



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 July 16, 2025

10 a.m. – 12 Noon

**Hybrid in-person - Zoom Meeting
175 Westridge Dr., Watsonville, CA**

**Guests can also join via Zoom
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86490817703>**

**Meeting ID: 864 9081 7703
One tap mobile
+16699006833,,86490817703# US (San Jose)**

**Dial by your location
+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)
Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86490817703>**

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
- 10:10
5. Adjourn to Closed Session -
Discuss Jovenes de Antaño's Restraining Order Against Seniors Council

175 Westridge Drive, Watsonville, California 95076 www.seniorscouncil.org
PHONE: AAA – (831) 688-0400 • FG/SCP – (831) 475-0816 • SCOUT – 1-877-373-8297 • FAX: (831) 688-1225

SUPPORTED BY FEDERAL, STATE & LOCAL GOVERNMENTS, FOUNDATIONS, THE UNITED WAYS OF
MONTEREY, SAN BENITO, & SANTA CRUZ COUNTIES & YOUR PRIVATE DONATIONS

- | | | |
|---------|-----|--|
| 10:35 | 6. | Approve minutes of the May 2025 Advisory Council Meeting |
| | 7. | Advocacy Committee <ul style="list-style-type: none">1. State & Federal Funding2. California Senior Legislature3. County & City Community Program Funding |
| 10:50 | 8. | Master Plan for Aging & Local Playbooks |
| 11:15 | 9. | Program Reports <ul style="list-style-type: none">1. Foster Grandparent/Senior Companion Program2. Aging & Disability Resource Connection (ADRC)3. Project SCOUT |
| 11:35 | 10. | Executive Director's Report <ul style="list-style-type: none">1. Master Plan for Aging & Solutions Summits2. State & Community Activities |
| 11:50 | 11. | Miscellaneous Correspondence & Other Items |
| 12 Noon | 12. | Adjourn |

Next Meeting:
Wednesday, August 20, 2025
175 Westridge Dr., Watsonville, CA

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.



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
(Held in person at Watsonville office with hybrid Zoom broadcast)

May 14, 2025

MINUTES

ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Steve Clark (City of Scotts Valley)
Jimmy Dutra (City of Watsonville)
Angela Curro (San Benito County Board of Supervisors)
Mindy Sotelo (San Benito County Board of Supervisors)
Scott Freels (City of San Juan Bautista)
Mark Johannessen (At-large, Seniors Commission)
Stephanie Auld, (Persons with Disabilities/Low Income)

ALTERNATES PRESENT:

Sandy Brown (alt. Cummings)
Regina Kelbert (alt. De Serpa)

ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS EXCUSED:

Kimberly De Serpa (Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors)
Justin Cummings (Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors)
Gerry Jensen (City of Capitola)
Gabriela Trigueiro (City of Santa Cruz)
Roxanne Stephens (Mayor, City of Hollister)

VACANCIES: CSL Rep.; At Large Rep.

STAFF PRESENT:

Clay Kempf, Seniors Council Executive Director; Patty Talbott, AAA Administrator; Zach Johnson, Seniors Council Administrative Services Officer; Corey Shaffer, Community Coordinator; Britt Bassoni, Special Projects Director

OTHERS PRESENT:

Jacques Bertrand, community member

1. Welcome, Call to Order and Introductions

Chair Sandy Brown called the meeting to order at 10:02 AM. Introductions were made.

2. Additions and Deletions to the Agenda

None.

6-1

3. Receive Announcements from Advisory Council Members

Steve will be issuing proclamation for Older Americans Month, May 21st @ 6 PM.

Angela will be giving Affordable Housing presentation for Board of Supervisors on May 20th at appx. 10:15 AM, to align with Affordable Housing Month and OAM (also on Zoom).

Clay reported that County of Santa Cruz also issued an OAM proclamation recently.

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

None.

5. Consent Agenda

Advisory Council members were referred to Pages 5-1 to 5-3, minutes of the April 2025 AAA Advisory Council meeting.

MOTION, Sotelo/Clark, to approve the minutes of the April 2025 AAA Advisory Council meeting.

PASSED.

6. Committee Reports

1. Advocacy Committee – Series of challenges, largest at Federal level: [temporary] closure/reduction of AmeriCorps & Administration for Community Living (ACL). AmeriCorps staff cuts directly impact Foster Grandparent/Senior Companion Programs. ACL split into multiple agencies reduces efficiency and clouds decision making. Strategy at state level is to ask CDA to hold off on any changes until 'dust settles' but they are eager to proceed.

Proposed Trump budget would cut all AmeriCorps funding; many FGP/SCP volunteers are highly dependent on stipends provided by program. Article was posted in Lookout, Clay is targeting other publications, too. Now exploring alternative revenue sources, e.g. coalition with other FGP/SCP agencies for large grant.

Other proposed Federal cuts on 6.1-2 include Senior Health Insurance Program (SHIP), Ombudsman, and more. Stephanie asked about impacts to Medi-Cal; possibly facing cuts but won't know for sure until October at the earliest, but cuts may hit as soon as June 30.

Governor's May Revise came out this morning, impacts TBD upon review.

Jacques suggested creating a summary of existing funding commitments, to bring to Board of Supervisors and other meetings. Will discuss further separately.

2. California Senior Legislature –

7. Service Provider Transitions (2025-29 RFP Results)

1. Impacted Programs – Senior Network Services (SNS) withdrew from Family Caregiving Support program; Jovenes de Antaño (JdA) withdrew their application as well. Health Projects Center now taking over both counties.

Martha's Kitchen replacing JdA as Meal Provider in San Benito.

2. Update – JdA providing mixed messages about staffing, expense documentation, other issues. Future of partnership is in doubt, which leaves many questions about programs, equipment, remaining funding, and building/facilities.

Still need to make plans for transitioning to Martha's Kitchen taking over service on July 1.

Mindy asked if MK can cover cost of rent if City does not match zero-rent program for JdA; Clay said probably, but will impact service levels. Group discussed various strategies such as political pressure on City Councilmembers and what unspent funds can be reallocated.

8. Invitations for Bid - Update

Patty presented several pots of funding from Older Americans Act small enough to do invitations to bid. Residential Home Repairs, Minor Home Repairs, Peer Counseling, and 3D Health Promotion coming next month. Seniors Council has flexibility with this process.

9. Program Reports

1. Foster Grandparent/Senior Companion Program – discussed previously; report in packet.
2. Aging & Disability Resource Connection (ADRC) – Britt pointed to 9.2.1-2 in packet, including new bus shelter ads for volunteer program and search for replacement staff to cover bilingual needs.
3. Project SCOUT – Tax season has ended; report includes over \$2.2MM in savings to clients, most of which stays in the local economy and community.

10. Executive Director's Report

1. Master Plan for Aging & Solutions Summits – MPA Local Playbooks due for submission by end of June. Next packet will include drafts.
There are still unfilled Board of Supervisor seats on MPA Governance Committee Sandy reported that Human Services Director wants to take over AAA and sees MPA GC as a vehicle. Brown Act restrictions also complicate efforts.
2. State & Community Activities – Clay pointed to first paragraph in packet report, re: SB 1249. Potential concerns: Intrastate funding formula updates (and using same formula for State & Federal dollars); Criteria for designating and de-designating AAAs (i.e. reassigning as County agency); and, CDA push for all AAAs to provide same set of core services (reduces flexibility for advocacy).

11. Miscellaneous Correspondence & Other Items

Included in packet; not discussed.

12. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:52 AM.

Minutes prepared by: Zachary Johnson

Next meeting: **June 18, 2025**



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
(Held in person at Watsonville office with hybrid Zoom broadcast)

June 18, 2025

MINUTES

ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Gabriela Trigueiro (City of Santa Cruz)
Steve Clark (City of Scotts Valley)
Scott Freels (City of San Juan Bautista) **ZOOM**
Stephanie Auld (Representative of Persons with Disabilities) **ZOOM**

ALTERNATES PRESENT:

Regina Kelbert (alt. for Kim De Serpa)

ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS EXCUSED:

Kimberly De Serpa (Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors)
Justin Cummings (Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors)
Gerry Jensen (City of Capitola)
Jimmy Dutra (City of Watsonville)
Angela Curro (San Benito County Board of Supervisors)
Mindy Sotelo (San Benito County Board of Supervisors)
Roxanne Stephens (Mayor, City of Hollister)
Mark Johannessen (At-large, Seniors Commission)

VACANCIES: Representative of Persons with Low Income; CSL Rep.; At Large Rep.

STAFF PRESENT:

Clay Kempf, Seniors Council Executive Director; Zach Johnson, Seniors Council Administrative Services Officer

OTHERS PRESENT:

Tara Ireland (Volunteer Center); Kevin Norton (Member of Public);

1. Welcome, Call to Order and Introductions

Chair Gabriela Trigueiro called the meeting to order at 10:09AM. Introductions were made.

2. Additions and Deletions to the Agenda

None.

3. Receive Announcements from Advisory Council Members

Scotts Valley will be presenting proclamation for Elder Abuse Awareness Month.

6-4

175 Westridge Dr., Watsonville, CA 95076

www.seniorscouncil.org

PHONE: AAA – (831) 688-0400 • FG/SCP – (831) 475-0816 • SCOUT – 1-877-373-8297 • FAX: (831) 688-1225

SUPPORTED BY FEDERAL, STATE & LOCAL GOVERNMENTS, PRIVATE FOUNDATIONS, THE UNITED WAY, AND YOUR PERSONAL DONATIONS

Scotts Valley City Council also made proclamation for Older Americans Month recently.

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

Request from public for investment in social capital for older adults to combat isolation and promote intergenerational engagement. Group was appreciative of the message and discussed ways to promote lifelong activities.

The group agreed to draft a letter to Senate representatives. about Foster Grandparent program. CDA created "czar of loneliness" position but never filled it; an opportunity to advocate at State level to fill position.

The group discussed a proposed UCSC-Cabrillo partnership for work study, linking students as caregivers to seniors.

5. Consent Agenda

A quorum was not present in person, no action on consent agenda.

6. Committee Reports

1. Advocacy Committee – no written report this time.

Recap of 24 states' lawsuit in defense of AmeriCorps staff, including California, now seeing some movement on grant renewal including approved FGP/SCP grants. Stable funding through September 30 (end of Federal fiscal year). 24-25 allocation will be disbursed in 25-26, barring any further changes; RSVP in same situation.

Recap of ACL disbanding, distribution within HHS, and reassembly within new Department. Recap of CA State funding situation. Delayed due to uncertainty of federal funding.

Proposed 50% cut to Nutrition Services Incentive Program (NSIP). Locally, facing \$80,000 cut for nutrition services, unclear as to rationale. Meals on Wheels in SCC forced to establish wait list for first time.

Subcommittee being formed by Supervisors De Serpa and Cummings to reassess CORE prioritization.

Discussion of proposed improvements to CORE process, highlighting prevention and safety-net services over entertainment activities. The group also discussed the resumption of monitoring efforts to restore confidence and accountability with County leaders.

Subcommittee also investigating this process.

2. California Senior Legislature –

7. Service Provider Transitions

1. Family Caregiver Support Program – Previously Senior Network Services in SCC & Jovenes de Antaño in SBC. Both started applications, but now assigned to Health Project Center in both counties (and Monterey).

2. San Benito County Senior Nutrition Programs – Previously JdA, now assigned to Martha's Kitchen. JdA Board members cooperative with transition and assisting in messaging.

3. SBC Transportation – Previously JdA, now assigned to TransDev. JdA phone line actually owned by LTA; final resolution pending. LTA proposed fridge magnet with phone numbers for TransDev, Martha's Kitchen, and ADRC.

4. Pauline Valdivia Memorial Center & ADRC – Now being charged rent as part of SBC financial crisis. Offices and facilities will be split between MK, ADRC, JdA, and Parks & Rec.

8. Invitations for Bid - Update

Written report on 8-1. Brief review of categories and impact of evidence-based practice requirement, e.g. Matter of Balance classes. Volunteer Center can provide MOB training to volunteers who will lead classes of 12-15 people.

Discussion of student volunteer yardwork program; promising idea for Volunteer Center, but not evidence-based.

No quorum, so no vote on recommendations to Board.

9. Program Reports (written)

1. *Foster Grandparent/Senior Companion –*
2. *ADRC –*
3. *Project SCOUT –*

10. Executive Director Report

1. Master Plan for Aging & Solutions Summits – Discussion of status of local playbooks in Santa Cruz and San Benito, and potential launch event/press releases.
2. State & Community Activities – Review of proposed Department of Aging Project 2030 revamp of AAAs; intrastate funding formula, core service provision/new performance measurements, and processes for county takeover of AAAs.

11. Miscellaneous Correspondence & Other Items

Included in packet

12. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:46 AM.

Minutes prepared by: Zachary Johnson

Next meeting: July 16, 2025



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

Date: 7-10-25

To: Seniors Council Board of Directors, AAA Advisory Council

From: Clay Kempf, Executive Director

RE: Master Plan For Aging Local Playbooks

This past month, we completed our Master Plan for Aging Local Playbooks, including separate playbooks for both Santa Cruz & San Benito County.

Each of the playbooks is included in your packet, and we'll spend some time today discussing the documents, their contents, and our next steps. Feedback is being sought from our two primary partners (County of Santa Cruz Adult and Long Term Care Services Division, and the Community Foundation for San Benito County), as well as the numerous community groups involved in the development of the plans themselves.

Our core project team of Britt Bassoni, Zach Johnson and Corey Shaffer and me will be meeting early next week to consider the feedback received and develop our own plan of action. We'll bring those ideas back to the Board & Advisory Council for further input and potential action.

8-1



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

Local Aging & Disability Action Planning Grant Program California Department of Aging Success Stories

Background

The Seniors Council of Santa Cruz & San Benito Counties LADAP grant has been a very successful endeavor for our organization and community. Many of the successes of this effort are expected to be seen in the implementation of the two Master Plan for Aging (MPA) Local Playbooks that we have created. That being said, there have been a number of success stories already. We'd like to highlight two of those here.

Success Story #1: Community-based Caregiver Training

THE NEED: Caregiving Training

Our entire state faces the challenge of creating an adequate supply of caregivers, and developing the skills of those delivering this care. Traditional models are limited in scope and availability, and usually augment either worker availability or caregiver skills, but rarely both. The issue is so large that Caregiving that Works is one of the MPA's Five Bold Goals.

THE WORK: Solution

The San Benito County MPA Caregiving that Works leadership group drew on their past experiences and proposed creating a Caregiver Training Course at Gavilan College's brand-new campus in Hollister. The course consists of a series of workshops providing comprehensive training - including topics such as improved understanding of care recipients' conditions and diagnoses; accessing local services; hands on skill improvement; employment opportunities, etc.

THE IMPACT: Results

Gavilan College has embraced this idea and will begin offering a Caregiver Training curriculum in fall of 2025! Students will receive a Certificate of Completion at the end of the series, enhancing their future employability. The courses are designed for both current caregivers as well as those interested in the field of senior care, including as a possible stepping stone for future CNAs or even RNs.

Besides the positive impacts for enrolled students, for local agencies, and for care recipients, this is a very replicable model that we hope expands to other areas and community colleges.

8-2

Success Story #2: Volunteer Engagement

THE NEED: Volunteer Recruitment and Coordination

Senior & Disability programs rely on volunteer contributions more than any other service segment. The need for volunteers ranges from those committing to professional-level training, such as that required for tax preparers, or Health Insurance Counselors and Navigators, to Long Term Care Ombudsman, to more casual activities such as yard cleanup, meal delivery, or office support.

Always a critical need, volunteer engagement has been devastated in recent years by the COVID-19 pandemic. Older adults were actively encouraged to stay home and stay safe, and have been the slowest population of volunteers to return.

THE WORK: Solution

The MPA Workgroup on Senior Engagement embraced the fact that there is no better way to counter isolation and loneliness than providing volunteer opportunities. Rural communities are often MORE willing to volunteer than their urban counterparts, as a matter of habits developed in response to the lack of available services. The problem, however, is that there is often a lack of the identification of volunteer needs or options in the community. Urban settings usually have an organization designed to coordinate and promote volunteerism; rural communities often lack such a coordinating agency.

Luckily, Santa Cruz County has an outstanding volunteer center, and their staff and leadership have been extremely willing and helpful in supporting efforts to develop a smaller version of their programs that focuses on serving and/or recruiting older adults and people with disabilities.

THE IMPACT: Results

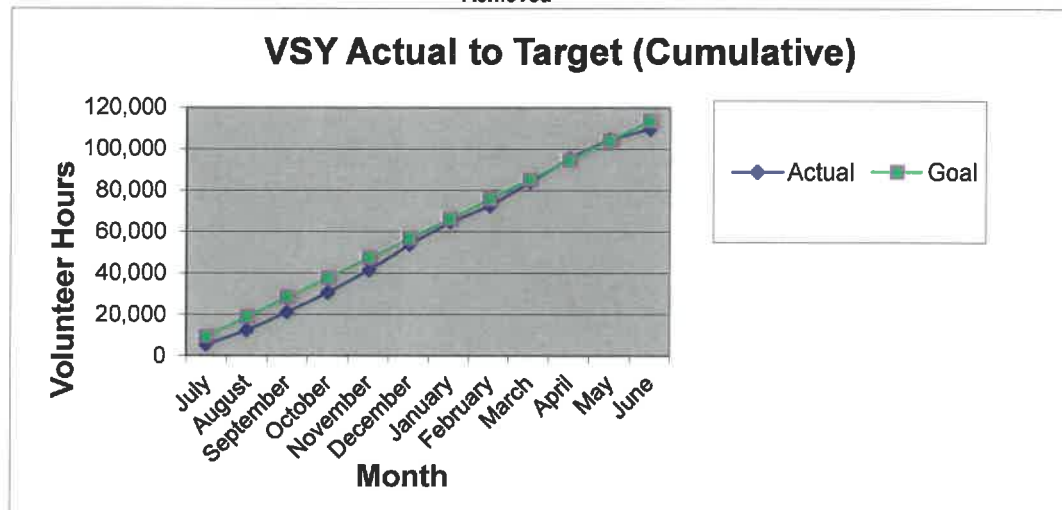
The Seniors Council and the Community Foundation for San Benito County have built on their Master Plan for Aging partnership and are utilizing their shared staff person to lead the activities of a Senior Volunteer Coordination Program. Local agencies are currently enrolled, and extensive volunteer recruitment efforts are underway. Advertisements include bus stops, a short video before local movie showings, presentations to our partner agencies and via our Aging & Disability Resource Connection, and extensive word of mouth. Efforts will continue in the coming year, and we'll report out to these same entities about successful recruitments and the impacts the volunteers have had on local programs and those they serve.

Project Name: **Seniors Council Foster Grandparent Program**

Grant Year: **7/1/24- 6/30/25**

Month	Cumulative Hours Actual	Cumulative Hours Goal	Monthly VSY Actual	Monthly VSY Goal	Monthly Hours Actual	Monthly Vols. Active	FY 23-24 Actuals	Annual VSY Goal
July	5,316	9,483	5.09	9.08	5,316	124	4,976	109
August	12,312	18,966	6.70	9.08	6,996	120	5,585	109
September	21,105	28,449	8.42	9.08	8,793	118	6,893	109
October	30,551	37,932	9.05	9.08	9,446	116	7,363	109
November	41,496	47,415	10.48	9.08	10,945	115	10,355	109
December	53,761	56,898	11.75	9.08	12,266	116	12,862	109
January	64,540	66,381	10.32	9.08	10,779	117	10,827	109
February	72,560	75,864	7.68	9.08	8,020	120	7,179	109
March	83,951	85,347	10.91	9.08	11,392	120	10,382	109
April	95,617	94,830	11.17	9.08	11,665	121	10,621	109
May	104,863	104,313	8.86	9.08	9,246	121	8,487	109
June	109,741	113,796	4.67	9.08	4,878	121	5,739	109
TOTAL			105.12		109,741		101,267	

Total
VSYs
Achieved



9.1-1

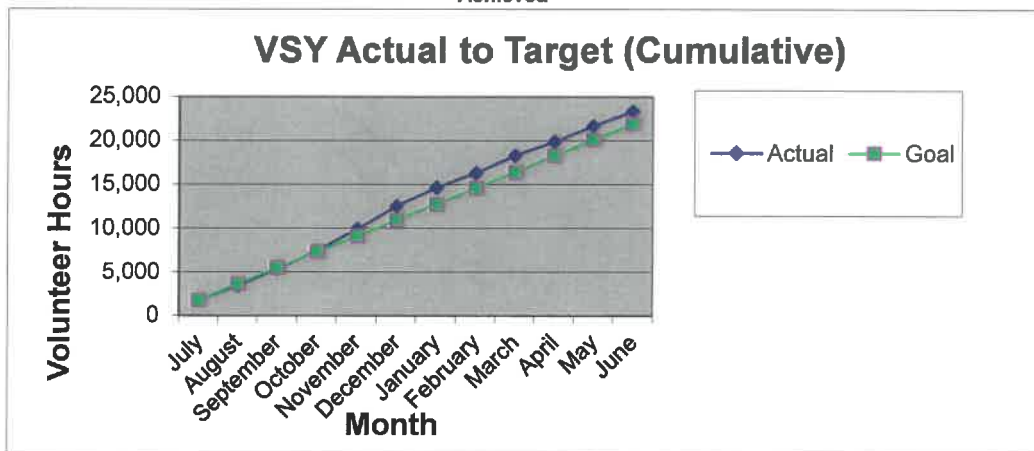
Project Name: **Seniors Council Senior Companion Program**

Grant Year: **7/1/24- 6/30/25**

Month	Cumulative Hours Actual	Cumulative Hours Goal	Monthly VSYS Actual	Monthly VSYS Goal	Monthly Hours Actual	Monthly Vols. Active	FY 23-24 Actuals	Annual VSYS Goal
July	1,837	1,827	1.76	1.75	1,837	29	1,540	21
August	3,444	3,654	1.54	1.75	1,608	29	1,312	21
September	5,353	5,481	1.83	1.75	1,909	29	1,640	21
October	7,408	7,308	1.97	1.75	2,055	31	1,691	21
November	9,911	9,135	2.40	1.75	2,504	31	2,498	21
December	12,525	10,962	2.50	1.75	2,614	30	3,189	21
January	14,684	12,789	2.07	1.75	2,159	30	2,485	21
February	16,327	14,616	1.57	1.75	1,643	33	1,802	21
March	18,315	16,443	1.90	1.75	1,989	33	2,516	21
April	19,900	18,270	1.52	1.75	1,585	33	2,522	21
May	21,684	20,097	1.71	1.75	1,784	30	1,940	21
June	23,351	21,924	1.60	1.75	1,667	30	1,787	21
TOTAL			22.37		23,351		24,921	

v

Total
VSYS
Achieved



9.1-2

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF AGING
Office of the Director

2880 Gateway Oaks Drive, Suite 200
Sacramento, CA 95833
www.aging.ca.gov
TEL 916-419-7500
FAX 916-928-2267
TTY 1-800-735-2929



June 27th, 2025

Pamela Arnsberger
PO Box 748
Aptos, CA 95001

Dear Ms. Arnsberger:

Thank you very much for your interest in serving on the Advisory Committee for the Aging and Disability Resource Connection (ADRC) Program. The California Department of Aging received applications from a number of dedicated and qualified individuals.

I am pleased to inform you that you have been selected for the ADRC Advisory Committee, as an AAA representative, with a two-year term ending June 2027. Your official date of appointment is July 1, 2025. This Advisory Committee represents consumers, providers, and advocates that have a commitment in establishing a No Wrong Door System and Person-Centered Practices to better serve California's older adults, people with disabilities, and their family and caregivers.

The ADRC Advisory Committee meets in-person on a quarterly basis with an option to attend meetings virtually, as needed. Staff will be in touch with you regarding logistical information for upcoming meetings. General information about the ADRC Advisory Committee may be found on the CDA/ADRC website:

https://aging.ca.gov/Providers_and_Partners/Aging_and_Disability_Resource_Connection/Advisory_Committee

Congratulations and once again thank you for your interest in serving on this important Advisory Committee. If you have any questions, please email or call Wilson Tam, Person-Centered Navigation Branch Chief, at Wilson.Tam@aging.ca.gov or (916) 956-2654.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Susan DeMarois".

Susan DeMarois
Director
California Department of Aging

9.2-1



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

Free tax preparation options in JUNE:

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. Santa Cruz Public Library Downtown (One Saturday per month)
4. Aptos Public Library (one Tuesday per month)
5. La Manzana Community Center Watsonville (one Wednesday per month)
6. Watsonville Public Library (one Wednesday per month)
7. Watsonville Senior Center (Walk-ins and by appointment)

Project SCOUT JUNE Tax Production Totals:

With the tumult coming out of Washington and staff cuts to the IRS, some have decided to opt for retirement, as has been the case of the just recently assigned SPEC agent who provided support to our VITA/TCE program since March 2025. As a result, we are currently awaiting for a new agent to be assigned. Tax data reported below represents our numbers from May.

Project SCOUT Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Tax Preparation Totals:

- Number of Federal returns prepared – 1928
- Dollar Amount of Federal refunds – \$1,435,552.00
- Dollar Amount of State refunds – \$344,828.00
- Dollar Amount of EITC Claimed – \$460,080.00
- ITIN Taxpayer returns – 66

Dollar Amount of TOTAL refunds – **\$1,780,380.00**

Total money back in the wallets of our clients, including average return cost of \$250.00 –
\$2,262,380.00.

9.3-1

Project SCOUT JUNE CALFRESH Services

As of the start of JUNE, Project SCOUT has invested resources in assessing senior and disabled clients from tax season 2025 who are low-income and qualify for CalFresh services, For the month of JUNE, one of our staff was fully tasked on assessing, contacting, and setting up services for those interested. Here are Project SCOUT's JUNE results:

- **Number of Senior/disabled clients assessed for services TOTAL – 392**
- Number of Senior/disabled clients assessed for services (Santa Cruz County)– 362
- Number of Senior/disabled clients assessed for services (Santa Benito County) – 30
- **Number of clients who completed Calfresh application TOTAL – 21**
- Number of clients who completed Calfresh application (Santa Cruz County) – 20
- Number of clients who completed Calfresh application (San Benito County) – 1

Project SCOUT JUNE Services Highlights:

Project SCOUT assisted a disabled woman with two disabled children who as an In-Home Supported Services provider for her two kids, qualifies for the EITC and should be receiving over \$14,000.00 in tax refunds! Outside of this tremendous assistance to the family, Project SCOUT was able to complete a CalFresh application for the client and her two children. This example encompasses Project SCOUT's ability to assist our communities with poverty-fighting measures through our programs, many a time with life-changing results for those we serve.



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

Date: 7-10-25

To: Seniors Council Board of Directors, AAA Advisory Council

From: Clay Kempf, Executive Director

RE: Executive Director's July Report

AGENCY OPERATIONS & FUNDING

Staff continues to put in extra time trying to address challenges on multiple fronts; the federal threats of defunding our Foster Grandparent & Senior Companion Programs, the changing status of the Administration for Community Living and related funding; provider transitions, local funding, CDA's upcoming changes to AAA structure, and as always, interacting with other organizations. The impacts of Jovenes de Antaño's reporting and financial struggles continue to consume as much of our staff's time as all of our other contracted service providers combined.

Cristina's report provides an update on some positive turns regarding our two Americorps Programs - Foster Grandparent & Senior Companion. The new Federal Budget still eliminates the programs, so we have much work to do, but at least we have a reprieve for the 2025-26 fiscal year. Stay tuned.

Other federal budget bill actions have some impacts on our operations, but huge impacts on those we serve regarding non-Older Americans Act programs, such as Medi-Cal, SNAP, and other life-sustaining services. Part of the budget reassigns responsibilities to states. Consequently, the states are forced to reduce programs that either provide direct services to vulnerable populations, and/or reduce funding to local communities attempting to do the same. Trickle-down budget cuts, to steal an old phrase.

I haven't been able to find specific Federal Budget details to see the status of Nutrition Services Incentive Program (NSIP). NSIP was slated for reduction in the Trump Budget but not elimination. NSIP was a local allocation of about \$94,000 at the beginning of 2024-25 before its mid-year cuts that dropped the allocation to closer to \$58,000. Our initial Budget Planning Estimate from California Department of Aging (CDA) does not include any NSIP funds whatsoever, so there is a likelihood that we'll see additional funding in at least this category at some point in the current year.

175 Westridge Dr., Watsonville, CA. 95076 **www.seniorscouncil.org**
PHONE: AAA – (831) 688-0400 • FG/SCP – (831) 475-0816 • SCOUT – 1-877-373-8297 • FAX: (831) 688-1225

SUPPORTED BY FEDERAL, STATE & LOCAL GOVERNMENTS, PRIVATE FOUNDATIONS, THE UNITED WAY, AND YOUR PERSONAL DONATIONS

10-1

California adopted its 2025-26 budget with no additional changes of note since last month to Older Americans Act, and Older Californians Act funding, with the exception of a small augmentation to Long Term Care Ombudsman programs. Our biggest concern is the pending expiration of the Older Californian's Act Aging in Place augmentation on April 1, 2026. We've been using most of those funds to augment Foster Grandparent/Senior Companion programs, and our Volunteer Recruitment & Coordination efforts in San Benito County. The latter effort is being co-funded by the Community Foundation for San Benito County. We're hoping that partnership will continue and that we can find new funds to keep the program fully operational.

The California Department of Aging (CDA) has reviewed our 2023-24 Independent Financial Audit and have identified no matters of concerns. Their notification is included in this month's packet.

FEDERAL, STATE & COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

CDA continues to move forward addressing their Aging 2030 goals, including the implementation of SB 1249. Following various webinars regarding these items, including revising the Intrastate Funding Formula, Designation and De-designation of AAAs, and the creation of additional AAA Services and Performance Measures, CDA has asked AAA's to provide input via surveys. We're very concerned about some of the directions indicated in those surveys, including descriptions of service that don't match CDA's own definitions.

Local jurisdictional funding remains stable from both the counties of Santa Cruz & San Benito, and the City of Hollister. A potential re-evaluation of Santa Cruz County & City's CORE funding is under discussion with no action to report. We have sent our Ten Recommendations to Improve CORE to some of the electeds involved.

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF AGING**Division of Administrative Services**

2880 Gateway Oaks Drive, Suite 200

Sacramento, CA 95833

www.aging.ca.gov

TEL 916-419-7517

TTY 1-800-735-2929



July 9, 2025

Agency Code: PSA 13
Project Code: SAR-24-50

Clay Kempf, Executive Director
Seniors Council of Santa Cruz & San Benito Counties
175 Westridge Drive
Watsonville, California 95076

Re: Single Audit Reporting Package – Fiscal Year 2023/24

Dear Area Agency on Aging (AAA) Executive Director Kempf,

The California Department of Aging (CDA) received the single audit reporting package on March 26, 2025, submitted by Seniors Council of Santa Cruz & San Benito Counties. (Agency). The CDA audit staff reviewed the report as it pertains to CDA-funded awards for the Planning and Service Area 13 (PSA).

The CDA review was conducted in accordance with oversight responsibilities established by the Single Audit Act (Act) and provisions adopted pursuant to Title 2 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Part 200, and Title 45 CFR Part 75, Subparts F – Audit Requirements. The CDA audit staff relied upon the opinions, statements, and financial information presented in the audit as conducted by the independent audit firm of Walters & Kondrasheff, Certified Public Accountants.

CDA audit staff identified no matters of concern. However, please be aware that the single audit reporting package may become subject to further examination during the next CDA fiscal compliance audit.

10-3

Clay Kempf, Executive Director
Page 2

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact the CDA Audits and Risk Management (ARM) Branch at (916) 419-7516 or CDA.Audits.Team@aging.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Jeremy Jackson, CPA
Audit Chief, Audits and Risk Management Branch

cc: via email:

Denise Likar, Deputy Director, Home and Community Living Division, CDA
Jena Sachs, Bureau Chief, External Provider Audits Bureau, CDA

10-4