

## **San Benito - Summary MPA Combined Workgroups**

Meeting Details:

Date: April 30, 2026

Time: 1:30 PM

Location: via Zoom

### **Summary:**

The Master Plan for Aging (MPA) workgroups met in a combined quarterly format to support alignment across overlapping goals, including housing, health, caregiving, inclusion and equity, and affording aging. The meeting focused on updates from January, identifying ongoing challenges, and discussing next steps to move initiatives forward.

The group welcomed participants from a range of organizations, including local government, nonprofit partners, healthcare organizations, and community-based service providers. Strong collaboration and engagement were evident throughout the discussion.

A key theme across all focus areas was the urgent need for accessible and consistent community space to support senior services, programs, meals, and outreach efforts.

### **Housing for All Ages and Stages**

The group received updates on both County and City housing efforts. The County Housing Element has been adopted, while the City of Hollister is nearing compliance. Discussion highlighted ongoing challenges in advancing affordable housing projects, including infrastructure limitations such as water and wastewater, as well as the need for additional outreach and community engagement.

The group revisited the previously discussed senior-friendly housing fact sheet and noted the need to follow up on its status and next steps.

Additional discussion emphasized the importance of identifying incentives to support affordable housing development and ensuring seniors and vulnerable populations are not left behind.

### **Health Reimagined**

Updates included continued efforts to offer wellness and prevention programs. The Matter of Balance program is currently paused due to the Community Center closure, and partners are actively working to identify alternative locations.

The group discussed opportunities to expand wellness programming, including Tai Chi, chair yoga, and other community-based activities. A new partnership with the YMCA was shared, offering free wellness classes through a community collaboration.

The group also discussed planning efforts for a Senior/Caregiver Resource and Volunteer Fair, with ongoing challenges related to securing an affordable and accessible location.

## **Inclusion and Equity, Not Isolation**

Tech Help Tuesdays continues to be a successful program, with consistent participation and strong demand for one-on-one assistance. Participants are primarily learning about the program through word-of-mouth and social media.

The group discussed opportunities to expand volunteer capacity, including potential partnerships with Gavilan College students. Continued outreach and promotion will be key to sustaining and growing the program.

## **Caregiving That Works**

The Caregiver University event held on April 18 was well attended, with over 100 participants and positive feedback from attendees and partners. A key takeaway was the importance of reaching caregivers earlier, before they reach a crisis stage.

The Gavilan College caregiver training program continues to face challenges, including low enrollment due to cost, time commitment, and accessibility barriers. The group discussed alternative approaches, including shorter training sessions, introductory workshops, and potential partnerships with Adult Education.

## **Affording Aging**

The Financial Resource Guide project is moving forward, with plans to transition to a digital format supported by a QR code. This approach will allow for easier updates and broader distribution.

Next steps include final review by a financial professional and identifying a distribution strategy, along with potential opportunities to pair the guide with educational workshops.

## **Community Space and Service Delivery Challenges**

A significant portion of the discussion focused on the lack of consistent and accessible space for senior services. With the Community Center currently closed, programs, meals, and services have been disrupted or relocated, creating challenges for both providers and participants.

The group expressed concern about the potential impact on seniors, including increased isolation and reduced access to essential services. Participants discussed the need for both

short-term solutions and long-term strategies, including identifying available spaces, exploring partnerships, and pursuing funding opportunities.

## **Additional Updates Shared (Cross-Workgroup)**

- May was recognized as Older Americans Month and Affordable Housing Month, with proclamations in progress
- The Alliance Community Impact Report was shared
- Senior Rally Day (May 6) was promoted
- Red Cross smoke alarm installation program and library health resources were highlighted

You can review the notes from the Breakout Groups, which will guide our work on county-wide solutions, by clicking on the link below. This page also includes video recordings of the group meetings and outlines the goals from the Master Plan for Aging Solutions Summit

<https://seniorscouncil.org/solutions-summit-2024/>

Next Meeting:

- Date: 7.30.26
- Time: 1:30 PM
- Location: via Zoom



**Seniors Council**  
Concilio de Personas Mayores  
Service • Support • Advocacy



*Community Foundation*  
FOR SAN BENITO COUNTY



California  
Department  
of **AGING**

Seniors Council and the Community Foundation for San Benito County are partners in local aging initiatives, including San Benito Connect – Neighbor to Neighbor Volunteer Network and the State of California’s Local Master Plan for Aging planning and development initiative, working together to address local community aging and disability needs.

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