



AREA AGENCY ON AGING
San Benito & Santa Cruz Counties

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

PROJECT SCOUT
Tax Counseling Assistance

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

AREA AGENCY ON AGING ADVISORY COUNCIL

Wednesday May 15, 2024

10 a.m. – 12 Noon

**Seniors Council Conference Room - 236 Santa Cruz Ave
Aptos, CA**

*Take the State Park Drive/Seacliff Beach exit off of Highway 1. Turn towards the beach.
Santa Cruz Ave is the last street on your left before you enter the state park.*

Guest can also join via Zoom - *In person seating is limited*
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86490817703>

Meeting ID: 864 9081 7703
One tap mobile
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Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/k6W3Ygvu>

AGENDA

- 10 a.m.
1. Welcome, Call to Order and Introductions
 2. Additions & Deletions to the Agenda
 3. Receive Announcements from Advisory Council Members
 4. Comments from Members of the Public on Items Not on the Agenda
 5. **CONSENT AGENDA**
Approve minutes of March 2024 Advisory Council Meeting

234 Santa Cruz Avenue • Aptos, California 95003 **www.seniorscouncil.org**
PHONE: AAA – (831) 688-0400 • FG/SCP – (831) 475-0816 • SCOUT – 1-877-373-8297 • FAX: (831) 688-1225

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MONTEREY, SAN BENITO, & SANTA CRUZ COUNTIES & YOUR PRIVATE DONATIONS

- 10:10 6. In-Home Supportive Services Presentation
- 10:30 7. Advocacy Committee Report
1. SB 1249
 2. Live Oak Senior Center
 3. "CORE" Santa Cruz Community Program Funding
 4. California Senior Legislature
- 11:00 8. Consider Changes to Agency Personnel Policies
- 11:10 9. Executive Director's Report
1. Ombudsman RFP Update
 2. Master Plan for Aging & Solutions Summits
 3. State & Community Activities
- 11:30 10. Program Reports (written)
1. Aging & Disability Resource Connection (ADRC)
 2. Project SCOUT
- 11:45 11. Miscellaneous Correspondence & Other Items
Discuss Next Meeting Date – Scheduled for June 19th
- 12 Noon 12. Adjourn

***Next Meeting:
Wednesday, June 19, 2024?? Cancel due to Holiday?***

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.



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AREA AGENCY ON AGING ADVISORY COUNCIL
(Held in person at Aptos office with hybrid Zoom broadcast)

April 17, 2024

MINUTES

ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Sandy Brown (City of Santa Cruz)
Angela Curro (San Benito County Board of Supervisors) [Zoom]
Tanya Ridino (Senior Legal Services)
Mark Johannessen (At-large, Seniors Commission)

ALTERNATES PRESENT:

Gine Johnson (alternate B. McPherson)

ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS EXCUSED:

Bruce McPherson (Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors)
Justin Cummings (Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors)
Yvette Brooks (City of Capitola)
Allan Timms (City of Scotts Valley)
Casey Clark (City of Watsonville)
Bea Gonzales (San Benito County Board of Supervisors)
Rick Perez (City of Hollister)
Jackie Morris-Lopez (City of San Juan Bautista)
Leslie Q. Jordan (City of San Juan Bautista)
Chuck Molnar (At-large, Seniors Commission)

VACANCIES:

Representative of Persons with Disabilities/Low Income; CSL Rep.; At Large Rep.

STAFF PRESENT:

Clay Kempf, Seniors Council Executive Director; Patty Talbott, AAA Administrator; Zach Johnson, Seniors Council Administrative Services Officer; Britt Bassoni, ADRC

OTHERS PRESENT:

Alicia Rodriguez (GoldenPACE); Dulce ? (County of San Benito Administration)

1. Welcome, Call to Order and Introductions

Chair Sandy Brown called the meeting to order at 10:05 AM. Introductions were made. NO QUORUM.

2. Additions and Deletions to the Agenda

Gine request discussion on next steps for planning Solutions Summit.
Angela requested discussion on SB 1249.

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3. Receive Announcements from Advisory Council Members

None.

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

None.

5. Consent Agenda

Not voted on due to lack of quorum.

6. Hearing/Presentation – 2024-28 Area Plan

Patty presented slideshow about AAA services; population projections; area plan requirements; assessing local needs (CASOA, Age Well, LGBTQI survey, Solutions Summits). Full plan available on website.

Discussed CASOA results and potential impact on need for services. Discussed 2024-5 priorities including provider network, MPA Solutions Summit, Live Oak Senior Center, and others.

Patty said Goals are in packet, briefly reviewed them.

Reviewed distribution of funding and requirements for various Title III categories. Also reviewed service providers in the area.

Mark requested the slide about demographics for use in advocacy.

Gine asked about “means testing prohibited”, Patty said that income is not a factor or ability to make a contribution in Older Americans Act programs, so attempt to target most vulnerable population in providing.

Gine requested a line-item budget for programs, Clay pointed to 6-15 in packet and said could provide more details; typical admin is 9% agency wide, slightly less for AAA.

7. Committee Reports

1. Advocacy Committee –

- a. SB 1249 – Clay reported on recent testimony along with Will Tift, despite lack of advance notice for opposition. Bill is moving forward, but Senator Roth indicated agreement with our concerns. Primary concerns are counties petitioning to take over AAAs and state mandated priorities. Would also pose significant challenges for smaller, less well-funded areas like San Benito. Additionally, makes changes to Interstate Funding Formula, which was already heavily litigated. Next step is Senate Committee on Governance Organization next Tuesday, Clay plans to attend. Tanya suggested this could be the motivation behind the rest of the legislation. Gine said motivation is transparency and accountability for CBO-run AAAs (6 out of 33). Clay said bill also targets JPAs, and CDA has not provided any documentation for that claim. Angela clarified that CBOs are non-profits (like Seniors Council), and noted that impact on SBC would be devastating.
- b. Live Oak Senior Center – Live Oak School District in financial crisis while efforts continue. Community Bridges was offered two-year extension with some other requirements. Meal site now reopening now under discussion. Alternative site now confirmed for school gardening program. LOSD has seen many high-level

resignations. No path to sale currently, but possible multi-year pre-payment of rent. Several severe repair issues persist, including plumbing and HVAC.

2. California Senior Legislature – No report.

8. Ombudsman Program RFP

Clay gave a brief recap of current situation leading to partnership of Advocacy Inc and SNS. RFP was widely distributed. Alliance on Aging from Monterey and Senior Network Services attended bidder's conference, AOA declined. Panel reviewed application from SNS on Monday. Decision was to advance SNS' proposal with some conditions, and will request that CDA do an on-site review. SNS has agreed to conditions. Mark reported on panel discussion process. Still some budget concerns, but SNS presented options to boost funding sources. State still needs to certify our selection.

9. Executive Director Report

1. Agency Operations – Clay complimented Project SCOUT and Ed's work this tax season. Mark asked if they are processing extensions, Clay confirmed that they are.
2. Master Plan for Aging & Solutions Summits – Co-sponsoring with San Benito Community Foundation. Hiring in progress, agenda is mostly confirmed. Advisory committee being created in Santa Cruz County. More details TBD. Gine reported on County's contract with Clarity to plan and facilitate Summit in September. Mark said that Seniors Commission would like communications to be addressed as a topic. Gine noted that landlines will probably be discontinued at some point and broadband implemented to replace it.
3. State & Community Activities – Listed in written report.

10. Program Reports (written)

1. ADRC – Britt reported on revisions to work plan, due end of April. Quarterly report also due end of month. Continued collaboration with SNS, still pursuing possible ADRC in Santa Cruz County. Farmer's Market season beginning in Hollister, tabling with area partners. More iPads ordered via remaining affordable connectivity funds.
2. Project SCOUT – *in packet*.

11. Miscellaneous Correspondence

12. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:50

Next meeting: May 15th, 2024

Minutes prepared by: Zachary Johnson



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FALLS PREVENTION PROGRAM
Emergency Response Systems, Assessments & Training

Date: 5-10-24

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

From: Clay Kempf, Executive Director

RE: May Advocacy Committee Report

Our May Advocacy Committee has not yet met this month, but on Monday, May 13, will be discussing our continued opposition to SB 1249 (the billing inviting counties to take over AAAs and for the State to create one-size-fits-all AAA statewide priorities); Live Oak School District and the Live Oak Senior Center; and CORE Community Program Funding. The Advocacy Committee's discussion will be share with both the Board & the Advisory Council during our meetings.

A brief update on each follows:

SB 1249: The bill has passed through all Senate Committees and now goes to the full Senate for a vote before being assigned to various committees in the Assembly.

Live Oak Senior Center: This week the Live Oak School District Board of Directors rejected the lease agreement that had been negotiated with the LOSD Superintendent and Board President, on the grounds that the amount of funding for retroactive repairs to the building being offered by Community Bridges was not sufficient. Responding to my public comment about the LOSD purchase of the property via a 2004 Bond that told voters it would provide a permanent home for the Live Oak Senior Center, LOSD Jeremy Ray stated that "the public was duped by that Bond Act".

CORE Funding: The County and City of Santa Cruz have agreed to carve out \$1.5 million of the \$5.9 million community program allocation to address homelessness/stable, affordable housing. No increases to the baseline funding to provide this for carve out or adjust for inflation was included.



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Date: 5-10-2024

To: Seniors Council Board of Directors

From: Clay Kempf, Executive Director & Seniors Council Executive Committee

RE: Personnel Policy Changes

BACKGROUND

Our Executive Committee doubles as the Seniors Council Personnel Committee, and this month have two recommended changes; one regarding the creation of a Travel Advance form and clarification of our process, and the other the adoption of agency-wide communication guidelines.

TRAVEL ADVANCE REQUEST FORM

Our existing travel reimbursement policy provides for staff to receive travel advance payments, but has no description of how to do so. Several of our staff are often required to travel as part of their regular job duties, and at times this can create a financial hardship on them. In order to clarify our policy and streamline (and, for audit purposes) document our process, we are recommend changing our policy as follows:

***Current Policy:* Travel Advance Payment**

In general, travel costs are incurred by the individual first and are reimbursed by the agency afterward. In some cases, particularly when travel costs are expected to be substantial, the individual may receive a Travel Advance. When the claim for reimbursement is submitted, the amount of the advance payment will be listed on the face of the claim, and will be deducted from the total reimbursement amount.

Proposed Addition:

To request a travel advance, the staff person will submit a request on the Agency Travel Advance form, and submit it to their Program Director or the Executive Director for approval. Requests from the Executive Director shall be submitted to the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors.

The form to be used is included in this packet.

SENIORS COUNCIL COMMUNICATIONS GUIDELINES

Open, respectful and productive communication has always been a Seniors Council value. The willingness and opportunity to problem solve and explore diverse solutions to increasingly growing community challenges facing the agency are more important now than ever. Because of the complexity of these challenges, our ability to share sometimes conflicting ideas with each other and not take responses personally can only benefit if we agree to do so. Consequently, tools and guidelines have been discussed internally at several levels.

The Seniors Council Program Directors (Cristina Banuelos – FGP/SCP; Ed Santana – Project SCOUT; Britt Bassoni – ADRC; Clay Kempf - AAA) reviewed and edited the attached Communications Guidelines for possible adoption. The four of us discussed the draft further at our April All-Agency staff meeting for additional feedback, made a few minor changes, and then submitted it to the Seniors Council Executive Committee for their consideration, with a request that it be sent to the Board of Directors for adoption as part of our Personnel Policies. Our proposal includes the guidelines being signed by all current agency staff and added to the new hire packets for any employees hired in the future.

ACTION

The Executive Committee recommends adoption of both of these items, and encourages discussion regarding extending the Communications Guidelines to include the Board of Directors.



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Travel Advance Agreement

I, **[employee name]**, request an advance payment of **[\$ amount]** on my travel reimbursement for the following reason:

I acknowledge this is a debt to the employer, the Seniors Council of Santa Cruz and San Benito Counties, and I agree to submit documentation for these expenses within 15 days of the expenditure. Failure to submit documentation automatically authorizes the Seniors Council to deduct the amount from my wages starting on the pay period 15 days after the travel is completed, unless other arrangements are made in writing.

I further agree that any balance will be deducted from my final paycheck upon resignation or termination of employment if any debt is outstanding at that time, and as permitted under California law.

Employee signature: _____

Employee name and date: _____

Program or Executive Director signature: _____

Program or Executive Director name and date: _____

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SERVICE ♦ SUPPORT ♦ ADVOCACY

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Seniors Council Communication Guidelines

Group Guidelines

- We are all part of the same team; we collectively own problems, and we collectively solve them.
- We acknowledge that we all have different strengths & different weaknesses, and use our skills to support rather than to undermine our programs and each other.
- We discuss personal relationships in private with only those involved taking part in the conversation.
- We create space for all ideas.
- We help, respect, and support others.
- We try to “keep it light” and add humor when appropriate.
- We are polite to each other and use statements like “please” and “thank you”.
- We allow conflict and differing ideas to exist, and we recognize that tension may be expected.
- We openly and respectfully discuss disagreements as part of our decision-making process.
- We discuss solutions, not blame.
- We work towards balancing *cool* feedback with *warm* feedback.
- We do not call people names.
- We minimize side conversations during meetings.
- We always give feedback that is supported with data whenever possible.
- We keep internal agency matters confidential unless sharing is called for.
- We avoid second-guessing and continuing debates after a decision is made.

Individual Guidelines

- I commit to practicing these guidelines.
- I listen to the message and not the messenger.
- I am mindful of other people’s time and work schedules.
- I may use colleagues to help practice these Communication Guidelines.
- I check out my assumptions, by communicating with those involved, and I am not afraid to ask questions.
- I talk directly to any person with whom I have an issue in a timely & respectful manner.
- I am accountable for speaking my own ideas.
- I ask for what I need.
- I am personally accountable.
- I am honest.
- I foster a willingness to forgive, to learn and to move on.
- I agree to follow our Personnel Policies and Agency guidelines.

• Accepted by Employee: _____

Date: _____

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Date: 5-10-2024

To: Seniors Council Board of Directors

From: Clay Kempf, Executive Director

RE: Long Term Care Ombudsman RFP Update

BACKGROUND

Last month our Board & Advisory Council received a report from our Proposal Review Committee regarding contracting for Long Term Care Ombudsman services in our PSA, covering both Santa Cruz & San Benito Counties. That report recommended that the contract be awarded to the Senior Network Services/Advocacy Inc. partnership, provided certain conditions were met within the next 30 days. The conditions included:

- Budget discrepancies in the proposal are rectified, including:
 - Clarification of staff salary & benefit costs
 - Explanation of missing Administrative Overhead costs
 - Explanation of proposed increase of administrative support yet decrease of administrative overhead costs
- Provision of an Org Chart that includes Ombudsman and other AAA services, such as HICAP, Information & Assistance, Family Caregiver, etc.
- Provide written strategy to address lack of cultural diversity in staff and Board.
- Provide written strategy to address Board vacancies & absence of San Benito County representation
- Provide written report regarding actions taken to address corrective action letter dated January 24, 2024.

Additionally, AAA staff will closely monitor the contracted performance of the contractor, including quarterly performance reviews regarding staff training & development; Senior Network Services & Advocacy Inc. Board of Directors minutes, review of monthly fiscal reports. AAA staff will also request the California Department of Aging conduct their overdue Long Term Care Ombudsman Program Monitoring visit.

9.1-1

STATUS REPORT

Progress on completing these items is underway but not yet completed. The corrective actions from our January 2024 letter are done, pending formal action by the Seniors Network Services & Advocacy Inc. Boards of Directors to officially modify the Management Services Agreement (MSA) between the two organizations. With the modification of the MSA, Advocacy Inc. Board President Russ Menk has taken on the responsibility of approving any official actions of the organization, essentially fulfilling the role of an Executive Director.

The draft document has been produced by SNS and shared, and meets our concerns. Additionally, additional staff has been hired in the person of Geoffrey Lyons, who has been trained and approved by the California Department of Aging as the local Ombudsman Program Coordinator. Geoffrey is engaging with the local Aging Services network in addition to performing his daily duties.

Clarifications to the budget, budget narrative and administrative/program support costs are underway. Corey Azevedo and his team are communicating with me and working on updating their budget display and narrative information. Additionally, since our proposal review committee met and made our recommendations, the County of San Benito has committed to provide ongoing funding in 2024-25.

Recruitment is underway for a new staff Ombudsman, with the vacancy being announced this morning during the San Benito County Aging and Long Term Care Commission meeting.

I'll provide an additional status update on this and the remaining items (Org Chart; Board Recruitment Strategy) during our Advisory Council & Board meetings.

2024 SOLUTIONS SUMMIT

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

Presented By:

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

in partnership with

The Community Foundation for San Benito County

Agenda

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

9:30 **Introduction & Overview**

Pam Arnsberger, President, Seniors Council?

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

9:45 **Official Welcome** – *Angela Curro, Chair, BOS, Area Agency on
Aging Advisory Council*

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

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

- Creation of the Master Plan for Aging
- A Dynamic Plan designed for Local Implementation
- The Five Bold Goals
 1. Housing for all Ages & Stages
 2. Caregiving that Works
 3. Health Reimagined
 4. Affording Aging
 5. Inclusion & Equity, Not Isolation

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

11:00 **Breakout Group Discussions** – (Solutions Development)

12:15 LUNCH BREAK

1:00 **Solution Reports Presented by the Breakout Groups**

1:45 **Action Steps: Formation of Work Groups, Convening Plans, & Report Back Process**

2:00 **Wrap up** – Acknowledgements and Thanks, and, Next Steps!

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

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



GOVERNOR NEWSOM'S REVISED 2024-25 STATE BUDGET

A Balanced Budget that Cuts Spending, Makes Government Leaner, and Preserves Core Services — Without Proposing New Taxes on Hardworking Californians

KEY TAKEAWAYS:



A BALANCED BUDGET OVER TWO YEARS

The Governor is solving two years of budget problems in a single budget, **lightening the state's belt** to get the budget back to normal after the tumultuous years of the COVID-19 pandemic. By addressing the shortfall for this budget year — *and next year* — **the Governor is eliminating the 2024-25 deficit and eliminating a projected deficit for the 2025-26 budget year** that is \$27.6 billion (after taking an early budget action) and \$28.4 billion respectively. This approach will set California on a sound and fiscally responsible path. By making tough and responsible decisions now, the state is projected to have a positive operating reserve balance over the next two fiscal years.



CUTTING SPENDING, MAKING GOVERNMENT LEANER

Governor Newsom's revised balanced state budget **cuts one-time spending by \$19.1 billion and ongoing spending by \$13.7 billion** through 2025-26, including through a nearly 8% cut to state operations and a targeted elimination of 10,000 unfilled state positions, improving government efficiency and reducing non-essential spending — without raising taxes on individuals or proposing state worker furloughs. The budget makes **government more efficient, leaner, and modern** — saving costs by streamlining procurement, cutting bureaucratic red tape, and reducing redundancies.



PRESERVING CORE SERVICES & SAFETY NETS

The budget **maintains service levels for many key housing, food, health care, and other assistance programs** that Californians rely on while addressing the deficit by **pausing the expansion** of certain programs and decreasing numerous recent one-time and ongoing investments.



NO NEW TAXES & MORE RAINY DAY SAVINGS

Governor Newsom is balancing the budget by getting state spending under control — **cutting costs, not proposing new taxes** on hardworking Californians and small businesses — and reducing the reliance on the state's "Rainy Day" reserves this year.

HOW WE GOT HERE:

The budget shortfall is rooted in two separate but related developments over the past two years:

#1: REVENUE PROJECTIONS

California's revenue is highly dependent on personal income taxes, including taxing capital gains — the taxing of profits when individuals buy or sell stocks. In 2021, the stock market (especially tech stocks important to California's economy) boomed and the state collected significant tax revenue. Following a 2022 market downturn, the state collected significantly less taxes than projected. And while the market bounced back by late 2023, the state continued to collect less tax revenue than projected in part due to something called "capital loss carryover," which allows losses from previous years to reduce how much an individual is taxed.

#2: IRS DELAYS

Under typical circumstances, market declines would become evident as tax receipts were received, but following extreme winter storms across the state in 2023, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) extended the tax filing deadline for 99% of all California taxpayers. The delayed tax receipts, coupled with the ways the pandemic upset economic indicators, made it difficult to accurately predict revenues. Once processed after the federal delay to November 16, key tax receipts were 22% lower than projected. Without a delay, the revenue drop would have been incorporated into last year's budget and the shortfall this year would be significantly smaller.

BIGGER PICTURE:

LONG-STANDING VOLATILITY

California's revenues are highly dependent on personal income tax, including capital gains, which significantly fluctuate based on economic and stock market conditions. As a result, California's budget conditions, relying on fluctuating revenue, have always been volatile — across both Democrat and Republican administrations.

CALIFORNIA REMAINS STRONG

The Governor's revised balanced budget sets the state up for continued economic success. California's economy remains the 5th largest economy in the world and for the first time in years, the state's [population is increasing](#) and [tourism spending](#) recently experienced a record high. California is #1 in the nation for new [business starts](#), #1 for access to venture capital [funding](#), and the #1 state for [manufacturing](#), [high-tech](#), and [agriculture](#).



ADRC of San Benito County Staff Report – May 2024

ADRC Staff attended a session of the bi-monthly statewide meeting of the Digital Connections Program. CDCA Staff announced that soon the survey data and findings of the statewide older adult survey regarding the impacts of technology on mitigating the effects of social isolation and loneliness is going to be released soon by the survey contractors. Staff also confirmed the closeout of the FCC's Affordable Connectivity Program. Staff also encouraged local participation in new federal grant funding award planning input for middle and last mile broadband service coverage. Seniors Council is purchasing an additional 28 iPads with Digital Connections Project closeout funds and will receive outreach, eligibility, enrollment, and distribution assistance through the ADRC and its No Wrong Door Partnership in San Benito County. These iPads do not come with free data plans, but can connect via public wi-fi, or through the use of a cellular data plan.

ADRC Staff met with Seniors Council, Project SCOUT, and State CalFresh Staff to discuss progress toward additional CalFresh expansion in San Benito County. State Staff were interested in what partners and which approaches the group had worked with to-date, and were impressed with the idea of partnering with local low and moderate-income based tax preparation programs to help identify eligible individuals for CalFresh benefits. Eligible, but unenrolled individuals are estimated to number somewhat more than 700 countywide, so the funding is being directed at trying to find and enroll this relatively small number of people, in an effort to further increase the ability of low-income individuals to access and obtain food supports. To date, the partnership has provided a few dozen eligibility screenings in San Benito County, but only has a few enrollments to show for the work.

ADRC attended numerous aging, disability, and ADRC-related sessions at the California Association of Area Agencies on Aging (C4A) Annual Conference in San Jose, on May 1st - 3rd, in San Jose, CA. ADRC Nuts & Bolts; ADRC and California's Master Plan for Aging; CA 2030 and the Evolution of the Aging & Disability Network; Aging In Place – Initiatives the Work; and Emergency and Disaster Preparedness: Integrating AAAs and CBOs into State and Local Preparedness and Response. The keynote speakers, Fernando Torres-Gil, Emeritus, UCLA Luskin School of Public Affairs and Sandy Markwood, CEO of USAging, among others, were informative, insightful, and inspiring. The workshop presentations were also informative and well attended, and the opportunity to connect and share knowledge and information with other professionals was invaluable, as well as energizing. Thank you to the Seniors Council Board of Directors for supporting ADRC Staff's attendance at this important annual event.

ADRC Staff is currently working with Seniors Council Fiscal Staff to prepare, finalize, and submit the FY24/25 ADRC Infrastructure Grant Project Budget to CDA for review and approval. The budget increased just slightly to \$200,124 for the upcoming fiscal year, based on the current statewide allocation and funding formula. The FTE supported by the budget remain largely unchanged. Slightly under 2.5 FTE, with 2 FTE supporting direct consumer core services delivery. The approved admin rate is less than 10%. Organizational administration at Seniors Council, as well as ADRC program management staff remain confident that the program provides exceptional value for State funding allocated for its support.

The ADRC NWD Network and the San Benito County Aging and Long Term Care Commission (ALTCC) membership have begun seasonal participation in community resources tabling and outreach at the Hollister Farmer's Market, organized by the Hollister Downtown Association. The Aging and Long Term Care Commission of San Benito County (ALTCC), the ADRC, and ADRC NWD Network partners are all participating in awareness-building and outreach at the Market, on 3rd Wednesdays, throughout the season. Please contact Leanne Oliveira at leanneo@seniorscouncil.org if you have questions, want to participate as an organization, or would like to volunteer your time or other energies in helping to share community support information through these events.

ADRC and Seniors Council Staff continue planning discussions and timeline development for Seniors Council's Local Aging & Disability Action Planning (LADAP) Grant to develop a local action plan in support of the State's Master Plan on Aging (MPA). Seniors Council has sent out invitations to the event, and is looking forward to a great turnout for the local Solution Summit service provider and community input event scheduled for May 30th, 2024, at the Community Foundation for San Benito County's Epicenter. ADRC NWD Network partners are encouraged to participate in sharing their collective knowledge and insights for the creation of a local plan to address aging and disability needs and issues, as a part of this process. Plans for a similar Solution Summit event in Santa Cruz County are being discussed for later this fall; Seniors Council, as the local LADAP grantee will help lead this effort, along with the County of Santa Cruz.



AREA AGENCY ON AGING
San Benito & Santa Cruz Counties

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

PROJECT SCOUT
Tax Counseling Assistance

FALLS PREVENTION PROGRAM
Emergency Response Systems, Assessments & Training

PROJECT SCOUT

End of April 2024 Report

We made it through tax season!..

April 15 is not just a significant date on the calendar but a testament to the dedication Project SCOUT volunteers showcase. It's a day that marks the culmination of long hours, meticulous attention to detail, and the collective determination poured into helping assist countless individuals in successfully filing their taxes for free, claiming their credits, and maximizing their refunds.

We embarked on this season with ambitious goals, and as of April, we've already assisted at least 1,385 taxpayers and provided at least \$2,202,583.00 in refunds in Santa Cruz and San Benito Counties!

The work that Project SCOUT performs continues. Thanks to the efforts of our volunteers, and the support of our partners, we are able to continue providing services to those in our communities that need it most, aiming to expand our reach to those most at-risk and who may not file but who could benefit from credits by doing so, knowing that Project SCOUT's efforts have real, meaningful outcomes for so many. As Program Director I want to thank every single volunteer that assisted us with tax preparation services during this tax season, from answering phones at the office, to setting up appointments, to supporting our IT needs, to actual tax prep. The work from our outstanding volunteers, and the passion they bring to the work performed creates a community dedicated to making a difference in our communities—as we do, year after year!

Project SCOUT will focus its efforts in May to apply for grants to support the program, mainly the VITA and TCE grants that allow for the work we perform to continue. Both are due in May. Furthermore, 6 reports to funders are due in May as well. Lastly, we are currently assessing continued services for the duration of the year, both taxes and CalFresh. Currently as of the writing of this report, we have signed up for continued, at least once-per-month services both of Project SCOUT's offices in Aptos and Watsonville, at the Santa Cruz downtown Public Library, Watsonville Public Library, and Jovenes de Antano (Hollister Senior Center).

10.2-1

VITA/TCE Sites in APRIL 2024 (All by appointment ONLY)

1. Project SCOUT Facilitated Self Assistance ALL Online: <http://tinyurl.com/SCOUTFSA>
2. Project SCOUT TCE ALL (Remote and ad-hoc for at-risk seniors and disabled)
3. Highlands Park Senior Center Ben Lomond (Wed and Thurs 10:00-1:00)
4. Santa Cruz Public Library Downtown (Tues and Sat 10:00-3:00)
5. London Nelson Community Center Santa Cruz (Thurs 9:30-12:30)
6. Market Street Senior Center Santa Cruz (Wed 1:30-3:30)
7. Mid-County Senior Center Capitola (Wed 9:00-12:00)
8. Capitola Public Library (Wed 2:00-5:00)
9. United Way of Santa Cruz Capitola (Tues and Fri 3:30-5:30)
10. Aptos Project SCOUT Office (Tues and Thurs 9:00-12:00, 5:00-8:00)
11. La Manzana Community Center Watsonville (Tues 9:00-2:00)
12. Watsonville Public Library (Wed 5:00-8:00)
13. Watsonville Senior Center (Mon and Wed 9:00-12:00)
14. Jovenes de Antano Hollister (Wed 6pm-8:00pm, Fri 1:00-4:00)

Ad-Hoc Sites (All by appointment ONLY)

1. La Posada Retirement Community Santa Cruz
2. Brookdale Assisted Living Scotts Valley

Project SCOUT APRIL Production Totals

Totals for this month were not provided by our IRS SPEC. this are again the totals from the end of March:

Project SCOUT Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Tax Preparation Totals:

- Number of Federal returns prepared – 1385
- Dollar Amount of Federal refunds – \$1,288,395.00
- Dollar Amount of State refunds – \$263,543.00
- Dollar Amount of EITC Claimed – \$345,956
- ITIN Count – 47

Dollar Amount of TOTAL refunds – **\$1,897,883.00**

Total money back in the wallets of our clients, including average return cost of \$220.00 – **\$2,202,583!**

10.2-2

Project SCOUT APRIL CALFRESH Services

As tax season ends, Project SCOUT envisions contacting all those low income clients serviced during tax season offering Calfresh services. Most will already have it, or not be interested. This was by far the most efficient approach to signing seniors and the disabled last year.

Calfresh Services (end of April):

- Number of Senior and disabled clients assessed for services (Santa Cruz County)– 50
- Number of Senior and disabled clients assessed for services (Santa Benito County)– 51
- Number of clients assisted with Calfresh in Santa Cruz County – 3
- Number of clients assisted with Calfresh in San Benito County – 1

April 5th Tacos and Taxes Jovenes de Antano (Hollister):

Project SCOUT had a very successful event Partnering with the office of Robert Rivas, Golden State Opportunity (GSO), and Jovenes de Antano (Hollister Senior Center). Project Scout helped 37 clients with tax completion and a total of 45 clients with questions, appointments, etcetera!

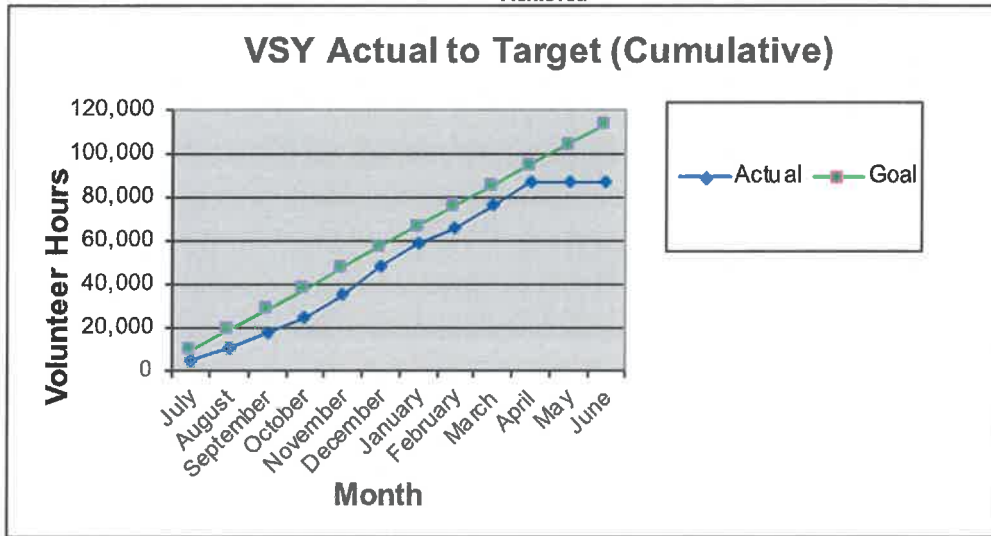
At this event, we were able to assist a grandmother who had not done taxes in years who had just recently started caring for two of her grandkids as their mother has become disabled and unable to provide for them. Not only did the taxpayer not know that she could claim them, but also that she could benefit from credits due to said dependents that will help the family make payments for food daily necessities. For the taxpayer, every penny counts, as she had to go back to work when the two grandkids moved in. She was beyond happy with the outcome, and will come back to do 2021 and 2022 returns.

Project Name: Seniors Council Foster Grandparent Program

Grant Year: 7/1/23- 6/30/24

Month	Cumulative Hours Actual	Cumulative Hours Goal	Monthly VSY Actual	Monthly VSY Goal	Monthly Hours Actual	Monthly Vols. Active	Annual VSY Goal
July	4,976	9,483	4.77	9.08	4,976	118	109
August	10,560	18,966	5.35	9.08	5,585	119	109
September	17,453	28,449	6.60	9.08	6,893	120	109
October	24,816	37,932	7.05	9.08	7,363	118	109
November	35,171	47,415	9.92	9.08	10,355	116	109
December	48,033	56,898	12.32	9.08	12,862	121	109
January	58,860	66,381	10.37	9.08	10,827	123	109
February	66,038	75,864	6.88	9.08	7,179	126	109
March	76,420	85,347	9.94	9.08	10,382	128	109
April	86,804	94,830	9.95	9.08	10,384	127	109
May	86,804	104,313	0.00	9.08			109
June	86,804	113,796	0.00	9.08			109
TOTAL			83.15		86,804		

Total VSYS Achieved

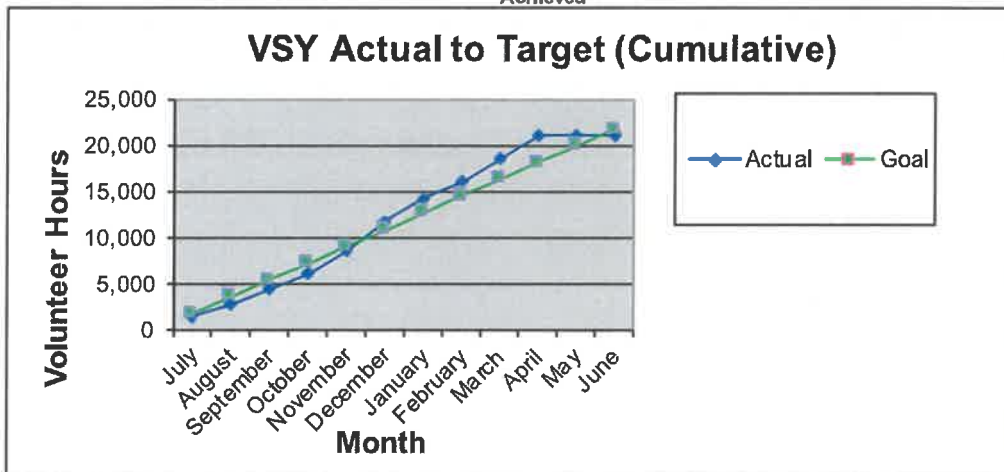


Project Name: Seniors Council Senior Companion Program

Grant Year: 7/1/23- 6/30/24

Month	Cumulative Hours Actual	Cumulative Hours Goal	Monthly VSY Actual	Monthly VSY Goal	Monthly Hours Actual	Monthly Vols. Active	Annual VSY Goal
July	1,540	1,827	1.48	1.75	1,540	26	21
August	2,852	3,654	1.26	1.75	1,312	26	21
September	4,492	5,481	1.57	1.75	1,640	25	21
October	6,184	7,308	1.62	1.75	1,691	25	21
November	8,682	9,135	2.39	1.75	2,498	25	21
December	11,870	10,962	3.05	1.75	3,189	30	21
January	14,355	12,789	2.38	1.75	2,485	33	21
February	16,157	14,616	1.73	1.75	1,802	29	21
March	18,673	16,443	2.41	1.75	2,516	30	21
April	21,190	18,270	2.41	1.75	2,517	31	21
May	21,190	20,097	0.00	1.75			21
June	21,190	21,924	0.00	1.75			21
TOTAL			20.30		21,190		

Total VSUs Achieved



Zachary Johnson

Subject: FW: Celebrating Our Volunteers for National Volunteer Month!

Begin forwarded message:

From: Meals on Wheels for Santa Cruz County - Community Bridges <info@cbridges.org>

Subject: Celebrating Our Volunteers for National Volunteer Month!

Date: April 30, 2024 at 6:05:21 PM PDT

To: Clay Kempf <clayk@seniorscouncil.org>

Reply-To: info@cbridges.org



Meals on Wheels for Santa Cruz County's small army of volunteers helps serve more than 1,300 older adults throughout Santa Cruz County.

Recognizing the Generosity of Our Volunteers

As April draws to a close, we reflect on the incredible spirit of generosity and service that defines National Volunteer Month. It's a time to recognize the invaluable contributions of those who selflessly give their time and energy to support others, embodying the true essence of community.

Recently, we had the privilege of hosting a Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast on April 25th, a heartfelt gathering where we celebrated the dedication of our remarkable roster of 75 volunteers. These individuals are the heart and soul of Meals on Wheels for Santa Cruz County, shining examples of compassion and commitment.

Our volunteers go above and beyond, not only delivering nourishing meals to participants' homes and assisting at our dining sites but also serving as vital connections in our community. In a county where one in every five older adults lives alone, their presence is a beacon of companionship, providing essential wellness checks and combating the loneliness that can lead to health decline.

Their impact extends far beyond companionship; it's also financial. Through their efforts, our program saves approximately \$200,000 annually, funds that are redirected to ensure that no older adult in our county goes hungry or feels forgotten. Their dedication is truly priceless, and without them, our ability to meet the growing needs of our aging population would be significantly challenged.

To each and every volunteer, we extend our deepest gratitude. Your kindness, caring, and service are the cornerstones of our mission. The Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast was a small token of our appreciation, but our gratitude knows no bounds.

If you or someone you know is inspired to join our family of volunteers, we invite you to visit CommunityBridges.org/volunteer/ and learn more about how you can make a difference.

Together, we can continue to ensure that every older adult receives the care, companionship, and support they deserve. Thank you for being the heart of our community.

HELP LOCAL SENIORS THRIVE

Leadership Changes for Meals on Wheels for Santa Cruz County



Meals on Wheels for Santa Cruz County is searching for a new program director.

We are beginning an exciting new chapter for Meals on Wheels for Santa Cruz County. We are embarking on a comprehensive nationwide search for a thoughtful, community-first, growth-minded director who can lead our program into the future. This search is crucial to ensuring that we find the right person who shares our values and vision for serving the older adults in our community and meeting their growing needs. If you know anyone who would be a good fit as our new director, please have them apply on our [careers page](#).

In the interim, I am pleased to announce that Dana Wagner is stepping into the role of interim director for Meals on Wheels for Santa Cruz County. Dana is the Program Director for Community Bridges' Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) program. She brings with her a wealth of experience, integrity, and a deep commitment to addressing community needs in thoughtful ways. I have full confidence that Dana is the perfect fit to keep

News & Notes

The last few newsletters might have looked a little different than previous ones. Community Bridges and Meals on Wheels for Santa Cruz County recently changed our donor and email database provider, so there might be some slight differences from newsletters.

Rest assured, Meals on Wheels for Santa Cruz County's monthly newsletter will continue at its normal tempo and Community Bridges' will continue to receive donations without interruption during the transition.

Think you were left off the Meals on Wheels newsletter during the transition? Contact Anna Vaage at annav@cbridges.org.

In the Press

Click the headlines below to read local and national news about Meals on Wheels for Santa Cruz County and older adult services.

- [A Proclamation on Older Americans Month, 2024](#)

11.1-2

Meals on Wheels for Santa Cruz County running efficiently and steadily through this transition period.

I also want to extend my gratitude to our Central Coast partners from Meals on Wheels of the Monterey Peninsula for their support during this time. Mark Hansen, their operations director, will be providing additional support to our program, ensuring that we continue to serve our community without interruption.

As we navigate this transition period together, I ask for your continued support and dedication to our mission. Together, we will ensure that Meals on Wheels for Santa Cruz County can continue to serve older adults in our community. Thank you for your ongoing support and for being the heart of our program.

—Raymon Cancino, CEO, Community Bridges

COME WORK WITH MEALS ON WHEELS

- [Unlock the power of giving back this volunteer month with Community Bridges](#)
- [1 in 5 older adults don't have someone they can depend on in time of need. It's driving up ER visits and food insecurity](#)

Plant-Based Eating



Although the popularity of eating “plant-based” has grown, this term currently lacks a formal definition in the United States. In the past, plant-based was often used to describe a vegetarian or vegan diet. More recently, plant-based has been used to describe an eating style that includes more foods that come from plants, like fruits, vegetables, grains, nuts and seeds. It’s also a term that may be used in the marketing of a food, like dairy alternatives and meat substitutes.

Are there benefits to eating more plant-based foods? People may choose to consume more plant-based foods for a variety of reasons, including:

- Health benefits associated with eating more fruits and vegetables.
- Concerns for the environment.
- A potential for lower grocery bills and food costs.

Beneficial nutrients to look for in plant-based products include:

- Calcium
- Vitamin D
- Vitamin B12
- Dietary Fiber
- Protein

Meanwhile, aim for low amounts of:

- Saturated fat
- Sodium
- Added sugars

For a healthy eating style that includes more plant-based foods, focus on ways to add more fruits, vegetables, and whole grains. For example:

- Designate a certain night or nights for meatless meals.
- Try substituting some or all of the meat in recipes with plant-based sources of protein, such as beans, tofu, tempeh or unsalted nuts and seeds.
- Include more vegetables and fruit without added sugars or salt in meals and snacks.

Information from Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics: eatright.org

Thank you for your ongoing support. Your kindness is transforming our community.

DONATE

VOLUNTEER

LEARN MORE

11.1-4



Our Contact Information

Community Bridges
519 Main Street
Watsonville, CA 95076
831-688-8840 ext. 205
<http://communitybridges.org/>

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THE ADVOCATE

Volume 5, Issue 1

April 2024

2024 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The committee hearing process for the 2024 Legislative Session has begun. Budget hearings are underway and the May Revise will be released in early May. The May Revise will provide us with an updated look at what the deficit amount is and where potential cuts will be made. As a reminder the legislature must pass its budget bill by June 15th.

Other key events to date include:

- The C4A Convention will be held in San Jose at the Santa Clara Convention Center from May 1st -3rd. This year, the conference theme is "The Aging and Disability Network: the Best is Yet to Come".
- Senior Rally Day will be held on May 8th. This year's focus will be on the budget deficit. There will be presentations by Kim McCoy Wade, Senior Advisor on Aging, Disability and Alzheimer's Governor's Office and Susan DeMarois, Director, Dept on Aging as well as the Chairs of the Aging and LTC, Senate Health and Human Services Committees. You may register by going to: <https://4csl.org/senior-rally-day/registration/>
- The California Collaborative for LTSS will hold its Advocacy Day on May 9th. The program will be conducted using a virtual format.
- California Department on Aging (CDA) is celebrating its 50th Anniversary. Go to https://www.aging.ca.gov/CDA_50th_Anniversary/ to learn more about the past accomplishments of CDA.
- The California Commission on Aging (CCoA) is celebrating 50 years of advocacy, partnership, and innovation on June 26th at the Sheraton Grand Sacramento.
- Justice in Aging has again compiled a summary of legislative bills that impact seniors by MPA goal. The current status of each these bills is identified on pages 2-7. ♦

THE ADVOCATE

is published quarterly and distributed to members of CSL and Friends of CSL, Area Agencies on Aging and key senior stakeholders throughout the state.

ABOUT CSL

The California Senior Legislature (CSL) is a volunteer body that was established under California law in 1980. Over its 44 year history the organization has been responsible for more than 210 bills signed into law to help seniors.

MISSION OF CSL

Helping to preserve and enhance the quality of life of older Californians and their families.

CSL

1020 N Street,
Room 527
Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 552-8056
www.4csl.org

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

CSL Priorities..... 2
 Bills Related to MPA.. 2
 Tax Check Off 8

CSL LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

The CSL press release on October 30, 2023 announced our 2023 CSL priorities. Those proposals that became bills by the February 16, 2024 deadline are presented below:

AB 2356 (Wallis): Personal Needs Allowance

California Senior Legislature

This bill would increase the monthly maintenance amount for personal and incidental needs from \$35 to \$50, and would require that the amount be increased annually. ♦

LEGISLATIVE BILLS RELATED TO THE MASTER PLAN FOR AGING

This year Justice in Aging has again compiled a summary of legislative bills that have been introduced that directly affect older adults as well as people with disabilities and that align with the goals of the MPA.

GOAL 1: HOUSING FOR ALL AGES AND STAGES

AB 1993 (Kalra): Residential Care Facilities for the Elderly

California Commission on Aging

This bill would amend the California Residential Care Facilities for the Elderly (RCFE) Act to expand the number of individuals they serve by replacing the six-bed cap with a “ten or fewer cap” while still being considered for residential use in the California code.

SB 37 (Caballero): Older Adults and Adults with Disabilities Housing Stability Act

Justice in Aging, Corporation for Supportive Housing, LeadingAge California, State Council on Developmental Disabilities, United Way of Greater LA 2024 Legislative Bills and Budget Requests Related to the Master Plan for Aging |

This bill would create rental stabilization subsidies that would enable thousands of older adults and people with disabilities annually to access or keep their housing. The subsidies would be made available to severely low-income Californians who are experiencing homelessness or at imminent risk of homelessness.

SB 1406 (Allen): RCFE Rate Increases

California Advocates for Nursing Home Reform

This bill clarifies that residents of RCFEs have the right to request, refuse, or terminate services. Residents are often forced to pay add-on charges for services they do not need and are led to believe they may not refuse.

Continued on Page 3

LEGISLATIVE BILLS RELATED TO THE MASTER PLAN FOR AGING

GOAL 2: HEALTH REIMAGINED

AB 486 (Kalra): Nursing Home Citations: Appeal Process

Disability Rights California

This bill would provide a more consistent framework for the appeals process across regulatory citations for long-term care facilities in California. This would reduce the burden on our superior court system and save judicial resources and taxpayer money. Furthermore, it would streamline and improve a process that is designed to hold negligent facilities (i.e., nursing homes) accountable.

AB 2685 (Ortega): Case Management Services

Senior Services Coalition of Alameda County

This bill would create a pilot program, administered by California Department of Aging (CDA), to increase capacity of the Older Americans Act funded Case Management programs in several sites throughout the state, and capture qualitative and quantitative data to measure the impact of case management on resolving the unmet social needs and improving health outcomes for low-income older adults

AB 2689 (Bains): Alzheimer's Disease

Alzheimer's Association

This bill extends until January 1, 2030, the provision that allows taxpayers to designate on their personal income tax return that a specified amount be contributed to the California Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementia Research Voluntary Tax Contribution Fund.

AB 2753 (Ortega): Durable Medical Equipment and Services

Western Center on Law and Poverty, National Health Law Program

This bill would clarify that durable medical equipment is a covered essential health benefit in California-regulated health plans and policies when prescribed by a doctor for rehabilitative or habilitative purposes. The bill would also remove limitations such as annual caps on durable medical equipment coverage.

AB 2956 (Boerner): Protecting Medi-Cal Coverage for Californians

Western Center on Law and Poverty, The Children's Partnership, Latino Coalition for a Health California

This bill would allow people to keep their Medi-Cal coverage for a full 12 months, regardless of changes in their income and would direct California to seek federal approval, when necessary, to make permanent the federal Medi-Cal flexibilities to reduce and remedy procedural terminations, simplify income verification requirements, increase automatic Medi-Cal renewals, and improve program outreach and customer service.

Continued on Page 4

LEGISLATIVE BILLS RELATED TO THE MASTER PLAN FOR AGING (CONT'D)

SB 980 (Wahab): Medi-Cal Dental Crowns and Implants

California Alliance for Retired Americans

This bill expands Medi-Cal to include dental implants and crowns as a covered benefit.

SB 1236 (Blakespear): Medicare Supplement Coverage

California Alliance for Retired Americans

This bill will establish a right to guaranteed issue for all Medicare patients seeking Medigap supplemental coverage and establishes an annual open enrollment period.

SB 1354 (Wahab): Medi-Cal Discrimination

*California Advocates for Nursing Home Reform
Office of the State Long Term Care Ombudsman*

This bill codifies the agreement signed by long term care facilities participating in the Medi-Cal program from discriminating against Medi-Cal beneficiaries in any manner, including, but not limited to, admission practices and discharge attempts.

GOAL 3: INCLUSION & EQUITY, NOT ISOLATION

AB 1911 (Gomez Reyes): Residential Care Facilities for the Elderly (RCFE) Complaint Investigation Reforms

California Advocates for Nursing Home Reform

This bill would make the RCFE complaint process more timely and efficient by imposing investigation deadlines for RCFE complaints and requiring written notice to the complainant when a complaint is received and assigned for investigation. This would align the RCFE complaint process with the nursing home complaint process.

AB 2075 (Alvarez): Designated Support Person Access during Public Health Emergency

California Advocates for Nursing Home Reform, Office of the State Long Term Care Ombudsman

This bill ensures long term care facility resident access to designated support persons and other critical service providers during public health emergencies.

AB 2207 (Gomez Reyes): State Boards and Commissions

California Commission on Aging

This bill would expand the membership of the Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders Advisory Committee, the CA Health Workforce Education and Training Council, the CA Workforce

Continued on Page 5

LEGISLATIVE BILLS RELATED TO THE MASTER PLAN FOR AGING (CONT'D)

GOAL 3: INCLUSION & EQUITY, NOT ISOLATION (cont'd)

Development Board, the CA Behavioral Health Planning Council, the Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission, and the Interagency Council on Homelessness to include the Executive Director of the CCoA or their designee, and/or the Director of the CDA.

AB 2620 (Bains): California Commission on Aging

California Commission on Aging

This bill seeks to modernize the Older Californians Act statute relating to the Commission on Aging. This bill revises the duties of the Commission, among other things, to require advisory participation in considerations of initiatives, resolutions and executive orders for programs and services affecting older adults, adults with disabilities, and caregivers.

AB 2636 (Bains): Older Californians Act

California Association of Area Agencies on Aging

This bill would recast and revise various provisions of the Older Californians Act, including updating findings and declarations relating to statistics and issues of concern to the older adult population, and replacing references throughout the act from “senior,” and similar terminology to “older adult.” 2024 Legislative Bills and Budget Requests Related to the Master Plan for Aging. |

AB 2680 (Aguiar Curry): Alzheimer’s Disease

Alzheimer’s Association

This bill would update the state’s Alzheimer’s and Related Disorders Advisory Committee to add new members, conform term lengths, remove stigmatizing language, and uplift diversity. Older Californians Act in response to the stakeholder engagement resulting in the creation of the California 2030 report.

SB 639 (Limon): Alzheimer’s Disease

Alzheimer’s Association

This bill would update the state Alzheimer’s Disease Centers to include Dementia Care Aware, which will improve state systems that help people receive a timely and accurate diagnosis.

SB 1249 (Roth): Older Californians Act

California Commission on Aging

This bill seeks to modernize the Older Californians Act in response to the stakeholder engagement resulting in the creation of the California 2030 report.

Continued on Page 6

LEGISLATIVE BILLS RELATED TO THE MASTER PLAN FOR AGING (CONT'D)

GOAL 4: CAREGIVING THAT WORKS

AB 518 (Wicks): Paid Family Leave

This bill would expand the definition of “family member” and “family care leave” which will allow family caregivers to take paid family leave to care for individuals related by blood or whose association with the caregiver is the equivalent of a family relationship.

AB 1006 (McKinnor): Aging and Disability Resource Connection program: No Wrong Door System

SEIU California

This bill would require the California Department of Aging to establish a statewide respite referral registry to match Medi-Cal consumers with vetted, culturally competent, respite providers, under the Aging and Disability Resource Connection No Wrong Door System.

AB 2123 (Papan): Paid Family Leave

Legal Aid at Work

Allows workers to access Paid Family Leave without having to use accrued vacation time first.

AB 3079 (Ting): In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS)

City and County of San Francisco

This bill would allow an IHSS care recipient to choose an undocumented relative as their provider.

SB 1090 (Durazo): Paid Family Leave

Legal Aid at Work

This bill would allow California workers to apply for Paid Family Leave and State Disability Insurance benefits up to 30 days before they are on leave. As a result, workers will be able to get confirmation of their eligibility and benefit amount before starting their leave, and receive benefits sooner. Currently, California workers must wait until they are already on leave to apply.

SB 1434 (Durazo): Unemployment Insurance

Center for Workers' Rights

This bill would increase the weekly benefit amount for unemployment, and increase employer payments to the Unemployment Insurance Fund. Family Caregivers may be eligible for unemployment if their work is unable to make requested accommodations for caregiving and they have to quit their job.

Continued on Page 7

LEGISLATIVE BILLS RELATED TO THE MASTER PLAN FOR AGING (CONT'D)

GOAL 5: AFFORDING AGING

AB 2356 (Wallis): Personal Needs Allowance

California Senior Legislature

This bill would increase the monthly maintenance amount for personal and incidental needs from \$35 to \$50 and would require that the amount be increased annually. ♦

VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTION PROGRAM

The 2024 Tax Filing Season is underway and one may support CSL by donating to Code 438, Senior Citizen Advocacy Voluntary Contribution Fund. The Voluntary Contribution Fund Form can be found on page 4 of the Form 540 or page 3 of the Form 540EZ. The CSL website (4CSL.org) also provides further information.

DONATE TO CODE 438

The California Senior Legislature has been working to improve the lives of California's six million seniors since 1981. This nonpartisan organization has sponsored over 200 new laws helping seniors with financial abuse, health care, the Silver Alert program, and more.



Support the California Senior Legislature this tax season. Donate to Code 438.

CALIFORNIA STATE VOLUNTARY TAX CONTRIBUTION FORM

Habitat for Humanity Voluntary Tax Contribution Fund	437	<input type="text"/>	LOG
California Senior Citizen Advocacy Voluntary Tax Contribution Fund	438	<input type="text"/>	LOG
Native California Wildlife Rehabilitation Voluntary Tax Contribution Fund	439	<input type="text"/>	LOG
Add code 400 through code 440. This is your total contribution	110	<input type="text"/>	LOG

Donate to Code 438.

Tell your tax preparer to check Code 438 on your state income tax return.

FRIENDS OF CSL

Become a Friend of the CSL



Your FREE membership will keep you apprised of news and updates within this critically important organization via monthly issues of the *Friends of CSL* e-newsletter. We encourage you to join us in our efforts to reach and collaborate with our growing and increasingly important constituency of Californians. To enroll, potential members are directed to Get Involved on the navigation bar of 4CSL.org. They are then asked to click on Friends of CSL and provide their email address, city and first and last name.