SENIORS COUNCIL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Thursday, May 18, 2023

10 a.m. – 12 Noon

Join Zoom Meeting
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81931049538

Meeting ID: 819 3104 9538
One tap mobile
+12532158782,,81931049538# US (Tacoma)

Dial by your location
+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)
Find your local number: https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kclTMKXHq5

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. Resolution to Amend Agency Retirement Plan
10:20    7. Committee Reports
        1. Finance Committee (no meeting)
        2. Nominating & Board Development
        3. Advocacy Committee
           a. Live Oak Senior Center
           b. CORE Update
           c. California Senior Legislature Report
        4. Executive Committee

11:00    8. Funding Allocations – Update
        1. Nutrition Infrastructure
        2. OARR & ARPA
        3. 2022-23 State Budget Augmentations

11:10    9. Executive Director’s Report
        1. Audits and Program Monitoring
        2. Master Plan for Aging
        3. State & Community Activities

11:30    10. Program Reports (written)
        1. Falls Prevention
        2. Area Agency on Aging & ADRC
        3. Project SCOUT
        4. Foster Grandparent/Senior Companion Program

11:40    11. Miscellaneous Correspondence & Other Items

11:55    12. Adjourn

Next Meeting:

Thursday, June 15, 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, April 20, 2023

MINUTES

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:
Wayne Norton (President); Jane Schwickerath (Treasurer); Gwen Yeo (Secretary); Tami Aviles;
Antonio Rivas; Cathy Cress; Creighton Mendivil; Barbara Canfield; Mickie Luna

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:
Pam Arnsberger (Vice President); Steven Matzie; Mark Trabing

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); Zach Johnson (Seniors
Council Administrative Services Officer)

1. Welcome, Call to Order and Introductions
Meeting called to order at 10:19 AM

2. Additions & Deletions to the Agenda
None.

3. Receive Announcements from Board Members

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

5. CONSENT AGENDA
Mickie pointed out that absences should be recorded. Wayne said any member can vote on minutes,
whether they were at meeting or not. Wayne asked that Vacancies be completed on future minutes.
Wayne also thanked Latino Coalition of San Benito County per page 5-1; Pajaro was misspelled; 5-2
LOSC alternate location is on “Paget” street. Gwen asked that future minutes include name of
resolutions.
MOTION Yeo/Schwickerath to approve minutes of March 16, 2023 Board Meeting, PASSED.
MOTION Luna/Schwickerath, to approve minutes of March 28, 2023 Special Board Meeting, PASSED.

6. **2023-24 Area Plan Update and Needs Assessment**

   Patty is out sick so Clay gave report on Executive Summary. Update number four on current AP, next year we start a new four-year plan. Goals and Objectives are main updates, any changes are in blue. Starting on 6-6, list of broad goals and specific objectives. Goal One: Visible leadership in the community, specifically Santa Cruz and San Benito Counties. “C” indicates Coordination activities. Program Development & Coordination are considered direct services, separate from admin duties. C activities have been reduced in recent years. Dept. of Aging has gotten stricter on definitions. Match funds have stabilized organization by covering staff costs, rather than using admin funds as direct expense. Goal Two: few changes, Objective 2.5 ADRC in Santa Cruz County. Wayne said 3.3.3, good to see spelled out for San Juan Bautista. Goal Three: ensure stability of Ombudsman in face of loss of local funding. Goal Four: MPA and activities. 4.1 is overview of Solutions Summit concept; 4.2 digital divide project; 4.7 expansion of senior volunteerism. Wayne suggested on 4.2, mention coordinating efforts to expand broadband. On 4.7 Wayne is excited for Volunteer Center in SB County. Mickie said on 4.7 Latino Coalition is not new, been around 35 years. They have reached out to statewide organizations who have expressed support. Antonio asked on 4.9 what we are doing for flood victims. Clay answered unfortunately not much due to lack of resources/direct services, also we’re not on front lines like some service providers. Antonio asked if we can apply for funds, Clay answered best to stay out of way, but may be a focus for future development. Wayne asked about coordinating with AAA of Monterey County. Clay said Pajaro is unique because population lives in Monterey County but shops/receives services in Santa Cruz County. Mickie said they have met with farmers and created a video of their testimony about need for help, FEMA is not meeting all needs, video will go out tonight. Creighton said he has been volunteering with Senior Citizens Legal Services, giving presentations, and no one is checking borders for immediate response. He was unsure how much more benefit we can provide, letting Spanish speakers take the lead. Gwen asked if Creighton saw many older adults at fairground. He replied he didn’t recall seeing any seniors. Antonio said there were many seniors at the beginning of emergency, have probably returned to homes. Asked if FGP/SCP can track any seniors affected by floods or be advocates for them? Clay said the coordinators do check in with volunteers. **MOTION** Yeo/Luna, to adopt Area Plan as amended, PASSED.

7. **Committee Reports**

   1. **Finance Committee (no meeting)** –

   2. **Nominating & Board Development** – Gwen said that those with expiring terms have been contacted, and asked anyone who does not want to continue (renews July 1) to let her know. Nomination of officers for next year is partially complete; slate includes Pam as President, Jane as Vice-President, Wayne as Secretary, and Barbara K. as Treasurer. Should have at-large position finalized May and have election then, including nominations from the floor, to take office in July.

   3. **Advocacy Committee**

      a) **Live Oak Senior Center** – Clay said LOSD Community Housing Committee presented their survey results at last meeting. Architect was present with mockup designs, showing mainly studios and one-bedrooms. Employee response was preference for 2- or 3-bedroom designs. Housing imposes a 5-year residency maximum, including for employees, with idea being the cost savings are used towards purchasing housing later. Still dependent on passing Bond Act
to fund project. Clay met with Kristen Pfotenauer again, felt positive. Daisy Morales made a statement that LOSD would be happy to provide extension, which is contrary to what we have submitted in writing. New letter accepts this ‘offer’ of 18-month extension. Superintendent responded that she was misquoted and it would take an act of their Board. Cathy said that the close bond between Supervisor Manu and LOSD will require action from Supervisors. Also said that we should involve seniors from Live Oak.

b) California Legislation – C4A legislation packet. Clay said AB 265, which extends property tax postponement program and helps seniors keep their homes, should be a top priority. Very successful program, but 15-year suspension gap introduced revenue recovery gap. This measure adds $15 million statewide to keep program solvent.

Santa Cruz County preparing their own needs assessment, we are trying to be partners so to include our questions. Department of Aging will also conduct statewide needs assessment (fulfills our mandate). County has said they will delay until Fall or Winter to allow this to be completed. Mickie asked if this will produce fact sheet for 2022, Clay said no it will not as that is an internal document and data was received late. Antonio recommended Metro report showing geographic distribution of seniors, Live Oak and Watsonville have large clusters. Gwen asked if SC County survey will be seniors or all ages, Clay said all-ages but weighted towards seniors. Gwen asked if state survey will use randomization, Clay said he thinks so and that they want our help with distribution of survey, which may miss at-need populations.

c) California Senior Legislature Report – Mickie said 2023 Virtual Senior Rally will happen on May 2nd. Can attend virtually any events that you like. Clay said Antonio Rivas and Mary Edge applications have been sent to state for vetting, can then have election in Advisory Council. Clay reported a quarterly meeting with director of Human Services Agency and Aging & Adult Services director to discuss CORE and next steps, renewed effort to have community groups come together to give feedback. Clay said here needs to be clarity on aim of CORE, fun projects or life-sustaining services; latter should be given priority.

4. Executive Committee –

8. Board Resolution Contract Authorizations

1. AP-2324-13, Area Plan Contract
2. OM-2223-13, Modernizing Older Californians Act – some controversy over guidelines, so CDA meeting with AAA’s and revisiting items. New funding is being split into two categories. Lots of new staff at CDA, causing some confusion. Gwen asked if we would be implementing Older Californian Act programs, Clay said we will analyze funds and decide priorities.

MOTION Schwickerath/Yeo, to adopt both contracts, PASSED.

9. Funding Allocations – Update

Nutrition Infrastructure –
OARR & ARPA – Clay said OARR intergenerational nutrition nearing deadline, exploring partnering with Master Gardeners. Proposed using standard 75/25 split. Wayne asked if providers could benefit from having electric vehicle chargers installed. Clay said this went under Nutrition Infrastructure, with assumption anyone ordering an EV would have capacity for it. Mickie asked about contracts not submitted, only Diversity Center and City of Watsonville have not.

ARPA ~$333,000 for supportive services unallocated. Can aware to existing providers for existing services only, other require an RFP. Clay suggested Board authorize creating and RFP and bringing it back for discussion in Executive Committee, Wayne agreed. Gwen asked when Title IIIB must be
spent, Clay replied Sept. 2024. Trying to spend by July 2024 to align with fiscal year. Gwen asked if we can fund Ombudsman through this, Clay said we frontloaded them with OARR funding through FY23-24. **MOTION** Yeo/Rivas, to adopt both from 9-3 and authorize Executive Committee to approve staff recommendations. **PASSED.**

2022-23 State Budget Augmentations –

10. **Executive Director’s Report**

a) **Audits and Program Monitoring** – Per page 10-1, proposed opening a new bank account with Santa Cruz County Bank dedicated to stipends for FGP/SCP volunteers. Process requires that Board minutes reflect ED recommendation. **MOTION** Schwickerath/Yeo, to grant authority to staff to open said account, **PASSED.** Signers are: Jane Schwickerath, Pam Arnsberger, Creighton Mendivil, Clay Kempf, Patty Talbott, & Cristina Banuelos. Chair approves by consensus.

b) **MPA** – Clay said Britt met with leadership group re: Solutions Summit in San Benito. Strong buy-in from Long Term Care Commission and County staff, more to come.

c) **State & Community Activities** – Internal discussion about Falls Prevention with expiration of State funding later this year.

11. **Program Reports (written)**

**Falls Prevention**

Area Agency on Aging & ADRC – Wayne asked about work with Alliance on chronic homelessness issue. Britt said it is very preliminary still, more developments to come. Leanne also reported work on safe parking areas and tiny home community.

**Project SCOUT**

Foster Grandparent/Senior Companion Program

12. **Miscellaneous Correspondence & Other Items**

Renaming of Hollister community center pending, currently up to family and city. Event on May 13.

13. **Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:03 PM.

Next Meeting: May 18, 2023 10 a.m. – 12 Noon
Minutes prepared by: Zachary Johnson

5-4
Date: 5/12/23

To: Seniors Council Board of Directors

From: Zach Johnson, Administrative Services Officer

RE: Board Resolution Regarding Change to Our Mutual of America 403(b) Contract

Background
Mutual of America provides our organization with a 403(b) retirement plan for our employees. That plan includes a 5% agency contribution and the opportunity for employees to allocate a portion of their pay as a pre-tax contribution. The employee contribution is their own; the employer contribution is vested over time per the following schedule:

- 0-2 years service: 0% vesting
- 2-3 years service: 25% Vesting
- 3-4 years service: 50% vesting
- 4- 5 years service: 75% vesting
- 5 years or more: 100% vesting

Our practice is to allow employees to contribute to the account upon hiring; our policy states that 2 months after hiring 5% agency contributions will begin. We are recommending changes to our Mutual of America contract to make that contract consistent with our own practice.

Recommended Action
Staff recommends the Board pass the attached resolution and thereby approve the contract amendment.
BOARD OF DIRECTORS RESOLUTION TO AMEND A PLAN

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors of Seniors Council of Santa Cruz and San Benito Counties (the Employer) has assembled in a meeting;

WHEREAS, the Employer established the 403(b) Thrift Plan (the Plan) to provide retirement benefits for employees of the Employer; and

WHEREAS, the Employer has the right to amend the Plan pursuant to the provisions of the Plan.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1) This attached Plan Amendment is approved;
2) All other provisions and conditions of the Plan remain unchanged; and
3) The authorized representative is hereby directed to take such further action as may be necessary, appropriate or advisable to effectuate the foregoing resolutions.

The undersigned hereby certifies that the foregoing resolutions were duly adopted by the Board of Directors at the meeting referenced herein, and that the documents attached are the true copies of the documents referenced in those resolutions.

Secretary of Board / Board President

Date
Amendment to the 403(b) Thrift Plan
of
Seniors Council of Santa Cruz and San Benito Counties

In accordance with the provisions of the Plan, the Employer hereby amends its Plan, effective as of May 1, 2023, as follows:

(1) **Section 1.2(b)(3)(B)(ii)(2)** is changed to read as follows:

   (3) The minimum service requirement is 2 Months of Eligibility Service (not to exceed 24 Months) whether or not completed consecutively. For this purpose, a Month of Eligibility Service means a month of Vesting Service determined in accordance with Sections 3.3 and 3.4 but without regard to Section 1.5(b).

(2) **Section 1.2(c)** is no longer applicable to the Plan.

(3) **Section 1.2(e)** is no longer applicable to the Plan.

(4) **Section 1.3(a)(3)** is changed to read as follows:

   (3) Roth Contributions: A Participant who has elected to make Salary Reduction Contributions in accordance with Sections 1.3(a)(1) and 5.1:

   (1) may

   irrevocably designate all or part of those contributions as Roth Contributions described in Section 402A of the Code by completing a form provided by the Plan Administrator.

   **Note:** A plan that does not permit Participants to make designated Roth Contributions may not accept rollovers of such contributions under Section 5.10.

Seniors Council of Santa Cruz and San Benito Counties

By: ______________________________________

Date: ____________________________

6-3
Date: 5-12-23

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
The Live Oak School District appears to be willing to negotiate moving the scheduled June 30, 2023 eviction date to December 30, 2025, provided a number of conditions are agreed to by the current tenants. These include making and paying for major site repairs that have been previously raised (e.g., parking lot, roof, HVAC systems etc.); taking over routine maintenance of the interior and exterior of the building; and issuing a press release stating that a mutual agreement has been met regarding the buildings. This unofficial offer is in response to a request for a two-to-three year extension in return for Community Bridges previous offer to make major site repairs. Community Bridges and Senior Network Services leadership and I will be meeting next week to discuss our next steps.

I have been meeting with LOSD Board President Kristin Pfotenhauer to facilitate these sorts of ideas. An effort to convene a meeting of all of the senior service organizations and LOSD Superintendent Dr. Daisy Morales is underway.

State Budget
Governor Newsome released his May Revise (Governor’s Proposed 2023-24 State Budget) this morning, and a quick read of the 137-page summary (https://ebudget.ca.gov/FullBudgetSummary.pdf) doesn’t continue any cuts for services to older adults. This is significant in that California is anticipating a budget deficit of over $30 billion, and indicates that the Governor is sticking to his commitment to aging programs and California’s Master Plan for Aging.
**CORE Funding**

The County and City of Santa Cruz received an updated “CORE Lessons Learned” report week before last, including an extensive verbal report and discussion. The presentation and report “explained” that concerns over CORE were mainly due to misunderstandings and/or resistance to chance, primarily from experienced community programs. Once again the public was told that prior to CORE, there was no process to the awards, no open competition, no new programs could apply for funding, little to no accountability, etc. While none of these statements are true, correcting that false narrative is close to impossible at this time.

However, County staff made the statement that funding for senior programs have seen a $250,000 increase in funding. Your packets include a spreadsheet – provided by the County of Santa Cruz - that shows quite a different picture.

When questioned about these figures, County staff explained that they based the calculation on totaling the CORE funding to include any agency that included “seniors” as a service category, and comparing them to previous years. In past applications, agencies could only select their one primary service category.

I’ve taken the liberty of highlighting the programs that truly serve older adults or people with disabilities, and totaled those gains and losses. Programs like Youth Prevention Program, Walnut Ave. Early Education Program, Worries to the Wind, etc., are not really senior programs.

The results are staggering; there is a **$186,235 decrease to senior service programs.** That’s a far cry to the $250,000 increase to senior program funding that was expressed to the Board of Supervisors.

The Seniors Council continues to recommend that elected officials demand to see prior and current funding allocations as part of this process. The electeds and the public need to be fully and accurately informed of the proposed changes as a routine part of the process.
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$(186,235)$

7.3-3
Population Changes
- **Seniors are the fastest growing age group** in California and the United States.
  - The 60+ population has grown by over 40% since 2010 in California
  - The population of Californians aged 0-59 has increased less than 1% since 2010
- The 60+ population has increased by 50% since 2011 in San Benito County
- 242 more seniors in the County were Medi-Cal Eligible last year than the year before
- The over-60 Medi-Cal Eligible in San Benito County population grew 114% since 2011
- 1,000 Californians are turning 65 every day for the next twelve years
- **Seniors are the fastest growing age group** in California & the United States. The 65-74 age group is projected to grown by 20.7% over the next 5 years (vs. 4.7% for all ages)

Senior Services Funding and the Cost of Long Term Care
- The 2018 average cost of a nursing home in California was over $100,000 per year
- Pre-COVID funding for local Older Americans Act programs has increased 10% in 35 yrs.
- U.S. Inflation since 1984-85 is over 160%
- Baseline Funding for the AAA has 32% of the buying power that it had 40 years ago.
- Successful programs such as Linkages & Alzheimer’s Day Care Resource Centers have been closed

Senior Loneliness & Isolation has been a national crisis BEFORE COVID-19
- Being isolated has the health impact of smoking 15 cigarettes per day
- Senior isolation increases Medicare costs by about $7 billion per year
- Lonely seniors have a 45% increase in their risk of death
- COVID is estimated to have tripled the senior isolation crisis
- Seniors in rural communities are twice as likely to be isolated as their urban counterparts

Seniors and COVID-19
- 65% of ICU beds have been occupied by individuals 61+
- 85% of deaths were individuals aged 61+

Homeless Seniors
- Homeless seniors over age 50 are growing at a faster rate than any other age group
- In the 55+ population, homelessness is identified as a trigger for Mental Health Issues
2023 SANTA CRUZ COUNTY SENIOR FACT SHEET

Population Changes
- Seniors are the fastest growing age group in California and the United States.
  - The 60+ population has grown by over 40% since 2010 in California
  - The population of Californians aged 0-59 has increased less than 1% since 2011
- The Santa Cruz County 60+ population has increased by more than 57% since 2011.
- 11,322 of the County’s 72,021 seniors are eligible for Medi-Cal
- The over-60 Medi-Cal Eligible population grew 135% since 2011
- 1,000 Californians are turning 65 every day for the next decade

Senior Services Funding and the Cost of Long Term Care
- The average cost of a nursing home in California is over $100,000 per year
- Pre-COVID funding for local Older Americans Act programs increased 10% in 35 yrs.
- U.S. Inflation since 1984-85 is over 151%
- Baseline Funding for the AAA has 32% of the buying power that it had 40 years ago.
- Meals on Wheels, Tax Counseling for the Elderly, Elderday Care Center, & Ombudsman Nursing/Residential Care Protection all received funding cuts in the CORE process

Senior Loneliness & Isolation has been a national crisis BEFORE COVID-19
- Being isolated has the health impact of smoking 15 cigarettes per day
- Senior isolation increases Medicare costs by about $7 billion per year nationwide
- 14,565 Santa Cruz County older adults live alone (1 in 5).
- Lonely seniors have a 45% increase in their risk of death
- COVID is estimated to have tripled the senior isolation crisis

Seniors and COVID-19
- 65% of ICU beds have been occupied by individuals 61+
- 85% of deaths were individuals aged 61+

Homeless Seniors
- There are twice as many homeless people over age 50 as there are under the age of 25\(^1\)
- In the 55+ population, homelessness is identified as a trigger for Mental Health Issues

\(^1\) Previous Santa Cruz County Homeless Census (current census did not collect this information)
Date: 5-12-23

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

From: Clay Kempf, Executive Director

RE: May Update on Funding Augmentations

BACKGROUND
Continuing our discussion from previous months with some minor updates – for continued discussion

**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, Food Bank of San Benito County, and California Grey Bears have purchased most of their vehicles funding under this category. Jovenes de Antaño continues their vehicle purchase discussions with local venders. 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:** Staff is reviewing year to date expenditures to determine our updated estimate of available funds for the purchase of additional equipment. *Inside sources are stating that the availability of these funds may be extended through September of 2024 as part of the Governor’s May revise.* We will continue to target spending them by the earlier deadline.

**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.
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:** 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. The Board of Directors has taken action to allocate these funds on our traditional model of overfunding San Benito County, and dividing the funds on a 25% to SBCounty and 75% to SC County basis.

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

**Remaining Amount:** $333,826 remains unallocated in the broad category of Title IIIIB 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:** The Seniors Council has submitted recommendations to CDA and to C4A about ways to improve the emerging guidelines to the disbursement and
guidelines to these funds. Included in that recommendation is that CDA & C4A engage in live discussions over challenges and suggestions as opposed to the current practice of CDA issuing written documents and responding only to C4A Executive Committee’s written response.

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:
No new action at this time is recommended by staff.
DATE: May 12, 2023

TO: Seniors Council Board of Directors

FROM: Gus Ceballos, Program Director

RE: Falls Prevention Program, April 2023 report

Companion for Life

We met with Medical Guardian’s Healthcare Outreach Coordinator and after a quick introduction we agreed to meet on a regular basis to help grow our static subscription rate. An immediate change initiated was to remove all links to Medical Guardian from our website. It was also recommended to create a small locally-based Medical Guardian website in addition to keeping Medical Guardian information under the Seniors Council website. Their reasoning is that a separate website will capture local online ERS searches and drive that traffic to our office.

After more than 15 years, we are shutting down the CFL Gmail account and moving all email correspondence to fallsprevention@seniorscouncil.org. Using Gmail for business is not good practice anymore and it exposes us to security risks.

A Matter of Balance

In April we completed a workshop at Cliffwood Estates in Soquel and had a graduating class of seven. A former MOB graduate is helping us coordinate this workshop. It seems interest in the workshop grew throughout the park as the class progressed and we will return for another workshop in the near future.

In-Home Risk Assessment

We did a quick Falls Prevention Education presentation at Garfield Park Village in Santa Cruz on April 21st. There were 17 people in attendance who heard our 20-minute presentation on what an older adult can do to prevent a debilitating fall in their home. After the presentation we made falls prevention medical assistive equipment available to attendants who pre-registered for the presentation. This included non-slip mats, night lights and such. The on-site senior coordinator thought the whole presentation and distribution of equipment was a huge success and we agree.
CDA provided notice of ADRC Program Narrative approval for FY23/24 on May 8, 2023. A copy of the Program Narrative and Workplan were provided as a part of last month’s Staff Report. The Program Narrative and Workplan establish and explain identified goals, objectivities, activities, milestones, and measurements for each of CDA’s three major focal area, including: Outreach and Awareness; Access to Services; and Organizational and System Development. Along with an approved Program Budget for FY23/24, the Program Narrative is required as a part of CDA’s ADRC contracting process, and the execution of a valid contract for the work we are engaged with in San Benito County. 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.

ADRC Staff received notice on May 5, 2023 that, “In compliance with the Program Memo 23-02 (PM 23-02), the California Department of Aging (CDA) will no longer tag, track, or monitor the California Health, Aging and Technology (CHAT) inventory, as part of State property.” To finalize the process of transferring the title and ownership of the CHAT devices to the Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) CDA provided a copy of the fully executed Property Transfer Report (STD 158) Form, which completes the transfer of the CHAT devices to the AAA’s. ADRC Staff will continue the distribution of the seventeen remaining CHAT-allocated devices still in inventory, but will not be subject to CDA oversight and monitoring detailed above, and potential program participants will no longer be subject to CDA contractor entity eligibility screenings, pre-testing and post-testing. ADRC Staff plan to merge remaining and already allocated CHAT inventory with forthcoming Digital Connections device inventory to complete the distribution of the devices, and to allow program participants the opportunity to maximize use of the no-cost broadband connectivity plans through December 31, 2023.

As noted previously, 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 May 10, 2023 Seniors Council and the ADRC of San Benito County completed and submitted the required Program Budget provided by CDA to execute our Digital Connections Program contracts and initiate the shipment of DC devices to Seniors Council and the ADRC for outreach, program enrollments, and device distribution. As we were to be allocated 100 devices, we also recently received notice that our initial allocation would be only 70% of the requested total, and therefore we should be receiving seventy (70) devices in the very near future, with additional devices to follow. These 9th generation iPads, with 10GB monthly data plans, will be distributed 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.

Five (5) ADRC Staff and NWD partners have begun an asynchronous learning and certification program through Boston University – Center for Aging & Disability Education and Research (BU-CADER). The
Person-Centered Case Management Certificate Program (6 courses, 24-hours) will build on the on-going process of creating a more person-centered approach to the provision of core ADRC service supports, including Enhanced I&R/A; LTSS Options Counseling, Short Term Care Management, and Transition Assistance.

ADRC and Seniors Council Staff received notice on May 2, 2023 that our submitted proposal in response to the Local Aging & Disability Action Planning (LADAP) Grant RFP is to be funded by CDA, along with fourteen (14) other projects Statewide. The Alliance on Aging also received a grant to facilitate MPA Local plan development in Monterey County. Per the announcement, "The California Department of Aging (CDA) is pleased to award nearly $3 million to 15 organizations to plan and develop local age- and disability-friendly action plans. The local plans funded under the Local Aging & Disability Action Planning (LADAP) grant program aim to improve community livability and address the current, emerging, and future needs of California’s older adults, people with disabilities, and caregivers through cross-sector collaboration and transformational systems change. The LADAP grant program runs through March 31, 2025." The $176,417 received from the grant allocation will go toward organizing and leading local Solution Summits and subsequent subject area workgroups around Local Master Plan on Aging goals and strategies. Please see the attached Local Aging and Disability Action Planning Grant Program Application – Funding Decision letter for additional information and details regarding next steps.

ADRC Staff continues work to gain a better understanding of the service needs and relevant positioning the ADRC will have to demonstrate in order to receive provider status under the Central California Alliance for Health’s (CCAH) Enhanced Care Management (ECM) program to serve 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. While not appropriate to all cited populations or all ADRC Core Services, ECM can potentially provide for greater financial sustainability, as well as for expanded partnerships with healthcare providers working in the Managed Care sphere, with the common goal being better and more lasting outcomes for consumers. CCAH will begin providing ECM supports to participants enrolled in their Managed Care Plan beginning January 1, 2024. ADRC Staff will be following up with additional conversations, and has requested to receive notice of RFP and or LOI from providers interested in working with CCAH.
May 2, 2023

Seniors Council of Santa Cruz & San Benito Counties
234 Santa Cruz Ave.
Aptos, CA 95003
Attn: Clay Kempf

Subject: Local Aging and Disability Action Planning Grant Program Application – Funding Decision

Dear Clay Kempf:

Thank you for your interest in the Local Aging and Disability Action Planning (LADAP) Grant Program administered by the California Department of Aging (CDA). CDA is pleased to inform you that the grant proposal submitted on behalf of Seniors Council of Santa Cruz & San Benito Counties was selected for award through the competitive grant process.

Additional Information and Next Steps:
- The budget submitted as part of Seniors Council of Santa Cruz & San Benito Counties’ application is currently under fiscal/administrative review. You will be contacted by CDA’s Local Finance Bureau if additional information or updates are required.
- CDA is assembling your grant agreement package for review and signature. Your organization’s project proposal, workplan, and budget documents will be included in your grant agreement. Your attention and timely support in reviewing, signing, and returning your grant agreement are appreciated and critical to implementing the LADAP grant program.
- CDA anticipates executing the LADAP grant agreements on July 1, 2023. However, grantees should not conduct any work that they plan to charge the LADAP grant program until a signed grant agreement is in place.
- CDA will host a LADAP grant program orientation webinar in July 2023. Additional details are forthcoming.

Congratulations! We look forward to partnering with you to advance your community’s aging and disability goals.

If you have any questions, please email MBgrantanalyst@aging.ca.gov

Thank you,
Business Management Bureau
California Department of Aging
MBgrantanalyst@aging.ca.gov
PROJECT SCOUT
End of April 2023 Report

Project SCOUT continued providing tax services in full force 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 at Tax Preparation sites. The following are sites open in April:

VITA/TCE Sites (All by appointment ONLY)

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

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 per month: Brookdale Assisted Living in Scotts Valley (TCE)
Project SCOUT APRIL Tax Production Totals

Project SCOUT Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA, all ages) Tax Preparation Total:
- Number of Federal returns prepared – 900
- Dollar Amount of Federal refunds – $704,921.00
- Dollar Amount of State refunds – $184,006.00
- Dollar Amount of EITC Claimed – $229,891.00
- ITIN Count – 24

Project SCOUT Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE, 60 and over) Tax Preparation Total:
- Number of Federal returns prepared – 468
- Dollar Amount of Federal refunds – $239,715.00
- Dollar Amount of State refunds – $97,725.00
- Dollar Amount of EITC Claimed – $24,281.00
- ITIN Count – 3

Number of total tax returns prepared – 1368
Dollar Amount of TOTAL refunds (including state) – $1,226,367.00
Total money back in the wallets of our clients, including average return cost of $220.00 – $1,527,327.00!

Project SCOUT APRIL CALFRESH Services

- Number of clients assessed for services – 140
- Number of clients assisted with CalFresh in Santa Cruz County – 11
- Number of clients assisted with CalFresh in San Benito County – 8

Other APRIL Information and Success Stories

Project SCOUT was part of a meeting with CDA were our work with CalFresh received high praise. Project SCOUT will continue assessing seniors assisted during tax season and reach out to those that may benefit from CalFresh. Our goal is to sign up all those who can receive the service. As an example, we have assisted various elderly clients from Hollister to Watsonville wishing to do their taxes. Once taxes were completed, we could assess that they could also qualify for CalFresh; such clients are many times signed up on the spot.

A success story for April that comes to mind is the one shared with me by one of our volunteers helping a young mother who takes care of her disabled child at home. She came in needing to do taxes for a few years. Through the efforts of our volunteer, the taxpayer will be receiving around $10,000 in refunds once all filing is completed! Such an amount will make a huge impact in the quality of life of both parent and child, and will be money likely reinvested in our local community.

10.3-2
On April 26th, I had the honor of representing the Foster Grandparents Volunteers of Monterey County as they received an honoree award for Group Volunteer in the 47th Annual Live United awards. This is a well-deserved award, as I have been with the Monterey County volunteers for the past ten years and have seen their love and dedication to this program. The Foster Grandparents Volunteers were nominated by the Monterey County Office of Education Early Learning Program; they have been volunteering in their classrooms for over 29 years.
PRESIDENTIAL PROCLAMATION – OLDER AMERICANS MONTH

On this 60th anniversary of Older Americans Month, we honor our Nation’s senior citizens, whose lifetimes of hard work, devotion to family, and commitment to community have laid the foundation for the country we are today. We have a rock-solid responsibility to ensure our Nation’s seniors can age with dignity and financial security.

When President John F. Kennedy issued the first proclamation recognizing older Americans, approximately a third of seniors lived in poverty, and close to half were without health insurance. Our Nation rallied together to confront this crisis, passing Medicare to deliver affordable, quality health care to our seniors; strengthening Social Security, the bedrock of American retirement; and ultimately raising so many seniors out of poverty. We extended lifespans and provided critical breathing room to Americans who had worked hard their whole lives. But there is still more work to do to ensure that no senior lies in bed at night wondering how they are going to pay for lifesaving drugs, put food on the table, or support their children and grandchildren.

That is one reason why I signed the Inflation Reduction Act. For those on Medicare, this law caps the cost of insulin at $35 per month and will cap out-of-pocket prescription drug costs at $2,000 per year. That means seniors could save upwards of tens of thousands of dollars on lifesaving drugs — including for cancer, heart disease, Alzheimer’s, and more. It also means Americans can get vaccinated for free against shingles, whooping cough, tetanus, and other diseases. And by holding drug companies responsible when they increase prices faster than inflation and finally allowing Medicare to negotiate drug prices, this law is helping bring down prescription drug costs for seniors across our country. Affordable health care is about basic dignity, which is also why I issued an Executive Order calling on the Food and Drug Administration to make hearing aids available over the counter without a prescription. Now, millions of adults with mild-to-moderate hearing loss can save as much as $3,000 per pair by buying hearing aids at a store or online without a prescription.

At the same time, standing by our seniors means honoring our Nation’s fundamental promise that when it comes time to retire after working hard and contributing to our economy, Social Security and Medicare will be there for you. I am committed to defending these vital programs — a lifeline for millions of seniors — which is why my newest Budget extends the life of the Medicare Trust Fund by at least 25 years. And I will veto any effort to deny older Americans the benefits they have earned.

We must keep building on this progress. Older Americans should be able to live, work, and participate in their communities with dignity. That’s why I recently signed an Executive Order on Increasing Access to High-Quality Care and Supporting Caregivers. I call on the Congress to expand on the investments we have already made to help seniors receive care in their own homes and to support family caregivers — including aging caregivers — and the home care workers who perform selfless work every day. I also call on the Congress to expand access to nutrition counseling for seniors and others with Medicare coverage, to increase funding for nutrition services for older adults, and to pilot coverage of medically tailored meals in Medicare — actions that are also part of my Administration’s National Strategy on Hunger, Nutrition, and...
Health. We need to improve the quality and safety of nursing homes and protect vulnerable residents and the health care heroes who care for them. And we must keep pushing to end cancer as we know it and win the fight against other deadly diseases that deny us time with those we love most.

Older Americans are the pillars of our community, and we owe it to them to value their wisdom, celebrate their contributions, and champion their well-being. To older Americans across this Nation, we will always support you.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JOSEPH R. BIDEN JR., President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim May 2023 as Older Americans Month. This month and beyond, I call upon all Americans to celebrate older adults for their contributions, support their independence, and recognize their unparalleled value to our Nation.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-eighth day of April, in the year of our Lord two thousand twenty-three, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and forty-seventh.

JOSEPH R. BIDEN JR.
GOVERNOR’S OLDER AMERICANS MONTH PROCLAMATION

On this 60th anniversary of Older Americans Month, I ask all Californians to join me and our local, state, and federal partners in recognizing the invaluable contributions of millions of older adults to our past, present and future. Our state is home to more than nine million residents aged 60 or older, and we are committed to building an inclusive California for all across the lifespan.

This year’s theme – Aging Unbound – lifts up the wide-ranging opportunities and experiences that Californians of all races, ethnicities, cultures, genders, and sexual orientations enjoy from age 60 to well over age 100. Californians are aging and embracing change by trying new activities to stay engaged in the community. Leveraging the knowledge, insight and confidence that age affords, older Californians are active in volunteerism, employment, mentoring and social clubs. In this way, they continue to forge new relationships and connections with family, friends and community members.

Older Californians enrich our families, communities, and economy through diverse life experiences, cultures, and contributions. Californians enjoy the fourth highest life expectancy in the United States, contributing to more people who reach the century mark than ever before. Today’s five-year-olds have a better chance than ever of living to 100. By the end of the decade, 11 million Californians will be age 60 or older, and over one million will be 85 or older.

California is out in front of these national demographic shifts, continuing to deliver results in year three of the state’s 10-year Master Plan for Aging. Building on the groundbreaking work of the previous two years, the Administration is driving 95 new initiatives designed to advance equity, housing, transportation, health care, caregiving, affordability and more. California’s work has inspired others to follow our lead, with more than a dozen states joining the Master Plan for Aging movement in 2022 and new proposed federal legislation for a national master plan.

I’m proud of the bold investments that my Administration, in partnership with the Legislature and community stakeholders, has made to advance these priorities, including expansion of Medi-Cal coverage to people age 50+ regardless of immigration status, elimination of the Medi-Cal asset test to protect lifecare and homes, expansion of the number of community housing options for older adults and people with disabilities, and unprecedented investments to support training and stipends for direct care workers and family caregivers. These investments, guided by the Master Plan for Aging, are building a California for all ages and abilities.

As we take time this month to honor older Californians who have contributed decades of knowledge, skills, and wisdom to make the Golden State what it is today, let us recommit ourselves to building a vibrant, equitable future for Californians of all ages and abilities.

NOW THEREFORE I, GAVIN NEWSOM, Governor of the State of California, do hereby proclaim May 2023, as “Older Californians Month.”

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of California to be affixed this 30th day of April 2023.

GAVIN NEWSOM
Governor of California

ATTEST:
SHIRLEY N. WEBER, Ph.D.
Secretary of State
MESSAGE FROM DIRECTOR OF CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF AGING

May is Older Californians Month, when we take time to recognize and celebrate the individuals who have helped make our state a national leader in many areas: agriculture, technology, entertainment, and much more. There’s no shortage of accomplishments and innovations by older Californians!

There’s also a greater recognition of California’s changing demographics. There will be a sizable increase in the population of older adults in the next few years. Just as when this “Baby Boomer” generation was born, started school, entered the workforce, and started families, this is a time of change as the largest U.S. generation enters the next phase of their lives.

As individuals live longer and the aging population grows larger and becomes more diverse, there will be challenges. More older adults will struggle financially, trying to decide between paying their rent or purchasing necessary prescriptions. With age often comes medical issues, from dementia to mobility limitations to chronic conditions.

But there are also benefits. As a larger group of the population ages and remains active, we’ll be able to take advantage of a wealth of knowledge and experience gained over lifetimes. Families will enjoy more time together to share stories and celebrations. And our communities will benefit from engaging and partnering with older individuals who want to get involved and have the time to do so.

It’s clear that California’s systems to support older adults need a redesign—and that’s what you’re part of helping to bring to life through California’s Master Plan for Aging. This visionary plan is truly a blueprint for California’s future, acknowledging the issues we face and collaborating across silos and sectors to develop solutions.

11-5
We must focus on building a person-centered, statewide system of programs, services, and supports, where Californians will come to one place to access information and resources about everything from Medi-Cal benefits to Medicare coverage to financial assistance with utility bills to caregiving support. The partnerships that have driven progress on MPA initiatives over the past few years, between public and private entities, elected officials and our state government, healthcare organizations, older adults and families, will develop and deliver the system Californians need as we age.

**Governor Newsom’s proclamation** about Older Americans Month recognizes those efforts and reiterates his support to build “a vibrant, equitable future for Californians of all ages and abilities.” I’m excited to continue collaborating with this inspiring group of people and organizations with a shared mission to transform aging in ways that increase choices, equity, and well-being for all Californians. There’s no doubt there will be challenges, but as Californians have shown over many generations since our state was established, we will lead the nation!

So, during the celebration of Older Californians this May, let’s acknowledge, recognize, appreciate, and celebrate the many contributions that older adults have made to our state, our nation, and the world. And let’s pledge to continue to innovate, partner, and collaborate to build a brighter future for all Californians as we age, together.

In partnership,

Susan DeMaroис
Director, California Department of Aging

11-6