



SAN MATEO COUNTY HEALTH
**AGING & DISABILITY
SERVICES**

CoA General Meeting Minutes
May 11, 2026 9:00 a.m. -11:00 a.m.
500 County Center, Manzanita Hall Redwood City, CA 94063
In-Person Meeting

Members Present: Irene Liana, William Lock, Maria Barr, Twila Dependahl, Angela Giannini, Daniela Jongitud, Martin Nakai, Deborah Owdom, Eileen Tafeen, Liz Taylor, Kathy Uhl, Monika Lee

Members Excused: David Linnell, Patty Clement, Brittany Saleem

Members of the Public (Remote): Edian, Greg Mediati, Johnathan, Kathy Alexiou, Lisa Wilson, Wesley Taoka, Ophelie Vico, Carmen Santoni, Sandra Winter, Amber, Tommy Cook

Members of the Public (In-Person): Gloria Lara, Elyse Brummer, Jean Aquino

Staff Present: Lee Pullen, Anna Sawamura, Andrew Eng, Diane Madriz, Harry Guan

1. Call to Order, Roll Call, and Introductions

- Chair Liana called meeting to order at 9:01am
- Roll Call taken; Quorum established.

2. Public Comment

- Kathy Alexiou of Pacifica addressed the Commission during public comment regarding concerns about the treatment of elderly and disabled patients in San Mateo County hospitals. Kathy requested that the Commission support patient rights protections through the California Master Plan on Aging and future legislative advocacy efforts.

3. Approval of Agenda - 5/11/2026

- Motion to approve 5/11/2026 agenda:
- A revision was announced removing action item for the approval of the 2026–2027 Area Plan, because approval would need to occur at the June meeting.
 - Moved by Commissioner Lee
 - Seconded by Commissioner Nakai
 - Motion Approved

4. Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes - 4/13/2026

- Motion to approve 4/13/2026 meeting minutes:
 - Moved by Commissioner Giannini
 - Seconded by Commissioner Taylor
 - Commissioner Jongitud Abstained



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- Motion Approved

5. Update on Board of Supervisors activities concerning older adults – Supervisor Canepa’s Office

- It was announced that the “Loneliness to Light” event scheduled for May 18 at the San Carlos Adult Community Center had been postponed. Staff indicated that a new date would be announced once finalized.

6. Committee and Ad Hoc Reports

- *Executive Committee*
- **Action Item: Move to adopt the inclusion of the Commission on Aging Community Partners Document**
 - Moved by Commissioner Dependahl
 - Seconded by Commissioner Giannini
 - Motion Approve
- **Action Item: Move to approve the CoA Annual Report PowerPoint Document for presentation to the Board of Supervisors**
 - Discussion focused on improving readability, clarifying the introductory slide, and ensuring the presentation accurately reflected the Commission’s mission and activities. Staff explained that the presentation would be accompanied by a detailed narrative script during the actual Board presentation. Chair Liana then read through the proposed presentation script, which summarized the Commission’s statutory role, committee structure, accomplishments, outreach efforts, advocacy activities, and future priorities.
 - a. Moved by Commissioner Barr
 - b. Seconded by Commissioner Uhl
 - c. Committee voted all in favor
 - d. Motion approved
- *Information, Resources, and Community Engagement Committee*
 - Commissioner Lee reported that the updated Help at Home guide was nearing completion and would be available for June outreach events. The committee had recently participated in tabling events, including a senior event in San Mateo. Commissioners were encouraged to continue participating in outreach opportunities and community engagement activities.
 - Updated assignments for community partner outreach were also discussed, including a vacancy in East Palo Alto due to a commissioner resignation. The committee additionally reported ongoing efforts to gather information about age-friendly initiatives throughout San Mateo County communities and to review local action plans related to aging.



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- *Aging Readiness and Family Caregiver Support Committee*
 - The Committee reported continued work on an aging readiness checklist designed to help older adults prepare for healthy aging and caregiving needs. Additional revisions were being considered before future presentation.
 - Discussion followed regarding caregiver tax credit advocacy efforts. Commissioners discussed information promoted by AARP related to potential caregiver tax credits and the financial impact caregiving has on families. Commissioners agreed additional information and possible presentations on the topic would be beneficial, and materials would be forwarded to the Legislative Advocacy Ad Hoc Committee for review.
- *Social Isolation and Transportation Committee*
 - The Committee reported on recent presentations from SamTrans regarding expanded transportation services for older adults. The committee also highlighted successful intergenerational library events coordinated in Half Moon Bay involving older adults and youth participants.
 - Adele Ryono's participation in the "Talk Across Time" pilot program in Ohio was acknowledged and appreciated.
 - The committee also voted to continue hybrid meetings with a six-month review period.
- *Ad Hoc Legislative Advocacy Committee*
 - The Committee reported that it had presented a proposal recommending alignment of the Commission calendar year with the County calendar year. Legal counsel review was pending before further action could occur.
- *Ad Hoc Help@Home Update Committee*
 - The Committee reported that final revisions to the Help at Home guide had been completed and submitted to staff for final formatting and printing. The updated guide will debut at the San Mateo County Fair in June. Commissioners discussed the redesigned guide, including its lighter paper stock and expanded content.
- *Member Reports*
 - During member reports, Commissioner Dependahl announced the reopening of the Veterans Memorial Senior Center in Redwood City. Commissioners also discussed outreach and tabling procedures, clarifying that commissioners are encouraged to participate in community events independently while informing the Information



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Resources and Community Engagement Committee so outreach and community engagement efforts can be documented.

- Chair Liana and Commissioner Uhl attended the SamTrans Board meeting, where a proclamation for Older Americans Month was accepted, and recognition of the San Carlos Adult Community Center being selected as the best adult community center in California. Commissioners discussed potentially sending a formal letter of congratulations.
- Commissioner Taylor also reported on a recent outreach and tabling opportunity at Elk's Club.

7. CoA Outreach Update – Commissioner Owdom

- Commissioner Odom recommends additional commissioner participation at several upcoming events, including Senior Coastsiders in Half Moon Bay, the San Mateo County Fair, and the San Mateo County Pride event.

8. California Senior Legislature Election

- Staff explained voting eligibility and ballot procedures. It was announced that candidate Paris Hill was ineligible because candidates must be present to win under CSL bylaws. Roll call confirmed eligible candidates in attendance. Voting was conducted by paper ballot.
- Monika Lee and William Lock were elected to the two Senior Assembly Member seats, and Deborah Owdom was elected as Senior Senator.

9. Staff Report

- Lee Pullen presented updates regarding the Area Agency on Aging's request for proposals process for community-based services contracts. Staff explained that over 30 proposals had been received, including numerous senior nutrition program applications. Staff also discussed proposed California Department of Aging funding formula changes that could reduce San Mateo County's aging services funding allocation by approximately 14% over the next three years.
- Rural counties would receive increased allocations under the proposal, while urban and suburban counties would likely lose funding. Commissioners discussed the possible impacts on services such as nutrition programs, transportation, caregiver support, and adult day health programs. Advocacy efforts were underway through statewide aging organizations to oppose reductions and seek funding protections.

10. Announcements

11. Adjournment

- Motion to adjourn the meeting:
 - Moved by Commissioner Uhl
 - Seconded by Commissioner Liana
- Meeting adjourned at 10:08 a.m.



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12. Area Plan Public Hearing

- Following adjournment of the regular Commission on Aging meeting, the Commission reconvened for a public hearing regarding the 2026–2027 Area Plan Update.
- Lee Pullen presented the annual Area Plan update and explained that San Mateo County is required to update its four-year Area Plan each year and obtain public input. He noted that the Area Plan is both a planning document and a funding document, describing community needs, service priorities, highlights, and areas where additional support is needed for older adults in San Mateo County.
- Lee Pullen reviewed the Area Plan goals, including informing and educating older adults about available resources, promoting aging in place, supporting family caregivers, and addressing isolation and depression. He highlighted ongoing work with the New Beginning Coalition, the PEARLS program, the Fall Prevention Coalition, caregiver workshops and collaborative efforts, and the Community Engagement Project focused on social connection for older adults and adults with disabilities.
- Lee Pullen also described related funding sources and noted that supportive services funding allows some flexibility in determining which services to prioritize based on local needs assessments, survey findings, and community input. He stated that transportation funding had been adjusted based on prior Commission recommendations and that existing supportive services categories had otherwise remained largely the same.
- During the hearing, commissioners asked questions regarding supportive services funding categories and whether prescribed percentages applied to those categories. Staff responded that supportive services funding is more flexible than nutrition and family caregiver funding and can be allocated based on identified county needs and bidding opportunities.
- Commissioners also asked about the proposed California Department of Aging funding formula changes and which services would be most affected if the proposal moved forward. Staff responded that impacts would likely be felt across multiple service areas, including nutrition, family caregiver support, adult day health, and transportation.
- Additional commissioner comment expressed concern that older adults in San Mateo County could receive fewer benefits under the proposed formula than residents in rural counties, and that the State should identify additional funding rather than reduce allocations to counties with existing services. A request was also made for dollar allocation amounts by provider for each program.



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- A commissioner asked how possible Medicaid reductions might affect the Area Agency on Aging budget. Staff responded that Medicaid does not directly fund these Area Plan services, because the programs discussed are generally available regardless of income, although broader federal and state budget changes could negatively affect the County overall. Staff stated that the extent of any downstream impact on aging and disability services was still unknown, but that the Area Agency on Aging's funding streams are different and were not expected to be heavily affected.
- The Chair asked whether any members of the public attending by Zoom wished to comment or ask questions. No public comments or questions were raised during the hearing, including from Zoom participants.
- The public hearing concluded following the Area Plan presentation and questions. Public Hearing ended at 11:00am.