

San Mateo County
Commission on Aging
Annual Report
2010-2011





A MESSAGE FROM DENIS O’SULLIVAN, CHAIR COMMISSION ON AGING (COA)

“The Principal Advocates for the Older Adults in San Mateo County”

First, I would like to thank the members of the Commission who volunteered countless hours working on all of our efforts this year. We have changed the Commission - - change is always difficult and complicated, and without their tireless effort we would not have succeeded.

The working year 2010-11 saw us develop:

- A Health Care Reform Committee, chaired by Megan DePuy
- An Adopt-A-Senior Center Committee directed by Evelyn Tom
- A Special Committee to advocate for the adoption of a Silver Alert program managed by David Gilson
- A Procedural Rules Committee chaired by David Gilson
- The first Membership/Recruiting Committee led by Sandra Lang
- Our first CoA General meeting in the community held at Doelger Senior Center

The Commission had a good year, and we would like to thank Supervisor Tissier, liaison to the Commission, and the Board of Supervisors for their continuing support. A special thanks to the Aging and Adult Services staff, Marsha Fong and Mary Robblee for their long-term efforts on our behalf...they make the commission “go”.

History:

In 1969, the Board of Supervisors established the Commission on Aging (CoA). The purpose of the Commission is to serve as the Advisory Council to the Board in its role as the Area Agency on Aging for San Mateo County, to assist the County in implementation of the Older Americans Act and the Older Californians Act and other federal and state laws and regulations as appropriate, and to advocate and support senior services throughout the County.

Mission Statement:

The mission of the CoA is to maintain, enhance, and improve the quality of life for seniors and older adults in San Mateo County through the promotion of independence and self-sufficiency, mental and physical health, and social and community involvement. The CoA serves as the “Principal Advocate for Older Adults in San Mateo County.”

Membership:

The CoA consists of 21 voting members, appointed by the Board of Supervisors, of which at least 60% are aged 60 years or older. Members represent the geographic racial, ethnic, economic and social demographics of the county and at least one member must represent the interests of people with disabilities. A service provider and a caregiver must also be represented. Terms of office are for three years, for a maximum of 12 years. In addition, two of the current Senior Legislators serve as non-voting members of the Commission during their four-year term. The current membership includes:

Aurea Cruz Megan Depuy Katie Eiseman Patricia Firenze Nathaniel Fripp Patricia Georges David Gilson (Vice Chair) Sandra Lang Melodie Lew	May Nichols Denis O’Sullivan (Chair) Mary Pappas Annie Sadler John Sorensen (Senior Legislator) Dorothy Sorensen (Senior Legislator) Evelyn Tom Appollonia Dee Uhila Kevin Worth
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**Interested in becoming a member?
Contact Marsha Fong at (650) 573-2701 or
mefong@smcgov.org for more information on how to become involved.**



Accomplishments in 2010-11:

Programs:

Health Care Reform – Created a Health Care special committee to develop easy to understand bulletins on Health Care Reform that are produced on a periodic basis and distributed to seniors in the community.

Adopt-a-Senior Center Program – Developed an “Adopt-a-Senior Center” program to build relationships with senior centers and expand opportunities for the engagement of older adults with the Commission. The first offsite CoA general meeting will be held on May 9, 2011 at Doelger Senior Center in Daly City.

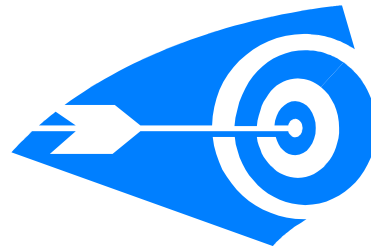
Silver Alert Program – Established a special committee to create an advocacy plan for the passage of a “Silver Alert” program in San Mateo County. The Silver Alert program notifies the community about a missing older adult or person with disabilities, much like the Amber Alert system for children.

Project 211 – Participated on the Steering Committee to implement a “211” telephone system that would connect residents to health and human service programs in the Bay Area. The System went live on 2-11-11.

Infrastructure:

Membership Committee – Initiated a Membership Committee to develop a tactical plan to identify qualifications and needs on a continuous basis to recruit new members for the Commission. A CoA brochure was developed to help bring awareness of the Commission to help with outreach and recruitment.

Procedural Rules Committee – Created a Procedural Rules Committee to review current procedures, provide guidance and clarification and propose changes to the existing Procedural Rules.



Priorities in 2011-12:

Institutionalizing Change – Institutionalize the changes in the Commission’s program and structure established in FY 2010-11 to ensure their long-term sustainability and effectiveness.

- Expand the number of senior centers included in the Adopt-a-Senior Center program, building relationships with 100% of all senior centers in the County.
- Produce an additional four healthcare bulletins and expand the creation of bulletins to other legislative topics of interest to older adults.
- Increase the number of CoA members through the work of the Membership Committee and the involvement of all Commissioners in recruitment.

Planning for Baby Boomers – Increase the recognition of and planning for the tremendous growth in the older adult population, as a result of the aging Baby Boomers.

- Develop a tactical plan to enhance awareness of the need to address the 70% increase in individuals 65 years and older that is expected in San Mateo County by the year 2030.

Outreach – Expand the Commission’s visibility, influence, and knowledge of the needs of older adults in San Mateo County through outreach efforts and meetings in the community.

- Conduct quarterly meetings of the Commission at senior centers or community sites throughout the County to engage older adults and Baby Boomers in the activities of the Commission.
- Continue to participate in events in the community such as Senior Day at the Fair and Seniors on the Move.

“Knowledge of days gone by is a good thing, because it gives the present meaning,
and the future a framework”

Ray Ratto