

Commission on Aging Annual Report



May 21, 2013

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 Youth Commissioners serve on the Commission and two of the current California Senior Legislators (CSL) serves as non-voting members of the Commission during their four-year CSL terms. There are four vacancies on the Commission. The current membership includes:

Steven Cobb Aurea Cruz Katie Eiseman Patricia Georges David Gilson (Vice Chair) Christina Kahn Sandra Lang Melodie Lew Soledad Manaay-Hayden Lynn Nieberding	Denis O’Sullivan (Chair) Cherie Querol Moreno Annie Sadler Francine Serafin-Dickson Evelyn Tom Appollonia Dee Uhila Kevin Worth Cheryn Lam (Youth Commissioner) Rebecca Stark (Youth Commissioner) Dorothy Sorensen (Senior Legislator) John Sorensen (Senior Legislator)
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What We Did in 2012-2013:

Adopt-a-Senior Center Committee (AASC) – Evelyn Tom, Chair; Steven Cobb and Lynn Nieberding, Vice-Chairs

The last of our quarterly off-site meetings was held at the Pacifica Senior Center September 2012. Although we are not continuing the scheduling of these off-site meetings, we will have occasional meetings in the community featuring an important speaker or topic. AASC is shifting its focus to three areas: isolated seniors, senior centers of the future, and virtual senior centers, such as the “Senior Center without Walls” program.

Silver Alert Committee – David Gilson, Chair; Kevin Worth, Vice Chair

Senate Bill 1047(SB 1047), the “Silver Alert” bill was signed by the Governor in September, 2012. The focus of the Committee now turns to implementation and future refinement of the Bill.

Adult Abuse Prevention Committee – Melodie Lew and Soledad Manaay-Hayden, Co-Chairs

The CoA established a new Standing Committee of the Commission to focus on one the most critical issues facing our constituency. The Committee was formally approved at the March CoA General meeting and is co-chaired by two Commissioners. We are in the investigative stage attempting to determine what we can actually accomplish. One possible project is the promotion of an Elder Abuse Court.

Legislative Advocacy Committee – Denis O’Sullivan and Evelyn Tom, Co-Chairs

SB 1047, promoted by the Committee, was signed by the Governor in September 2012. The focus of the Committee this year will be on the Top Ten Bills from the CSL.

Infrastructure:

Membership Committee – Cherie Querol Moreno and Soledad Manaay-Hayden, Co-Chairs

The Committee worked on the recruitment of candidates for the four open Commissioner slots. They are also working to become the outreach arm of the Commission.

Procedural Rules Committee – David Gilson, Chair

The Procedural Rules Committee now meets only on an “as needed basis”.

Commission Review Workgroup – Soledad Manaay-Hayden, Chair

The CoA started an in-depth review of the Commission asking the questions: “How are we doing?”, “What are we doing?”, “Why are we doing it?” and “What should we be doing”. A commissioner survey was developed, distributed and analyzed. More discussion to understand the survey results followed at the January CoA meeting. Follow up interviews with each member are also being conducted.

What We Didn't Do in 2011-2012

Health Care Bulletins – Only produced two bulletins due to difficulties in implementing the project with a broad-based commission involvement.

Financial Wellness Program – While very important, the current composition of members on the Commission does not include expertise in this area.

Our Plan (Hopes) for 2013-14:

Institutionalizing Change – Continue to institutionalize the changes of the past three years to ensure their long-term sustainability and effectiveness.

- Elect a new Chair for the Commission to serve January to December 2014 and ensure a smooth transition
- Continue the Commission review process, soliciting feedback from Commissioners and making changes to the Commission as needed.
- Develop and implement a plan for the Adult Abuse Prevention Committee
- Decide whether a Financial Wellness Committee should be implemented or dropped at this time

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 Conference.

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

Ray Ratto