs that reduce the risk of falls and improve health and well-being. During 2023-24 services will continue transitioning to in person service delivery. Programs planned to be offered may include Matter of Balance, Tai Chi for Falls Prevention, Enhance Fitness and Bingocize. Measurement: number of volunteers trained and class sessions provided with Title IIID funding. 7/1/23-6/30/24 Status: Revised

4.7 Promote and Expand Opportunities for Senior Volunteerism and Engagement. The AAA Executive Director, in partnership with the Volunteer Center, will promote civic engagement and volunteerism by seniors and encourage its contracted service providers and the Aging and Disability Provider Network to offer meaningful opportunities for seniors to participate in, and contribute to program operations. AAA funding will support a number of programs that utilize trained senior volunteers to provide services including: tax preparation, Ombudsman services, minor home modifications, assistance at senior dining centers, delivery of home-delivered meals, and HICAP counseling. The agency will seek funding to develop coordinated efforts to enhance volunteer recruitment and other opportunities in San Benito County Expanded opportunities will be created through projects related to reducing senior loneliness and isolation. As guidelines for new State Older Californians Act Modernization program funding is released, it is the intention of the AAA to support efforts to develop a Volunteer Center in San Benito County to promote volunteerism and coordinate recruitment and placement of volunteers. Measurement: increased opportunities for senior volunteerism and engagement and development of a volunteer program in San Benito County. 7/1/23-6/30/24
4.8 Promote the need for improved access to affordable, reliable in-home help. Help with housework was identified as the #2 need, paying for help in the home #5 and finding reliable help #6. AAA staff will use the needs assessment survey results to promote the growing need for reliable, affordable in-home help. Measurement: Expansion of opportunities for seniors to access affordable, reliable in-home help. 
7/1/22-6/30/23 Status: Complete

4.9 Local Disaster Preparedness. The AAA will continue to monitor the safe reopening of senior services, including regular updates at monthly Aging and Disability Service Provider meetings. After experiencing devastating fires, the COVID pandemic and major flooding, AAA staff will also continue to support efforts for coordinated disaster preparedness efforts for fire, flood and earthquakes and planned power shut-offs and advocate for disaster planning to be included as a domain in all Age Friendly planning. Measurement: Participation in local efforts and successful inclusion of disaster preparedness in Age Friendly planning.
7/1/23-6/30/24 Status: Continued
2023-24 CONTRACTED SERVICE PROVIDERS AND SERVICES
SERVING SANTA CRUZ COUNTY ONLY

COMMUNITY BRIDGES
Meals at Senior Dining Sites
Transportation to Meal Sites

FAMILY SERVICE AGENCY
Peer Counseling and Friendly Visiting

SENIOR NETWORK SERVICES
Information and Assistance
Case Management
Visiting
Family Caregiver Support Program

VOLUNTEER CENTER
Helping Hands Senior Home Repair

SERVING SAN BENITO COUNTY ONLY

JOVENES DE ANTAÑO
Information and Assistance
Case Management
Family Caregiver Support Program

Home-delivered Meals
Meals at Senior Dining Sites
Transportation to Senior Dining Sites

SERVING BOTH SANTA CRUZ AND SAN BENITO COUNTIES

ADVOCACY, INC.
Ombudsman & Elder Abuse Prevention

SENIOR CITIZENS LEGAL SERVICES
Legal Assistance

SENIOR NETWORK SERVICES
Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Program (HICAP) only

AREA AGENCY ON AGING DIRECT SERVICES
Project SCOUT Tax Assistance
Title IIIID Health Promotion Activities
Outreach/Senior Farmer’s Market Voucher Distribution
Approved Program Development & Coordination Activities

*note: AAA Direct Services utilize less than 3% of available service funding
# 2023-24 ESTIMATED SERVICES BASED ON CURRENT YEAR FUNDING

**AREA PLAN FUNDING ONLY**

## TITLE III OLDER AMERICANS ACT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>IIIB SUPPORTIVE SERVICES</th>
<th>UNIT OF SERVICE</th>
<th>TOTAL UNITS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Case Management</td>
<td>hour</td>
<td>350</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mealsite Transportation</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legal Assistance</td>
<td>hour</td>
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<td>Information &amp; Assistance</td>
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<tr>
<td>Outreach/Sr Farmers Market*</td>
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<tr>
<td>Peer Counseling</td>
<td>hour</td>
<td>440</td>
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<tr>
<td>Personal Affairs Assistance*</td>
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<td>Residential Repairs/Minor Home Modification</td>
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<tr>
<td>Visiting</td>
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## TITLE IIIC MEAL PROGRAMS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>C1: Home-Delivered Meals</th>
<th>meal</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>C2: Congregate Meals</td>
<td>meal</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nutrition Ed *</td>
<td>contact</td>
<td>2,800</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

## TITLE IIID HEALTH PROMOTION

| Matter of Balance *      | session attendance | 600 |
| Additional programs under review | session attendance | TBD |

## TITLE IIIE FAMILY CAREGIVER SUPPORT

| Support Services         | hour | 730 |
| Respite Care             | hour | 1,850 |
| Access Assistance        | I&A/outreach | 2,075 |
| Information Services     | presentations/publications | 48 |
| Supplemental Services    | registry/adaptive devices | 305 |

## OMBUDSMAN/ELDER ABUSE PREVENTION

*Targets developed by CDA*

## HEALTH INS. COUNSELING & ADVOCACY

*Targets developed by CMS/CDA*

*direct service of AAA*
Date: 4-14-23

To: Area Agency on Aging Advisory Council
Seniors Council Board of Directors

From: Clay Kempf, Executive Director

RE: Advocacy Committee Report

Live Oak Senior Center
Discussions continue regarding Live Oak Senior Center’s future. Live Oak School District (LOSD) latest School Employee Housing discussion group met this week, and reviewed the findings of their recent survey regarding employee interest in subsidized housing, along with a consultant’s mock-up of potential designs.

Most of the participants are employees of Live Oak School District, including Superintendent Daisy Morales, various teachers and principals, and representatives or members of classified staff. Lisa Berkowitz and Ray Cancino represented Community Bridges at the meeting, and Cathy Cress and I were there on behalf of the Seniors Council. Senior Network Services Corey Azevedo was unable to attend due to a health situation.

LOSD Board President Kristin Pfotenhauer chairs the meetings and encourages open discussion from all points of view, including those of people involved in senior services. She and I met privately last week and had what I would describe as a productive exchange of thoughts and ideas.

Wednesday’s meeting had an optimistic tone about the expectation for housing to be built, but some concerns did emerge, along with a few doses of realism. These included the admission of a fast-tracked project taking five years to become a reality if all the pieces fell into place, and that any employee tenants would be required to move out of the rental units after four or five years of occupancy even if they remained employed by the school. The projected housing units in the mock-up are almost 50% studios or one-bedroom units, with only one to three
units containing three bedrooms. Meanwhile, 41% of those expressing interest had households of three or four people, and 13% had households of five or six. Less than 19% of the respondents wanted unit types with less than two bedrooms.

Financing for the project remains undetermined other than the hope to pass a bond act, find grants somewhere, and borrow against anticipated rent.

The current status of the Live Oak Senior Center is that Senior Network Services and Meals on Wheels will be evicted on June 30th.

**State Legislation**
The proposed legislation impacting older adults and people with disabilities appears to be fairly benign compared to most years. C4A’s initial legislative review, for example, lists no bills as a high priority, and only a few as medium priorities. Budget wise, there are no state proposals that significantly impact our agency or those we serve that appear to have any likelihood of passage given the state’s estimated $31 billion deficit. The good news is that proposed cuts to senior services are also at a minimum, including nothing proposed to eliminate the additional funding that was awarded in the current 2022-23 state Budget.

**CORE Funding**
The County is planning to seek input into the future of CORE funding and funding processes, utilizing the same consulting team that’s been engaged for the past four or five years. An interesting irony to me is that examinations of CORE continue to focus on process rather than results, despite CORE standing for Collective of Results & Evidence-based Investments.

Related to that funding, efforts to find a new way to sustain our regional Ombudsman Services (mandated by law) after CORE eliminated their funding continue.
Date:  4/13/23

To:  Seniors Council Board of Directors

From:  Clay Kempf, Executive Director

RE:  Area Plan and Older Californians Act Modernization Contract Resolutions

Background
Contracts with the California Department of Aging all require a Board Resolution to either execute said contract, or authorize designated staff to do so. Included in your packet are two resolutions for this action.

The Area Plan Contract is our primary contract with the CDA for our basic AAA operations, including a combination of state and federal funds for our Older Americans Act activities.

The Older Californians Modernization Act contract is a bit of a misnomer. It refers to some of the new funding which was allocated by California in June of 2022. Both “Year One” and “Year Two” of this funding will cover multiple years (and no, this isn’t a typo). CDA appears to be unclear on the contents of the Older Californians Act, as some of the programs described in the 14 attachments related to this contract are actually part of Title III B of the Older Americans Act, and Brown Bag, which is an Older Californians Act program, is NOT included. A second contract is expected for additional receipt of more of the state funding allocated in June of 2022. Hopefully, the CDA will review and discuss the contents of these two contracts with our AAA and others and make some corrections to the current language and program descriptions. We have made that request to the Department, and our request was supported by a number of other AAAs.

Recommended Action
Staff recommends the Board pass both of the attached resolutions. Each allows for contract amendments to be executed, in addition to the original action, as needed.
The Seniors Council Board of Directors hereby adopts this Board Resolution to:

1. Authorize the Executive Director to Execute California Department of Aging Contract #: AP-2324-13

2. Authorize the Executive Director to sign and execute future amendments to these contracts

Date Approved: ______________

Signed: ____________________________________________  ________________________

Wayne Norton, Board President  Date Signed
The Seniors Council Board of Directors hereby adopts this Board Resolution to:

1. Authorize the Executive Director to Execute California Department of Aging Contract # OM-2223-13

2. Authorize the Executive Director to sign and execute future amendments to these contracts

Date Approved: ________________

Signed: ___________________________  _______________________

Wayne Norton, Board President  Date Signed
Date: 4/13/23

To: Seniors Council Board of Directors

From: Clay Kempf, Executive Director

RE: Opening a new stipend bank account

Background
We now have cash at Comerica (our present bank) that exceeds the $250,000 amount that is insured by FDIC and since we need to open an account with a different bank thought we should support a local bank. This was discussed at the Finance Committee Meeting on March 9, 2023 and agreed to by all present.

Recommended Action
Staff recommends the Board support that we open one checking account with Santa Cruz County Bank for the Foster Grandparent/Senior Companion Stipend checks.
Date: 4-14-23

To: Area Agency on Aging Advisory Council
    Seniors Council Board of Directors

From: Clay Kempf, Executive Director

RE: April Update on Funding Augmentations

BACKGROUND
Most of the various components have been discussed at our meetings previously. This report provides an update on the status of each funding source. Funds that have been allocated are NOT included in this report. The attached spreadsheet shows these same funds.

**Nutrition Infrastructure (Full Allocation: $685,631)**
**Remaining Amount:** Approximately $65,000 is on hold and being used to cover unknown increases in actual cost of equipment purchase and delivery over original estimates. Funds must be expended by December 31, 2023.
**Status:** Meals on Wheels/Community Bridges and California Grey Bears have made some purchases of vehicles. Jovenes de Antaño and San Benito County Food Bank have engaged in vehicle purchase discussions with local vendors. The City of Scotts Valley executed their contract with us. A 1/6th advance was provided to all agencies with executed contracts. The Diversity Center and the City of Watsonville have not submitted signed contracts to us.

**Next Steps:** Total expenditures of the final cost of equipment are being tracked to determine if funds will be leftover that can be used to purchase additional items.

**Older Americans Recovery & Resiliency Act (OARR) and American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funds (Full Allocation: $920,523)**
OARR funds are similar to ARPA funding in that both are COVID-19 related, and are augmentations to our baseline funding. Neither source is continuing. ARPA differs in that funding can be transferred from one category to another. OARR
funding must remain in its original category. OARR funds also do not require local match; ARPA does, in amounts that vary by title. ARPA funds need to be expended by September 30, 2024. OARR Funds must be expended by December 31, 2023.

**Remaining Amount:** $83,975 and $281,132 in two categories of Intergenerational Nutrition Programs (new) remain, excluding admin funding. No local match to the funds is required for the funding.

**Next Steps:** Staff continues to discuss our options internally and with our current nutrition providers. Meals on Wheels of Santa Cruz County intends to serve individuals aged 58-60 that are not yet eligible for but in need of services with these funds. Jovenes de Antaño is exploring two options; 1) adding breakfast packs to their home-delivered meals recipients, and/or 2) using the funds to reduce their waiting list. A complexity in the JDA efforts is continued delays in receiving Community Development Block Grant funding that has been approved but not released. Additional discussions have occurred about engaging Master Gardeners to provide workshops and start up or support local community gardens that older adults would benefit from.

**Amount:** ARPA *(Full Allocation: $1,132,802)*

**Remaining Amount:** $333,826 remains unallocated in the broad category of Title IIIB Supportive Services. ARPA funding can be transferred to other titles/categories. Providing the funds to an existing provider requires only a budget amendment; funding a new provider requires a request for proposals process. **Local match is required.**

**Next Steps:** Staff is also reviewing these funds and how best to use and distribute them. We are attempting to incorporate them with the funding in the 2022-23+ state augmentations that we have worked on for years. Unfortunately, delays in the new state funds (see the next section) are making this impractical.

**2022-23 State Budget Augmentations**

**Amount:** $2,008,461 over five years

**Status:** Partial guidance on some of the funding was received the evening of Friday, April 7th. Serious questions about the contents of that guidance were presented to CDA during their monthly operations meeting on Tuesday, April 11th, including the reiteration of previous requests to discuss how those funds be used best. Critically important to that discussion is the inclusion of AAA staff that have knowledge of the background and delivery of Older Californians Act programs and a solid understanding of the goals and intent of the new funding. **Next Steps:** Urge CDA to meet ASAP with AAA’s and to make necessary changes; urge C4A to take a leadership role in pushing those discussions forward.
2022-23 Federal Budget Augmentation

Amount: Unknown; CDA reports the federal funds will not be awarded to AAAs until CDA’s 2023-24 Area Plan Budget Amendment #1; targeted for summer of 2023.

Next Steps: none needed

RECOMMENDED ADVISORY COUNCIL and/or BOARD ACTION:

1. That the available OARR Intergenerational Nutrition funding be distributed on a 75%/25% split between Meals on Wheels of Santa Cruz County and Jovenes de Antaño for their proposed uses. An option would be to hold back an amount for community garden projects.

2. Authorize staff the flexibility to develop and promote information to our existing service providers and/or other organizations regarding the availability of $333,826 Title IIIB Supportive Services funding should internal discussions determine that is the most effective way to use these funds to benefit older adults.
Date: 4-13-23

To: Area Agency on Aging Advisory Council
Seniors Council Board of Directors

From: Clay Kempf, Executive Director

RE: Executive Directors April Report

AUDITS & MONITORING VISITS
We’re still awaiting the results of our CDA monitoring review (covering fiscal, program, administrative and RFP process) that was conducted the week of January 23rd. Once received, we’ll develop appropriate actions in response to their recommendations developed during that review. We anticipate one or two items requiring Board action (e.g., updating our grievance policies), but we don’t anticipate any difficulties in responding. The verbal report did not include any recommended changes for our fiscal operations.

The CDA Financial Audit (a completely separate review) was included in our last Board & Advisory Council packets, and the two items of note did not require any action by our agency, nor was any recovery of funding by the Department included.

For those of you that were unable to attend our special Board meeting on March 28th, our 2021-22 Independent Financial Audit was accepted by those present without incident or findings. We continue to be a low-risk agency, and our final figures for the year was a balanced agency-wide budget (+$3,766). Our Net Assets stood at $748,098, with $411,658 of that being unrestricted. The audit was submitted to the National Audit Clearinghouse by the March 31st deadline.

Currently, fiscal staff is wrapping up an unexpectedly detailed audit of our Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE) $13,000 grant.

In other financial activities, we are opening a new bank account with Santa Cruz County Bank. Santa Cruz County Bank not only meets our accounting needs, but has an excellent
record of working with the local community and non-profit organizations. SC County Bank is also one of the highest-rated banks of its size in the entire U.S.

MASTER PLAN FOR AGING (MPA)
The MPA continues to influence much of our work, not only in terms of the projects we take on, but by creating funding streams and program supports that we have never before experienced. Future reports will expand on those efforts and provide updates on our plans for local Solutions Summits and other related efforts.

STATE & COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES
We continue to remain active in local and state matters related to aging and community-based organizations. These range from continued engagement in Master Plan for Aging efforts on both the state and local area; advocacy strategies for Meals on Wheels of California; discussions around Santa Cruz County’s CORE allocation process; development of senior services in San Juan Bautista, including the consideration of a Villages Project; convening regular meetings of aging & disability service providers; participating in commissions and advisory committees in both counties; and, of course, interacting with our contracted service providers and organizations that partner with any of our five programs. These efforts are time consuming but essential to our overall operations, and keep us at the forefront of new and emerging projects and funding opportunities.
DATE: April 14, 2023

TO: Seniors Council Board of Directors

FROM: Gus Ceballos, Program Director

RE: Falls Prevention Program, March 2023 report

Companion for Life

We have officially added the MINI LITE, the new GPS/Mobile cellular-based emergency button for the wrist, into our inventory. The monitoring fee will be $5 more than the pendant version; $49.95/mo. & $59.95/mo. with the fall detection feature turned on.

We are in in the process of finalizing a new 3-yr contract renewal with Medical Guardian. Except for a small upward adjustment for the HOME GUARDIAN, our cost remains the same. Once the contract is signed and returned, we are locked into the pricing for an additional three years. Except for a small price adjustment to our HOME GUARDIAN customers in the coming months, our current prices will also remain the same.

Medical Guardian has recently hired a full-time Healthcare Outreach Coordinator and we look forward to working with them to help with raising our subscription numbers in the county.

A Matter of Balance

In April we are starting a class at Cliffwood Estates in Soquel. A former MOB graduate is helping us coordinate. After this session there is interested in presenting again at La Posada in Santa Cruz.

In-Home Risk Assessment

Two more clients in SC County were provided medical assistive equipment in March. There is already interest from residents at Cliffwood Estates for in-home safety evaluations. Also, we are offering a brief Falls Prevention Education presentation at CCH (Christian Church Homes) facilities in April. After the presentation we will make falls prevention medical assistive equipment made instantly available to attendants who pre-registered for the presentation.
ADRC of San Benito County
Staff Report - April 2023

As part of the recent Seniors Council’s and ADRC of San Benito County’s recent California Department on Aging’s (CDA) ADRC Infrastructure Grant Contract for FY23/24, CDA requested and was provided a copy of the ADRC of San Benito County’s Program Narrative and Workplan for the coming year. The narrative portion of the contract includes a request for local information about CDA’s three major target areas: Outreach and Awareness; Access to Services; and Organizational and System Development. Details regarding identified goals, objectivities, activities, milestones, and measurements for each area are also required as a part of the narrative submission. A copy of the ADRC’s proposed Narrative and Workplan which was submitted to CDA for approval on April 7, 2023 is attached to this report.

Also, and as an additional part of the contract submission, a proposed Contract Budget was requested to be submitted for CDA review and approval. The budget for the amount allocated of $199,904, consists of: $19,990 (10%) for Administration; $122,914 for Direct Services; and $57,000 for Subcontractor Services from Jovenes de Antaño and Central Coast Center for Independent Living. A final budget will be available for review upon approval and contract execution from CDA, as will an approved copy of the approved Program Narrative and Workplan.

ADRC Staff continue working to identify and refer additional eligible Connections, Health, Aging and Technology (CHAT) Program participants to CDA for eligibility screening and assessment for participation. We made twenty-three (23) new referrals to CDA and distributed one (1) more device, bringing the total devices distributed to date to 31, of the 55 units originally received. These figures reflect the generally slow and sometime laborious process of getting referred individuals screened for eligibility, approved, and then pre-tested/surveyed by State contractors before being approved to receive a device. Older adults or individuals with disability in San Benito County who might benefit from a no-cost Apple iPad and no-cost broadband service, and do not currently have one or the other, should please contact Leanne Oliveira at (888) 637-6757 or Kaitlyn Amador at (831) 637-9275 x311 (Assistance in Spanish), in San Benito County. In Santa Cruz County eligible and interested individuals should be referred to Britt Bassoni at (831) 688-0400 x113.

On April 13, 2023 Seniors Council and the ADRC of San Benito County received word from CDA that Digital Connections Program contracts would be sent out this same week and that we should then be able to begin taking shipping receipt of the additional 150 Apple iPads included as part of that effort. These 9th generation iPads with 10GB monthly data plans to older adults and individuals living with disability in San Benito County, through the ADRC, and in Santa Cruz County, through Seniors Council/Area Agency on Aging.

ADRC Staff helped plan and co-host, along with ALTCC service provider partners, the March 15, 2023 Hollister Chamber of Commerce Mixer to help introduce long term services and supports information and local service providers to the local business community. The event, held at the Community Foundation for San Benito County’s Epicenter was a fun evening with a good deal of interest from the local business community. The event provided an opportunity for our local LTSS providers and non-profits to build awareness, share information, and garner local support for community-based services.
Many thanks to the willing hands who made it happen, and especially to Leanne Oliveira of our ADRC and Christina Andrade of Del Mar Caregiver Resource Center and Health Projects Center.

Five (5) ADRC Staff and NWD partners have been enrolled in Boston University – Center for Aging & Disability Education and Research’s (BU-CADER) asynchronous on-line Person-Centered Case Management Certificate Program (6 courses, 24-hour). We are excited to be offering and participating in this training opportunity and feel that such curriculum will provide a good foundation for the expansion of person-centered case management practices and processes and a means by which to learn more about this personalized and inclusive way of supporting consumers and their needs and goals.

ADRC and Seniors Council Staff submitted a proposal in response to the Local Aging & Disability Action Planning (LADAP) Grant RFP on March 24, 2023, for $176,4170 to organize and lead local Solution Summits and the subsequent subject area workgroups around Local Master Plan on Aging goals and strategies. We have since learned that a significant number of applications were submitted for grant funds, making the awarding very competitive, but we are hopeful and the ADRC is committed to assisting with and contributing to whatever process is decided upon, with the goal of promoting the availability and affordability of community-based long term services and support options for individuals, families, and communities. This planning and capacity-building grant program “seeks to support communities in planning for and addressing the needs of California’s older adults, people with disabilities, and professional and family caregivers of today and tomorrow” (California Department of Aging: Local Aging & Disability Action Planning Grant Program - Master Plan for Aging: Request for Applications 3/23). Planning efforts are aimed at improving a community’s livability for people of all ages centered on equity, cultural competency, community engagement, and disability inclusion principles and practices.

ADRC Staff had an informative and productive meeting with a Central California Alliance for Health (CCAH) representative regarding opportunities to work as Enhanced Care Management (ECM) partners serving ECM populations of focus, including: high utilizers; individuals experiencing homelessness, including chronic homelessness; adults & children/youth transitioning from incarceration; adults with serious mental illness or substance use disorder; adults at risk for institutionalization, eligible for long-term care, and Medi-Cal beneficiaries; nursing facility residents who desire to return to living in the community; and children or youth. The meeting was very encouraging, and also proved to be an opportunity to network and share information regarding provider resources within San Benito County. CCAH will begin providing ECM supports to participants enrolled in their Managed Care Plan beginning January 1, 2024. ADRC staff were impressed with CCAH’s stated commitment to “listen and learn” as new local health services providers, and also by their stated commitment to work within and support local nonprofit community service networks. ADRC Staff will be following up with additional conversations, and a request to receive notice of RFP and or LOI from providers interested in working with CCAH.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objectives</th>
<th>Activities</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Outreach and Awareness</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Goal #1: Promote Community Awareness and Utilization of ADRC - No Wrong Door System</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Program Narrative &amp; Workplan for FY23/24</strong></td>
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<td><strong>ADR of San Benito County</strong></td>
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Submitted for Review and Approval: April 7, FY23
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>June 30, 2024</th>
<th>Information &amp; Outreach</th>
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<tr>
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<td>Follow-up survey with community members</td>
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Provide ARC-11C outreach materials

Information & Outreach

Information & Outreach

Information & Outreach
(1) Build and maintain positive relationships with staff and leadership of emergency and transitional support programs and services.

(2) Identify, recruit, and maintain listings of emergency supports, as well as short and long term transitional supports.

(3) Develop and maintain list of local, LTSS resources, to include short term and emergency supports.

(4) Lead and sustain quarterly study group to discuss options counseling practices and network protocols, local LTSS resources, as well as challenges.

(5) Maintain detailed knowledge and information regarding community resources and public benefit programs and services, including those of operation.

(6) Create and utilize ongoing processes to educate and inform consumers and caregivers about the availability of existing supports.

(7) Share information about ADRC options counseling and referral processes with partners and the broader community.

(8) Develop and partner to provide meaningful messaging regarding LTSS and associated resources.

(9) Develop resources to promote ADRC and related activities in a variety of settings.

(10) Continue to promote and distribute information regarding the importance of timely and effective engagement with ADRC and related services.

(11) Continue to develop and implement strategies to promote the delivery of health-care and related services.

(12) Review and assess information and results of previous years, to improve and streamline the consumer assistance process.

(13) Promote ADRC as a consumer-centered approach, and professional commitment to assistance which improves and strengthens the consumer assistance process.

(14) Educate about ADRC and LTSS options counseling, and promote the option. (With the addition of language and vision)  

(15) Provide information to providers and caregivers, and promote the availability of accessible ADRC-NW.

(16) Provide information to providers and LTSS providers, and promote the availability of accessible ADRC-NW.

(17) Distribute Spanish-language and English-language materials and resources to providers and consumers.

(18) Continue to provide a resource for emergency assistance, which improves and strengthens the consumer assistance process.

(19) Continue to serve San Benito County consumers with accessible, high-quality enhanced information assistance, and referral services.

Activities:

1. Determination, application, and enrollment for public benefit programs

2. Goals:
   - Establish relationships, understandings, and frameworks for more efficient and effective support
   - Establish strong and person-centered transitional services and support
   - Establish, promote, and deliver ADRC enhanced information, assistance, and referral services

Program and Services

| 2024 | Information as needed, annual by June 30 |

San Benito County Human Services Professionals
Table: Enhanced stakeholders report that the ARDC's service professionals will know about and utilize services provided, 60-70% of San Benito County residents and human service professionals will report knowing about and utilizing services provided.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objective</th>
<th>Metrics/Measurements</th>
<th>Anticipated Results</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Relate to Transition Assistance</td>
<td>60-70% of San Benito County residents surveyed</td>
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<td>2) Continue to collaborate with the Office of the Ombudsman (Director, Inc.) to share Community Transition Assistance Resources Information with and the role of LTSS planning and a person-centered and strength-based approach to problem-solving and decision-making.</td>
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**Goal #2: Continue to develop, support, and promote the delivery of high-quality ADRC-NWD services as an integral part of the ADRC-NWD Network, the delivery of core services, and person-centered approaches.**

**Organizational Development**

- **By June 30, 2024, clients in need of transition assistance, annual, information and timely support and guidance for the ADRC transition services provided, reports that the ADRC transition services provided, reports:** San Benito County residents surveyed as part of a comprehensive survey are reported.

- **By June 30, 2024, utilizing ADRC transition services, as needed, and employed, others will report that the ADRC transition services provided, reports:** San Benito County residents surveyed as part of a comprehensive survey are reported.

- **By June 30, 2024, information and timely support and guidance for the ADRC transition services provided, reports:** San Benito County residents surveyed as part of a comprehensive survey are reported.

**Activities:**

- Continue engagement with and participation in statewide MAC training and possible integration of on-going data collection and dissemination in support of MAC.
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- Complete study and evaluation process to become an approved provider of California Advancing and Innovating Medical-Home (CA-M) and enhanced care
- Technology (CAHIT) and Digital Connections (DCPC) projects. DIHC Web-CA, Covered California, and Covered California.
- Enhanced care
- Technology (CAHIT) and Digital Connections (DCPC) projects.
- DIHC Web-CA, Covered California, and Covered California.
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- San Benito County residents and stakeholders.
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**Goal #6: Prioritize and promote the efficiency and sustainability of the ADRC-NWD Network, the delivery of services, and person-centered approaches.**

- Provide transition services to approximately 15 San Benito County residents and potential ADRC transition services as needed.
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### Objective

- **Increase confidence.**
- **Continually engage with extended partners and community members.**
- **Build successful distribution of resources to create value and effectively measure progress.**

### Metrics/Measurement

- Number of events and attendees.
- Number of extended parties and representatives.
- Number of successful outcomes.

### Actionable Results

- **June 30, 2024:**
  - Outgoing goals: Outgoing quarterly by June 30, 2024.
  - Achievement measures: Quarterly increase in the number of contact hours.

| Quarter | Year-over-year increase in the number of contacts with community partners. | Number of successful outcomes.
|---------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Quarter | Year-over-year increase in the number of contacts with community partners. | Number of successful outcomes.
| Quarter | Year-over-year increase in the number of contacts with community partners. | Number of successful outcomes.

### Activities

- Train and mentor leaders.
- Attendee records.
- Activities and events calendar.
- ADRC staff and partnerships development.

### Additional Information

- ADRC core and extended partners.
- Informational meetings and events.
- Participation in ADRC NWD development and implementation.

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**Note:**

- The ADRC is building on past experiences to support the work.
- Continued engagement with extended partners and community members is critical.
- Successful distribution of resources is essential to create value.
- Effective measurement of progress is necessary to ensure success.

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**Image Description:**

The image contains a table with columns and rows detailing objectives, metrics, and actions. The table is structured to outline specific goals, timelines, and performance indicators. The text is dense and requires careful reading to understand the implications of the actions and metrics outlined.
PROJECT SCOUT
End of March 2023 Report

Project SCOUT is in full force providing free tax preparation for low-income seniors, the disabled, low-income families and low-income individuals in Santa Cruz and San Benito Counties. Project SCOUT is also providing CalFresh for low-income seniors and the disabled. The following are the sites where clients are being assisted.

VITA/TCE Sites (All by appointment ONLY)

ALL: Project SCOUT Facilitated Self Assistance (VITA, Online) [http://tinyurl.com/SCOUTFSA]
MONDAY: Live Oak Resource Center (VITA) 1:00-5:00
MONDAY: Aptos Project SCOUT Office (VITA) 2:00-5:00
TUESDAY: La Manzana Community Resources (VITA) 9:00-3:00
TUESDAY: Santa Cruz Public Library (VITA) 2:00-6:00
TUESDAY: Aptos Project SCOUT Office (VITA) 5:00-8:00
WEDNESDAY: Mid-County Senior Center (TCE) 9:00-12:00
WEDNESDAY: Highlands Park Senior Center (TCE) 10:00-1:00
WEDNESDAY: Market Street Senior Center (TCE) 1:00-3:00
WEDNESDAY: Watsonville Public Library (VITA) 5:00-8:00
WEDNESDAY: Watsonville Senior Center (TCE) 1:00-4:00
WEDNESDAY: Capitola Library (VITA) 2:00-5:00
THURSDAY: London Nelson (VITA) 9:30-12:30
THURSDAY: Highlands Park Senior Center (TCE) 10:00-1:00
THURSDAY: Aptos Project SCOUT Office (VITA) 9-12
THURSDAY: Santa Cruz Community Credit Union (VITA) 10:30-1:30
THURSDAY: Aptos Project SCOUT Office (VITA) 5:00-8:00
SATURDAY: Santa Cruz Public Library (VITA) 10:00-3:00

Ad-Hoc Sites (All by appointment ONLY)

Fridays by appointment: Jóvenes de Antaño (Hollister, TCE) 1:00-5:00
One Wednesday per month: La Posada Retirement Community (TCE)
Two Mondays in March: Brookdale Assisted Living in Scotts Valley (TCE)
Friday 3/31/23: Boulder Creek Public Library (VITA) 1:00-5:00
Project SCOUT MARCH Tax Production Totals

Project SCOUT Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA, all ages) Tax Preparation Total:
- Number of Federal returns prepared – 746
- Dollar Amount of Federal refunds – $673,064.00
- Dollar Amount of State refunds – $158,360.00
- Dollar Amount of EITC Claimed – $224,801.00
- ITIN Count – 21

Project SCOUT Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE, 60 and over) Tax Preparation Total:
- Number of Federal returns prepared – 394
- Dollar Amount of Federal refunds – $207,590.00
- Dollar Amount of State refunds – $86,311.00
- Dollar Amount of EITC Claimed – $20,915.00
- ITIN Count – 0

Number of total tax returns prepared – 1140
Dollar Amount of TOTAL refunds (including state) – $1,125,325.00
Total money back in the wallets of our clients, including average return cost of $220.00 – $1,376,125.00!

Calfresh Services:
- Number of Senior and disabled clients assessed for services – 62
- Number of clients assisted with Calfresh in Santa Cruz County – 6
- Number of clients assisted with Calfresh in San Benito County – 4

Project SCOUT Other Activities in MARCH

Through partnerships with Federal and local governments, and community organizations, Project SCOUT receives funding to continue offering services in Santa Cruz and San Benito Counties to those most in need. This financial support has been steadily increasing for the last 4 years. Such financial support entails monthly reporting to said entities which takes a great deal of time. As well, we incurred an extensive audit in the month of March from the IRS TCE program, and were visited by IRS agents twice at two of our sites in Santa Cruz County. Both visits were highly positive and we got exemplary reviews and feedback. Project SCOUT’s Program Director met via phone with two IRS agents and went over the processes in place for all sites and procedures incurred in TCE and VITA sites for assisting clients, transmitting returns, and storing of client data. Here as well, Project SCOUT received exemplary reviews and feedback.

Lastly, Project SCOUT is also continuing to support the Senior population in Santa Cruz and San Benito Counties; for which we have also gotten very positive feedback from the State, to the point were CDA wishes to use the example of services we are currently providing to help others who are having difficulties getting the message across to seniors who may benefit from such assistance.
An item good for the packets

Begin forwarded message:

From: Bailey Faustina <bailey@hpcn.org>
Subject: Clay, have you registered yet?
Date: April 5, 2023 at 10:04:24 AM PDT
To: clayk@seniorscouncil.org
Reply-To: bailey@hpcn.org

Hello Clay,

Have you heard of the oxygen mask dilemma? What do they tell you about helping others with their oxygen masks during every inflight safety demonstration? You put it on yourself first. Caring for yourself is one of the most critical and often forgotten tasks you can do as a caregiver. Join Del Mar Caregiver Resource Center for a relaxation day and learn how to better care for yourself.

Join us Saturday, April 22, 2023, from 9:30 A.M. - 2 P.M. PT for our Caregiver University Conference, Caring for U.
What can you expect from this free conference?
- Free lunch provided.
- Caring for U T-shirt for the first 50 to arrive.
- A resource fair with vendors from San Benito, Santa Cruz and Monterey Counties.
- Adaptive yoga.
- Helpful information for caregivers.

Registering for the conference is easy! Click the link below, or call (800)624-8304.

We can't wait to see you there.

Register here

The link doesn’t work? Copy and paste this URL into your browser: https://HollisterCU2023.eventbrite.com
CAREGIVER UNIVERSITY
CARING FOR U 2023

Saturday, April 22, 2023
9:30 A.M. - 2 P.M. PT
Elks Lodge
351 Astro Dr, Hollister, CA 95023

https://HollisterCU2023.eventbrite.com
Spanish Interpretation available

Scan here to register
THE FIRST 50 TO ARRIVE RECEIVE A FREE T-SHIRT!

THANKS TO OUR PARTNERS
Community Foundation for San Benito
San Benito Aging & Long Term Care Commission
San Benito Health Foundation
Elks Lodge #1436
Health Projects Center

THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS
VPC

Mask-wearing and vaccinations are highly encouraged. Free masks will be available on-site if you forget yours. If you feel sick, please stay home and visit www.delmarcaregiver.org to learn more about future events and classes.

www.hpcn.org | www.delmarcaregiver.org

Health Projects Center | 9000 Soquel Ave, Suite 103, Santa Cruz, CA 95062

Unsubscribe clayk@seniorscouncil.org
Jovenes de Antaño reopens dining room service

Published: 04/04/2023

By Robert Eliason

At Jovenes de Antaño Senior Services in Hollister, the loss of founder and director
Paulina Valdivia (https://benitolink.com/longtime-community-leader-dies-at-the-age-of-79/) can still be felt and seen. Her office remains unused, her desk decorated with personal mementos exactly as she left it just days before her death on Sept. 23, 2022.

“We have all been family here,” said interim Director Connie Padron, 65. “And it has been very difficult for all of us to adjust to her not being around. But if there is one thing she left, it is that she trained everybody very well, so we are trying to keep things going just the way she had them.”

Between the loss of Valdivia and the ongoing struggle to provide help during the pandemic, it has been a time of recovery for the employees of the agency she founded in 1975. But an important step forward has been the soft reopening of the Jovenes dining room on March 15, which had been closed due to pandemic restrictions.

“Before the pandemic, we were serving about 60 people daily,” she said. “But with all the restaurants closing, we could not stay open. We were able to deliver meals to their homes, and we ended up delivering to over 250 people. But the ones who used to come to the dining room really felt the effect of not having the social activities.”

Padron said the dining room is now open Monday through Friday and serves lunch from noon to 1 p.m. Jovenes asks people to make reservations, with many people arriving at 10 a.m. to have a cup of coffee and socialize. The meals are free, though a $2.50 donation is requested.

Jovenes began with an annual budget of about $50,000; it’s now almost $1 million, but Padron said the organization still needs funding. Their popular Meals on Wheels program, which reaches 200 recipients daily, has an 80-person waiting list.

Padron said that they are always looking for more volunteers to help with the program, and could use more drivers with a Class B driver’s license.
“With the drivers we have, they can only socialize for a few minutes at a time, but our seniors out there are very lonely. There are times that the drivers are the only people they see during the day.”

At times, this has proven critical as a way to keep track of seniors who have nobody else to watch over them.

“We have had cases where people were too sick to call an ambulance to help them,” she said. “When they don’t answer the door, our drivers know there might be a problem. We had one case a little while ago when one of our clients was on the floor since Friday after they broke their hip. They were dehydrated and basically abandoned. Nobody in this country should live like this.”

Walter Ormande worked for Jovenes years ago and is now in need of their services, having signed up for meal delivery.

“I came by one day to volunteer,” he said. “And Paulina started giving me more and more to do. I ended up as the president of the board of directors for four years, and then my health began to fail.”

He has been receiving meals, which are the same as those served in the dining room, for three years, and counts on the daily deliveries.

“It helps me a great deal because I’m homebound,” he said. “It’s a different meal every day, and it’s always hot. They have a dietician, so you get all of your nutrients, your protein, and so forth, and it’s well balanced. If I did not have this, all I would be able to have would be a sandwich and a glass of milk.”

Padron said that Jovenes wants to expand the activities offered during dining room hours, which already includes pre–meal bingo and exercise classes on Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 10:30 to 11:30.

“Now that we are open again,” she said, “We want to get the word out so that more
people can join us. There is no reason for seniors to stay at home lonely, and there is no reason for them to be hungry while we are here. It is time for everyone to get back to normal, whatever that normal is, and we are here to help.”

We need your help. Support local, nonprofit news! BenitoLink is a nonprofit news website that reports on San Benito County. Our team is committed to this community and providing essential, accurate information to our fellow residents. It is expensive to produce local news and community support is what keeps the news flowing. Please consider supporting BenitoLink, San Benito County’s public service, nonprofit news.
Delta Dental Awards $5 Million To Treat Santa Cruz County Elders

On March 22, two Santa Cruz County nonprofit health care organizations — Dientes Community Dental Care and Salud Para La Gente — were announced as new members of the Delta Dental Community Care Foundation’s Senior Oral Health Coalition Program.

Dientes and Salud will receive $5 million in funding from the Community Care Foundation over the next five years.

The multi-year program launched in April 2022 to address the oral health crisis among older adults in the U.S. and increase equity and access to care, particular for people of color.

Why should the oral health of older adults be prioritized?

- The 2021 National Institutes of Health “Oral Health in America” report cited adults age 65 and older as the most critically underserved for oral health care in the U.S.

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- A survey commissioned by Delta Dental further underscores this health crisis, revealing that 80% of older American adults do not get to the dentist as often as recommended, with access being one of the main barriers.
- The number is even lower in Santa Cruz County, which Dientes and Salud serve, where a 2022 oral health needs assessment revealed that only one in four seniors with Medicaid were able to get the dental care they needed.

Dientes and Salud provide comprehensive dental and health care services for the underserved.

As members of the Senior Oral Health Coalition Program and co-founders of Santa Cruz County’s Oral Health Access coalition, Dientes and Salud will collaborate with the Community Care Foundation, the philanthropic arm of Delta Dental of California, to establish programs that focus on the oral health of older adults.