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ADULT & AGING NETWORK HOSTING A COUNTYWIDE CONVENING ***“Transforming the Experience of Aging in Santa Barbara County”***

(SANTA BARBARA, Calif.) - The Santa Barbara County Adult & Aging Network (AAN) is co-hosting a countywide convening, *“Transforming the Experience of Aging in Santa Barbara County”* on Thursday, October 12, 2023 from 8:30am -2:00pm at the Santa Ynez Valley Marriott at 555 McMurray Rd, Buellton, CA 93427. The event will focus on local implementation of California’s Master Plan for Aging (MPA), and is co-sponsored by Caring Together Santa Barbara County (CTSBC) with additional support from The SCAN Foundation and the California Accountable Communities for Health Initiative (CACHI).

The MPA calls on communities to *“build a California for all ages and abilities”* and provides a blueprint for change. Unprecedented support and resources from the state are galvanizing efforts to activate and engage local stakeholders, decision makers, and advocates in designing age- and disability-friendly communities. The convening will include the release of a preliminary report that gives a current snapshot of aging in Santa Barbara County with data and recommendations from the first phase of local planning, which focused primarily on housing and caregiving needs.

Santa Barbara County Supervisor, Joan Hartmann will open the convening, followed by keynote speaker Sarah Steenhausen, Deputy Director of Policy, Research, and Equity at the California Department of Aging. The speaker for the closing session will be Donna Benton, Ph.D, Research Associate Professor of Gerontology/Director of the USC Family Caregiver Support Center (FCSC) and former member of the MPA Advisory Committee.

Stakeholders from diverse sectors and communities throughout Santa Barbara County are invited to attend the convening, including city and county leaders, county agency directors and staff, direct service providers, community members, and advocates.

“We’re a rapidly aging society that needs to begin thinking proactively about building the communities where we want to grow old. By 2030, 1 in 4 people in Santa Barbara County will be age 60 or older. Aging affects everyone and disability is often part of the aging experience. We need to take advantage of the opportunities before us to harness new state, federal, and private funding sources so that we can truly transform the experience of aging for everyone who calls Santa Barbara County their home.”

-Barbara Finch, AAN Director, Santa Barbara County Department of Social Services.

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AAN is a community network of public and nonprofit partners that serves as an advisory body to the County Board of Supervisors. As a Regional Coalition and a member of the California Collaborative for Long Term Service and Supports, AAN has taken a lead role in strengthening collaboration and support for local implementation of California's Master Plan for Aging (MPA).

CTSBC is an established community health network of caregiver provider organizations and advocates dedicated to raising awareness, support and training opportunities for local caregivers. Together, they help caregivers self-identify, inform residents that they are not alone in their caregiving efforts, and offer a network of organizations to support them.

Register [here](#) to reserve your spot.

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