Commission on Aging Meeting 5/8/23:

Liaison Report for the Commission on Disabilities

*The Commission on Aging is now meeting in-person. The webinar format and video resolution is poor. It is very difficult to know who is speaking and captioning is frequently inaccurate – especially with regard to proper nouns.*

There are four COA committees of which three are focused on the basic structure of the California State Plan on Aging. That plan is in year four of ten and is still modifying its goals as issues demand it. The Commission committees are structured around the goals of the California Plan on Aging.

COA Executive Committee review all actions from the Committee and approve issues for the monthly board meeting and interactions with the Board of Supervisors.

Resource, Access and Inclusion Committee (RAIC): Works to provide information to elders and their families about resources available to them. They publish a printed and website version of their document *Help at Home,* a survey of all the resources for aging in the County. They attend meetings where seniors might be present. Their goal is information. They also partner with cities in the county that have programs for seniors.

Middle Income Senior income Opportunity Committee. The title is a nod to the elderly in the county who do not have enough money to meet their needs in retirement. They connect persons who are food insecure to county programs providing meals. They identify housing needs and referral resources. Recently, they have been exploring funding and resources for long term nursing care for persons unable to pay for it.

Transportation and Aging in the Community. This committee works to identify means of transportation for elders who need assistance. They also identify housing for seniors convenient to transportation.

In the meeting today, they heard from at least five agencies funded to provide transportation to those who cannot drive but need affordable transportation. For example, the *Get Aroun*d program uses funds to provide eight $5 rides a month anywhere in San Mateo County, plus to Stanford and the VA Palo Alto. Persons found unable to afford $5 can be enrolled in a program that charges only $2 per ride. There are similar programs in Pacifica, Daly City, and the Sequoia Health Care district. Sam Trans operates Paratransit services for those who are disabled.

Staff Reports:

Anna Sawamura announced the County has opened a Navigation center for persons who are struggling and are not housed. They have 240 beds, single rooms with bathrooms and some family accommodations. They expect to accept persons who are homeless with other problems such as no income, no work, mental illness, substance abuse, and other problems.

Submitted by Bob Hall