

CONTRA COSTA COUNTY
ADVISORY COUNCIL ON AGING
ANNUAL REPORT



JANUARY – DECEMBER 2013

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Advisory Council on Aging

Officers:

- Dr. Robert Leasure, President – 1st Term
- Gerald Richards, First Vice President – 1st Term
- John Rinaudo, Second Vice President – 1st Term
- Richard Nahm, Secretary – 1st Term
- Gail Garrett, Treasurer – 1st Term

Current Roster of Members as of December 1, 2013:

Mary Bruns
Deborah Card
Cynthia Clearwater
Alice Conn
Mary Dunne Rose
Rudy Fernandez
Barbara Fineberg
Susan Frederick
Gail Garrett
Keith Katzman
Arthur Kee
Joanna Kim-Selby
Shirley Krohn
Robert Leasure

Sue Littlehale
Arthur Mijares
Richard Nahm
Nuru Neemuchwalla
Earle Ormiston
Michael Prilutsky
Gerald Richards
John Rinaudo
Nell Ryan
Richard SanVicente
Edward Schroth
Laurie Ulrick
Beverly Wallace
Patricia Welty

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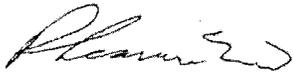
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The Contra Costa County Advisory Council on Aging (ACOA) advises the Area Agency on Aging in all matters related to the development and administration of senior programs in accordance with the mandates of the Older Americans Act. The Council is comprised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

The ACOA has been active in many areas. We have been strong advocates on many senior/LGBT issues including funding for Older Americans Act, Ombudsman and mental health issues. Our work groups have been active in many ways. This includes concerns about emergency response billing and transparency, transportation issues, mental health funding, provider critique, and senior housing. We continue to strive to meet our objectives despite difficulties including loss of funding and support staff. The staff available has been superlative in their efforts to assist us in our endeavors. The ACOA members have given a tremendous amount of time and energy in their interest in our efforts. I commend them and the staff in what we have accomplished over the past year.

2013 ACOA projects included an Aging Well seminar at Rossmoor on November 7, the Ilene Lubkin Senior Transportation Awards program, continued advocacy for reauthorization of the Older Americans Act, its funding and implementation, and the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act roll-out in Contra Costa. Continued support will be given to financial abuse seminars and proper prescription drug disposal campaigns. Earlier this year, Council members worked to develop and execute the Out of Isolation conference held at John Muir Health – Walnut Creek and to stimulate individual or corporate giving to benefit local senior nutrition programs.

Many other senior issues persist, including Medicare and Social Security challenges; the isolation and loneliness of some of our elderly population; and nutrition (or lack thereof) especially for our homebound elderly. The ACOA and its work groups will continue in their endeavors to work on these problems.



Robert Leasure, M.D.
Advisory Council on Aging President

Activities

- Monthly Meetings
- Work with 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 will continue to work with the Area Agency on Aging (AAA) on the Development and review of the PSA 07 Area Plan with updates. Members also assisted the AAA in the development and execution of the 2013 Partners in Planning event. The Committee provides regular reporting to the Executive Committee including recommendations. Former Co-Chair Vernon Jones has resigned from the Council and has since passed away. Two other members resigned and one new member was added to the Committee in 2013. Laurie Ulrick, Chair of the Planning Committee is working to recruit and restore a full membership. Currently there are (4) members; three additional members are being sought.

2014 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

Planning Committee, Chair

Current Membership Committee Roster:

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

ACTIVITIES:

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

ACOMPLISHMENTS:

The Council is composed of (40) seats, twenty of which are designated Local Seats and one is reserved for a representative of the Nutrition Council. In 2013 this Committee conducted (2) MAL applicant interviews and has facilitated a total of (7) appointments. As of this reporting there are (6) Local committee Seats and (6)

MAL seats that remain vacant; (3) candidates are waiting for an appointment. New member orientations included instruction, guidance and follow-up on the completion of Form 700, plus AB 1234 Ethics Training and Brown Act/Contra Costa County Better Governance 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.

2014 WORK PLAN

- Maintain a full ACOA membership
- Recruit District II Representative on the Membership Committee
- Apply and track membership eligibility requirements
- Track attendance problems
- Conduct New member Orientations
- Report to the Executive Committee

Beverly Wallace

Membership Committee Chair

HEALTH WORK GROUP REPORT

January – December 2013

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 healthcare delivery systems

Accomplishments

In 2013 the Health Work Group conducted presentations and has interviewed community leaders including the Contra Costa Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Director; Contra Costa American Medical Response (AMR) Regional Manager and the Contra Costa Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Program (HICAP) Manager to continue its study of patient billing problems and the absence of an effective appeals process to develop advocacy on the following topics:

- Emergency Transportation Services – Identify Consumer Billing Problems; Identify Billing/Appeals Procedures and Improvements
- Endorsement of Health Work Group Chair for Appointment to Emergency Medical Care Committee as a consumer representative (District 5)

2014 Work Plan - Group Goals

- Continue work to identify and address existing problems with Emergency Transportation Services billing procedure and the lack of an adequate consumer appeals process.
- 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

Activities

- Monthly Meetings (Sep-Dec Recess)
- Track CA State and Federal legislation affecting older adults
- Compose advocacy letters in support or opposition to current legislation or government actions
- Communities Against Senior Exploitation (CASE) presentations to groups of seniors on protecting and educating them against financial abuse
- 2013 CSL Session Reporting at special meeting for ACOA members in November

Accomplishments

Members “adopted” certain bills which they research, monitored and recommend positions taken on whether to support, oppose, or watch. The adoptee drafts these letters to be submitted to the Executive Committee and ultimately to the full Advisory Council on Aging. Letters written to support SB609 Ombudsman funding, AB663 Administrator Training in Facilities with LGBT residents, AB477 Notaries as Mandated Reporters, AB381 Undue Influence, AB322 Home Care Services Act, AB261 RCFE Fees & Charges, AB247 CSL Voluntary Contribution, AB204 Prescription Drug Labeling

2014 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 Contra Costa County

Shirley Krohn / Joanna Kim-Selby

Legislative Advocacy Work Group Co-Chairs

Activities

- Monthly meetings
- Study and advocacy to promote volunteerism in support of small transportation providers
- Community education on transportation options and safety

Accomplishments

2013 achievements include: members coordinated/executed the conference: ‘*Out of Isolation*’ on May 31. Dr. Carla Perissinotto, MD UCSF Medical Center discussed the findings of her study on isolation, loneliness and its effects on older adults; representatives from the Department of Motor Vehicles and the California Highway Patrol presented components of the ‘Age Well, Drive Smart’ education outreach. Workgroup Members and guests, including Peter Engel, Program Manager, CCTA, provided program reports and updates to raise awareness of transportation services and supports available to Contra Costa seniors. Members reviewed older driver license testing to conclude that the law should not discriminate based on a person’s age. Several members served as stakeholders on the Contra Costa Mobility Management Planning Committee.

2014 Work Plan - Group Goals

- 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.
- Advocate for dedicated funding for senior transportation programs.
- Advocate legislation that supports, preserves, and encourages senior mobility.
- Provide leadership and support at conferences, workshops, and committees related to Senior Mobility.
- Build capacity by recruiting new members and increasing participation in the monthly meetings.

Mary Bruns

Transportation Work Group Chair

SENIOR NUTRITION PROGRAM

January – December, 2013

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
- 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.

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



Photo: Jaime Ray

*Advisory Council on Aging
2013 Annual Report*