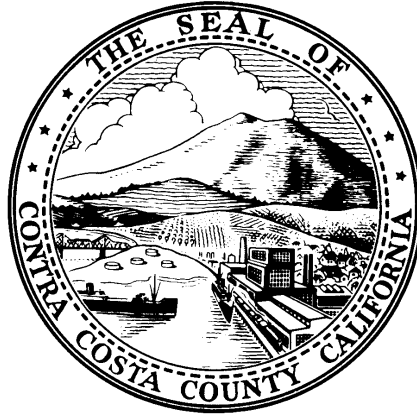


CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

ADVISORY COUNCIL ON AGING

ANNUAL REPORT



JANUARY – DECEMBER 2012

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CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

Officers:

- Shirley Krohn, President - 2nd Term
- Dr. Robert Leasure, First Vice President - 2nd Term
- Gail Garrett, Second Vice President - 2nd Term
- Gerald Richards, Secretary - 2nd Term
- Richard Nahm, Treasurer - 2nd Term

Current Roster of Members as of December 1, 2012:

Mary Bruns
Deborah Card
Suzanne Davis-Lucey
Mary Dunne Rose
Rudy Fernandez
Laura Ferree
Barbara Fineberg
Susan Frederick
Gail Garrett
Linda Groobin
Lori Hefner
Ralph Hoffman
Vernon Jones
Arnie Kasendorf
Arthur Kee
Joanna Kim-Selby
Shirley Krohn

Kay McVay
Arthur Mijares
Robin Mitchell
Richard Nahm
Nuru Neemuchwalla
Earle Ormiston
Gerald Richards
John Rinaudo
Richard SanVicente
Edward Schroth
Heather Stark
Laurie Ulrick
Beverly Wallace
Patricia Welty
Stefanie West

Robert Leasure
Sue Littlehale

Advisory Council Objectives

The Council shall provide a means for countywide planning, cooperation and coordination for individuals and groups interested in improving and developing services and opportunities for older residents of this county. The Council provides leadership and advocacy on behalf of older persons and serves as a channel of communication and information on aging issues.

The Council advises each: the Area Agency on Aging (AAA) on the development of its Area Plan, the Bureau of Aging and Adult Services, Employment and Human Services and the Board of Supervisors. The AAA Area Plan is based on unmet needs and priorities experienced by older persons, as determined by assessments and input from the senior network throughout the County.

ANNUAL REPORT
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PRESIDENT'S REPORT / EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**January – December 2012**

The Contra Costa County Advisory Council on Aging (ACOA) advises the Area Agency on Aging on all matters related to the development and administration of senior programs in accordance with the mandates of the Older Americans Act. The Council is comprised of 40 members appointed by the Board of Supervisors in partnership with local cities and commissions on aging, the Membership Committee of the Council and a designated advisory group: the Nutrition Council. A majority of the Council membership must be age 60 and older. Members represent the geographic, economic, disability, cultural, sexual orientation and ethnic diversity of the County.

Meetings

The Advisory Council meets the third Wednesday of most months, 9:30 am until 12:00 pm at 500 Ellinwood Way, Board Rooms A/B, Pleasant Hill, California. Attendance at full Council meetings is generally very good, however there have been a couple of meetings this year, where having a quorum was questionable. After some direction to membership, tardiness or absenteeism is now declining.

Work Groups:**Transportation Work Group**

This continues to be a very proactive work group. It has a name, SMAC standing for Senior Mobility Action Council and has members of the community as well as from the CCCATA. The Work Group Chair, Earle Ormiston, was honored by the Board of Supervisors for his leadership of this group.

Legislative Advocacy Work Group

Work Group researched, evaluated and sent letters of support on AB 2010 Reverse Mortgage, SB 1047 Silver Alert, SB 345 Ombudsman Program, SB 654 Use of Redevelopment Funds and SP 4 Defibrillator Signage. This Work Group meets from January thru July only, to coincide with the Legislative Session in Sacramento.

Housing Work Group

This Work Group was re-established in May of 2011, but was discontinued in June 2012. While the Group had some accomplishments, there was not enough Council or Community participation to sustain an ongoing effort.

Health Work Group

Workgroup sustained an important collaborative effort with the American Medical Response (AMR) and County EMS services to develop a new brochure that contains an appeal process for County customers. Additionally, they facilitated a County stroke system protocol to bring public awareness and education to residents.

Adviroy Council on Aging President

PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT**January – December 2012****Activities**

- Monthly Meetings
- Work with Contra Costa Area Agency on Aging (PSA 7) on the development of the Area Plan and Updates
- Conduct Annual Contractor Reviews (awarded by PSA 7)
- Report to Executive Committee

Accomplishments

Members continued to meet with contracted providers to monitor the performance of each program, making suggestions for improvements to programs and program monitoring as appropriate. Planning Committee also works with the Area Agency on Aging on the Development of the 4-year Area Plan, which was completed in May, 2012. The Committee provides regular reporting to the Executive Committee including recommendations. Vernon Jones and Laurie Ulrick are currently the Committee Co-Chairs working to recruit and maintain the Committee's membership. Currently there are (5) members; two additional members are being sought.

2013 Work Plan - Group Goals

Continue monthly meeting and work closely with the Area Agency on Aging to plan services that benefit older adults. The Committee is mindful of the growing needs of older adults and will make recommendations for contracting out additional program services/funding. The Committee will continue to hear annual contractor program reviews to monitor progress.

Laurie Ulrick / Vernon Jones

Planning Committee, Co-Chair

MEMBERSHIP / NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT**January – December 2012****Current Membership Committee Members:**

Beverly Wallace	Chair
Arnie Kasendorf	District I
Rudy Fernandez	District II
Richard Nahm	District III
Earle Ormiston	District IV
Patsy Welty	Member at President's Discretion
	Chair of Nominating Sub-Committee

ACTIVITIES:

Monthly Meetings	Membership Recruitment
Attendance Reviews	Appointments/Resignations
Eligibility Reviews	Report to Executive Committee

ACOMPLISHMENTS:

In 2012 this committee conducted (5) MAL applicant interviews and has facilitated a total of (7) appointments: (3) MAL, (4) Local Committee. As of this reporting there were (4) Local committee Seats and

(1) MAL seat vacant. New member orientations included instruction, guidance and follow-up on the completion of Form 700, AB 1234 Ethics Training. Members were provided information about the structure and function of the Area Agency on Aging as well as the responsibilities of being an Advisory Council Member. In 2012, the Committee participated in a review of the ACOA Bylaws and made recommended changes to the Executive Committee Bylaws Sub-Committee.

2013 WORK PLAN

- Maintain a full membership
- Apply and track membership eligibility requirements
- Track attendance problems
- Conduct New member Orientations
- Report to the Executive Committee
- Facilitate the selection of a Nominating Committee that in turn, facilitates the appointment of new ACOA officers

Beverly Wallace
Membership Committee Chair

HEALTH WORK GROUP REPORT

January – December 2012

Activities

- Monthly Meetings
- Educational Presentations
- Advise and educate the community on issues impacting the health of older adults
- Track and support legislation that improves older adult health and the healthcare delivery systems

Accomplishments

Work Group Presentations: Leslie Mueller, General Manager – American Medical Response – Review of Appeals Process and billing brochure; David Grant, Regional Pedestrian Safety Committee Member – Pedestrian Safety. ACOA Presentations: National Alliance on Mental Illness - Thomas Cloney, Regional Coordinator – Family to Family Program; Dr. Barger, Director EMS - STEMI / Stroke Program.

2013 Work Plan - Group Goals

- Continue our community effort to educate about stroke, especially the Emergency Stroke Response System (ESRS) and long-term recovery, including caregiver issues
- Monitor and advocate for all legislative efforts regarding geriatric health, including mental health issues, and long term care insurance programs, especially any new ones from State and Federal governments
- Support all efforts to change federal law to allow Ombudsmen to report problems to law enforcement agencies without permission of individual or family
- Monitor and advocate for other aspects of senior health issues and take appropriate action

John Rinaudo / Edward Schroth
Health Work Group Co-Chairs

HOUSING WORK GROUP REPORT**January – December 2012**

This Work Group was re-established in May of 2011, but was discontinued in June 2012. While the Group had some accomplishments, there was not enough Council or Community participation to sustain an ongoing effort.

Activities

- Provided advocacy and endorsement of the Worrell Road, Antioch affordable senior housing proposed project
- Provided advocacy and endorsement of the Barrellesa Palms affordable senior housing project in Martinez
- Collaborated with Evelyn Stivers, Field Director for Non-Profit Housing, including a meeting with Senator Mark DeSaulnier to discuss post RDA strategies and advocacy
- Attended East Bay Housing Organizations' round table "Life after Redevelopment"
- Developed a Housing Work Group recruitment flyer

Accomplishments

Members worked to foster community participation and support by reaching out to city planners and managers around the county. Best practice guidelines for transit village and multi-family senior housing were shared with community partners as requested.

2012 Work Plan - Group Goals (2013 Goal Setting Cancelled)**Education of the Workgroup:**

- Learn about what the cities currently have as plans, objectives and challenges to meeting the needs of older adults. Participate in city housing advisory committees to identify optimal efficiencies, redundancies and where conflicts in strategy and direction exist
- Identify the number of seniors who can't afford to live in Contra Costa County according to the newly adopted Elder Index
- Study "Village" and "Age-Friendly Cities" concepts and other unconventional approaches being used

Communication and Advocacy:

- Share findings before the full ACOA membership on needs gaps, best practices, success stories and other key information learned
- Engage speakers who are subject matter experts, from city and other civic levels, and from non-government organizations who can share and promote best practices
- Conduct a site visits and report findings
- Integrate efforts with the ACOA Transportation Workgroup

Laura Ferree

Housing Work Group Chair

LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY WORK GROUP**January – December 2012****Activities**

- Monthly Meetings (SEP-DEC/Recess)
- Track CA State and Federal legislation affecting older adults
- Compose and submit advocacy letters in support or opposition of current legislation or government actions

- Communities Against Senior Exploitation (CASE) Elder Financial Abuse Kick-off / Presentation Training and Outreach
- 2012 CSL Session Reporting

Accomplishments

Members accepted assignments to track and report status & outcome related to proposed legislation or government actions affecting older adults. By sending Advocacy letters approved by the Council members joined others across the State who wrote in support of SB 345 Ombudsman Independence & Improvement Bill, SB 654 Redevelopment Funds, SB 1047 Silver Alert Program, SP-4 Defibrillator Signage, AB 2010 Reverse Mortgages, Repeal of Medicare Payment System, Letter to Resources for Community Development in support of Berrylessa Palms affordable senior housing community for low income seniors in Martinez, Older Americans Act amendment regarding legal services for California seniors and SB 1384 Identity Theft. Opposed legislation included: proposed changes to veterans benefits. Senior Senator, Joanna-Kim Selby and Senior Assemblymember Shirley Krohn provided a 2012 California Senior Legislature (CSL) Session review and provided legislative updates to Council members.

2013 Work Plan - Group Goals

- Review Top 10 and Top 4 legislative proposals submitted by the California Senior Legislature
- Review other aging legislation for potential support or opposition
- Work group members to identify legislation they will review to determine to support, oppose or watch
- Continue CASE presentations in the county

Shirley Krohn / Joanna Kim Selby

Legislative Advocacy Work Group Co-Chairs

TRANSPORTATION WORK GROUP

January – December 2012

Activities

- Monthly Meetings
- Survey older adults to determine their transportation needs
- Community Education on transportation options and safety

Accomplishments

The workgroup is supported by council members, individual transportation providers and other senior advocates from around the County. Our small transportation providers who are members of the workgroup provided more than 11,632 rides to seniors or adults with disabilities. 2012 Highlights: The workgroup studied problems experienced by wheelchair users who become stranded in transit when a mechanical breakdown occurs. Ms. Penny Musante, Director of the ALIVE program together with a wheelchair user were guest speakers that helped workgroup members better understand the problem. Members of the California Senior Legislature representing Contra Costa constituents and members of the Legislative Advocacy Workgroup are supporting SP 12 to provide free transportation services for stranded wheelchair users, statewide. Workgroup members with assistance from Phil McGuire, CEO, - Innovative Paradigms are studying and monitoring the development of a Mobility Management plan for Contra Costa County. Individual SMAC members are attending public meetings to learn more about the plan and to provide input to support transportation for older adults. Workgroup members supported the proposed acquisition of senior buses in Concord and Martinez.

2013 Work Plan - Group Goals (Extended from 2012 and reviewed next in January of 2013)

- Advocate for and actively support Mobility Management in Contra Costa

- Advocate for and support city-based transportation programs
- Advocate for and support increased volunteerism in senior transportation
 - Presentation of 2013 Ilene Lubkin Award
- Provide workshop/conference related to Senior Mobility

Mary Bruns / Tighe Boyle

Transportation Work Group Co-Chairs

SENIOR NUTRITION PROGRAM

January – December, 2012

Activities

- Deliver delicious and nutritious meals for homebound seniors
- Contra Costa cafes, provide healthy meals and safe, friendly opportunities for older adults to socialize with others who have similar interests
- Provide emergency meals
- Deliver hope to Contra Costa's older adult population

Accomplishments

The Senior Nutrition Program and its companion agency Home Delivered Meals, has delivered healthy meals to Contra Costa seniors for 40 years. The program serves adults with AIDS and those who have a disability, allowing them to live independently, well into their 70's 80's and 90's. Contra Costa County menus exceed the Department of Aging and Title VII USDA recommendations. Emergency meals are still delivered every six months, funded entirely by our non-profit and suitable for claiming under Title III regulations. Most emergency meal products have a three year shelf-life.

2013 Work Plan

- Increase participation in all Contra Costa cafes
- Increase awareness of socialization benefits of participation
- Raise awareness of cafe sites
- Recruit volunteer drivers to serve homebound elders

Gail Garrett

Nutrition Council President

Advisory Council on Aging Representative

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Photo: Jaime Ray