



**January 26, 2022**  
**3:00 – 4:30 p.m.**  
**Via Zoom**

## **MINUTES**

**Attendance:** Ashley Costa, John Crowell, Victoria Doss, Esmeralda Estrada, Rachel Gately, Lauren Ferguson, Alma Hernandez, Heidi Holly, Wendy Hudson, Thea Hurst, Cheri Jasinski, Vicki Johnson, Renee Kuhlman, Steve Lavagnino, Jacob Lesner-Buxton, joyce ellen lippman, Marco Quintanar, Alice Villarreal Redit, DeAnn Rosenberry, Gina Sawaya, Rynn Schumacher, Judi Sotelo, Kathleen Sullivan, Jackie Valencia, Margaret Weiss, Jeanne West

**Staff:** Barbara Finch and Gloria Munoz

### **1. Welcome & Introductions**

Barbara Finch opened the meeting and introductions were made.

### **2. Adult & Aging Network Reconsideration of the COVID-19 State of Emergency**

- a. *The Adult & Aging Network reconsidered the circumstances of the COVID-19 state of emergency;*
- b. *The Adult & Aging Network considered whether state or local officials continue to impose or recommend measures to promote social distancing;*
- c. *It was found that the Adult & Aging Network reconsidered the circumstances of the state of emergency, and that State or local officials continue to impose or recommend measures to promote social distancing; and*
- d. *A motion was made by DeAnn Rosenberry, seconded by Jeanne West to direct staff to continue to notice and hold hearings as remote hearings consistent with Government Code § 54953(e)(3). The motion carried by the following votes: YES-23 NO-0 ABSTAIN-0*

### **3. AAN Business**

#### **• Approve Minutes, November 17, 2021 & January 5, 2022**

Jeanne West motioned to approve the November 17, 2021 minutes and DeAnn Rosenberry seconded the motion. Rachel Gately, Vicki Johnson, Wendy Hudson, Thea Hurst, Renee Kuhlman, Steve Lavagnino, Jacob Lesner-Buxton, joyce ellen lippman, Alice Villarreal Redit, Gina Sawaya, Judi Sotelo, and Jackie Valencia abstained from voting; all others voted in favor and the minutes were approved.

Jeanne West motioned to approve the January 5, 2022 minutes and DeAnn Rosenberry seconded the motion. John Crowell, Rachel Gately, Wendy Hudson, Thea Hurst, Renee Kuhlman, Steve Lavagnino, Jacob Lesner-Buxton, joyce ellen lippman, Alice Villarreal Redit, Gina Sawaya, Judi Sotelo, Jackie Valencia, Margaret Weiss, and Jeanne West abstained from voting; all others voted in favor and the minutes were approved.

#### **4. Public Comment**

Supervisor Lavagnino shared that the county was trying to apply for a grant to rehab the Motel 6 in Santa Maria. This had failed yesterday but now through some negotiations with the city of Santa Maria the project is now back with the caveat that the focus is on older adults that are experiencing homelessness along with transition-aged youth. It is a \$17 million grant that he feels we are well positioned for and they will be moving forward with that this week.

Cheri reported that she has been doing some research into the AARP Aging Friendly Cities and it looks to be very exciting. Yesterday they opened up a grant for organizations and communities that are working to achieve that status. She mentioned that this would be consistent with what we are doing with the Master Plan because they have at least two of our areas, healthcare and housing. She added that the state of California has been an Aging Friendly state for about six months now.

#### **5. Planning Projects and Opportunities in Santa Barbara County**

The state has developed the Master Plan for Aging framework and template that local jurisdictions are being encouraged to implement. Alma Hernandez, North County District Representative from the Office of Supervisor Joan Hartmann, shared that Santa Barbara County is also trying to gather information for planning purposes. Alma shared a [spreadsheet](#) that includes a list and description of County plans, whether the needs of seniors are currently being considered, and websites where you can find information about each plan. The point of this is to ensure that everyone works together to incorporate senior needs into each plan, and to follow up with funding ideas at a later date. Alma shared that the Community Services Department will have a representative from the Parks and Housing Divisions to attend future AAN meetings.

Barbara mentioned that following the Master Plan event, next steps are to organize priorities, collect local data, and utilize the resources that we have in this group to identify trends and needs in Santa Barbara County. One goal is to create a foundational document that explains the population trends and the needs of older adults and people with disabilities for each of these planning groups.

## 6. Recreation Master Plan

Gina Sawaya, Environmental Analyst at Wood Environment Consulting, gave a presentation on the Santa Barbara County Recreation Master Plan. She went over the following (see attached PPT):

- Why is recreation essential?
- Recreation in Santa Barbara County of Santa Barbara
- Key Goals of the Master Plan
- Responsibilities
- Steps Toward a Recreation Master Plan
- Project Schedule
- Next Steps
- How to get Involved

Gina asked folks to share what are some of the recreational needs that need to be included in the Recreation Master Plan for aging and adult populations in Santa Barbara County. Folks shared the following:

- Pickle ball
- Access to swimming activities
- Eco therapy – we need nature in order to stay healthy
- Community gardens
- Being able to walk to a Central Park or place downtown with more benches to sit on in communal areas walking distance to senior housing
- Easy access to safe walking places
- Walking groups
- Free outdoor activities
- Group activities
- Wheelchair accessibility
- Indoor activities
- Balance between indoor and outdoor choices (remember folks in skilled nursing facilities and other places who may not be able to get out)
  - Book clubs, art activities, etc.
- Bring nature inside
  - plants, fountains, etc.

Gina shared that seniors are usually considered 55 and over but in their survey they are broken up a little bit further. Cheri mentioned that there are a lot of senior centers in Santa Maria, Santa Barbara and Goleta and those would be important places to get feedback. She added that seniors are not often computer savvy and suggested doing outreach at large community centers.

The survey results will be published on the website by the summer. The County Board of Supervisors hearing next week is approving additional funds for the project. This could potentially include additional outreach money for Spanish speaking populations. They want to do more outreach and get more help to reach folks who might not be taking the survey because so much of their outreach has been in English. The survey is available in Spanish.

## 7. MPA Priority Updates

- **Caregiving Committee**
- **Housing Committee**

Housing, Health Reimagined, and Caregiving are the three AAN priority areas. Folks gave the following updates:

- **Caregiving Solutions Pilot:** Shannon shared that the category of caregiving includes advancing the caregiving workforce in our county, as well as addressing the needs of family caregivers. The Caregiving Solutions Pilot addresses gaps in our local caregiving workforce by testing ways to advance paid caregiving and increase the supply of paid caregivers in Santa Barbara County. They initially sought to identify potential caregivers who might not be seeking caregiving work and to incentivize them to see this as meaningful work. One example would be younger wagers who might consider a caregiving career with a vocational pathway. Another would be older adults aged 50 and above, mostly underemployed women, who might be in the role of family caregiver and interested in paid work. The pilot has identified some of the limitations that prevent full time work, such as commute times and other caregiving responsibilities. If anyone is interested in signing up for paid caregiving work or know of adults who need assistance at home, email [shannon@prontopia.com](mailto:shannon@prontopia.com)
- **Family Caregiving Initiative:** Ashley shared that the Santa Barbara Foundation invested hundreds of thousands of dollars over the course of six or more years for research and interventions to address the needs of Santa Barbara County caregivers. One project was Caring Together Lompoc. Other projects that were very successful throughout the county included partners from Marian Medical Center, Family Service Agency, Coast Caregiver Resource Center, and others. She added that the Santa Barbara Foundation is sunsetting the Community Caregiving Initiative (CCI) and there is going to be a core group of partners who will be working together to move forward from CCI to create Caring Together Santa Barbara County. Their goal is that folks will attend quarterly network meetings to create a shared vision and prioritize initiatives for how to support family caregivers over the next two years. Caring Together Santa Barbara County is a free platform from FSA where organizations can share programming, client offerings, respite care, and other resources. These can be sent directly to Caring Together Santa Barbara County or DeAnn Rosenberry at FSA, or Ashley at LVCHO. Ashley added that they do not necessarily know what areas they are going to be moving forward over the next year but they want to co-create that with many people at the first convening in March.

Shannon shared that she appreciates the continuation of the work of the CCI with this group and the opportunity for them to participate on the other side of what they are doing on the Caregiving Solutions Pilot. She thinks it is a great example of leveraging administrative capacity and the critical issue of caregiving. Prontopia will be gathering data with a view toward advocacy and potentially writing white papers.

**Health Reimagined** - Barbara stated that she has contacted CenCal about California Advancing and Innovating Medi-Cal (CalAIM), and although they are not among the first to adopt changes, they will be having community forum opportunities to give input. They will also be invited to AAN at a future date.

**Housing Committee** - Barbara gave the following update from Frank Thompson:

**1. A. Regional Housing Needs Allocation and Housing Element Updates**

All jurisdictions in Santa Barbara County are working to update the Housing Element of their general plans at this time. The revised Housing Elements must be adopted for review by the State Department of Housing and Community Development by November, 2022 for implementation in 2023 for the 8 year period through 2031. The Housing Element is required to review the demand, supply and policy framework to support all types of senior and assisted housing, including group homes and licensed residential facilities.

Overall numerical goals for new housing production are set in the "Regional Housing Needs Analysis" which also sets numerical goals by income level (market, moderate, low, very low, and extremely low income). If a jurisdiction fails to foster the production of enough new units in a year, or cumulatively from the beginning of the 8 year planning period, developers receive "streamlining" incentives for new projects to accelerate approvals, in some cases, eliminating local discretionary approval authority.

The numerical goals for the cities of Santa Barbara County for 2023-2031 have already been established and total 28,000 new units. This goal is three times as big as the previous 8-year planning period. Consequently, it seems likely that very strong incentives from fast track and streamlined approval processes will be available to senior housing developers, at least through the initial years of this new planning period (2023 through 2031), substantially reducing risk of approval and long processing times previously experienced.

If you are interested in joining the Housing Committee, please contact Barbara. The first meeting will be on February 1<sup>st</sup>. Rachel Gately stated that she would like to join the committee as a member of the SB Tenants Union.

If folks would like to attend the [2022 Senior Health Policy Forum](#): "Advancing the Intersection of Health and Housing Initiatives" on Wednesday February 2<sup>nd</sup> from 9-1:30pm, please contact Gloria. AAN will be sponsoring folks to attend.

**8. Adjourn – Next meeting February 23, 2022 (Voting)  
Next meeting March 23, 2022**

The meeting adjourned at 4:20 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted by Gloria Munoz*