



**January 22, 2025    3:00 – 4:30 p.m.**  
**The Grange, 2374 Alamo Pintado Rd, Los Olivos, CA**

### **MINUTES**

**Attendance:** Reneé Cowans, John Crowell, Cathy DeCaprio-Wells, Patty Flores, Supervisor Joan Hartmann, Alma Hernandez, Amy Krueger, Supervisor Roy Lee, De Rosenberry, Maria Vega, Margaret Weiss, Hilda Zacarias

**Staff:** Barb Finch & Elizabeth Drake

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

Barbara Finch welcomed everyone and introduced Supervisor Roy Lee, the new co-chair of the Adult & Aging Network. Supervisor Joan Hartmann thanked Barbara for her recent presentation to the Board of Supervisors on the Master Plan for Aging. Attendees introduced themselves and the agencies they represent.

#### **2. AAN Business Approve Minutes, November 20, 2024**

Joan Hartmann motioned to approve the November 20, 2024 minutes and Cathy DeCaprio-Wells seconded the motion. Roy Lee and Reneé Cowans abstained. The motion passed and the minutes were approved.

#### **3. Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

#### **4. Aging Well in Santa Barbara County**

- **Presentation to the Board of Supervisors** – The recent presentation to the Board of Supervisors provided a high-level overview of a collaborative report on aging and disability planning. The report emphasizes the interconnectedness of housing, caregiver support and access to home and community-based services and the need for actionable, community-driven solutions. Next steps include finalizing the local plan, seeking community feedback, and securing Board approval in May.
- **Phase 3 Next Steps** - As part of Phase 3, the team is reviewing findings from the community needs assessment, which successfully gathered input from underrepresented groups, including Mixteco and American Sign Language speakers, as well as a strong representation from the Spanish-speaking community. Cross-sector work groups will analyze both the aging report and needs assessment, potentially convening discussions on key topic areas. Collaboration with local agencies is a priority, ensuring that aging considerations are integrated into city and county planning processes, including housing, transportation, and emergency preparedness.
- **Assessment of Home & Community Services** - The assessment of home and community-based services will focus on mapping resources and identifying gaps. The team plans to organize provider focus groups, such as those for transportation and nutrition services, to discuss priorities and opportunities. A key takeaway from discussions with the Board of Supervisors is the need to embed aging considerations into all planning efforts, including housing, recreation, and emergency response. Additionally, there is a push to view senior centers as critical infrastructure while also

expanding the definition of senior gathering spaces beyond traditional centers. Many seniors already congregate in places like churches, and efforts will be made to ensure information and resources reach them where they are. Addressing the challenge of information dissemination remains a priority, as many seniors are unaware of existing services despite the presence of established organizations.

## 5. Partners in Care Foundation

- **Multipurpose Senior Services Program (MSSP)** - Patty Mendoza from the Partners in Care Foundation presented on the Multipurpose Senior Services Program (MSSP), which provides care management for low-income elderly clients to help them remain at home and avoid institutional placement. She outlined the program's mission to offer home-based support at a lower cost than nursing facilities, ensuring seniors receive essential services while maintaining their independence.

### Key topics covered include:

- **Eligibility:** Seniors aged 65+, Medi-Cal recipients with no share of cost, and those eligible for nursing facility placement but prefer to stay **at home**.
- **Services Provided:**
  - Care coordination with health plans, primary care, and community resources.
  - Home visits and assessments by nurses and social workers.
  - Respite care, protective supervision, transportation (e.g., Easy Lift, Yellow Cab), and home-delivered meals.
  - Home safety modifications, medical equipment purchases (except seated walkers), and some personal care assistance (limited hours).
- **Challenges:**
  - Limited caregiving hours due to workforce shortages.
  - Transportation difficulties in some areas.
  - Complex eligibility for services like meal delivery.
- **Referral and Coordination:** The program collaborates with Adult Protective Services (APS), Area Agency on Aging, CommUnify, and other local organizations to ensure comprehensive support.
- **Capacity:** The program can serve up to 200 participants and has a 60-90 day waitlist.

A testimonial shared in the discussion highlighted MSSP's positive impact, emphasizing how it improves the quality of life for elderly participants by coordinating essential care and overcoming bureaucratic hurdles.

- **CAPABLE** - Barbara shared information about the CAPABLE program after being encouraged to explore it by the Director of Public Health. The program was previously run by the Partners in Care Foundation in Los Angeles. Although they no longer implement this program, the CAPABLE website remains active.

## 6. CalAIM Supports for Older Adults & People with Disabilities – De Rosenberry gave a presentation focused on CalAIM's Enhanced Care Management (ECM) and Community Supports, with Family Service Agency (FSA) presenting its role in expanding services to include older adults under the program. FSA aims to streamline administrative burdens for smaller providers and expand service provision across Santa Barbara County.

### Key points included:

- Participants cannot be enrolled in both FSA and Partners in Care Foundation services, requiring them to choose one ECM provider.

- FSA is working to centralize infrastructure to support service providers with billing and administrative tasks.
- Concerns were raised about potential Medicaid funding cuts, which could impact program sustainability.
- Discussions on affordable housing solutions for seniors, such as home-sharing programs and Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs), highlighted the need for innovative solutions to address financial burdens like rising insurance costs.

De concluded by emphasizing the importance of collaboration across agencies to ensure efficient care management and resource allocation while addressing service gaps for seniors in need.

**7. MPA Advisory Committee Workgroups** – Margaret presented on the Master Plan for Aging project, emphasizing the importance of workgroups to address key priorities identified over the past year, including access to healthcare, housing and homelessness, caregiver resources, community awareness of resources, and a resource map/gap analysis. The goal is to develop strategies for these areas, starting with short-term objectives for the first year and more aspirational goals for the next few years, all of which will be revisited annually. Participants were encouraged to engage in workgroups to draft a local action plan, working alongside content experts in various fields. She expressed the need for contributions and ideas from participants, highlighting that the administrative tasks will be managed to facilitate collaboration. She concluded by mentioning the significance of creating messaging that raises awareness about aging issues among decision-makers.

**8. Announcements** – The following announcements were shared:

- The Senior Expo in Santa Maria will be held on Friday, March 14<sup>th</sup> from 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. at Allan Hancock College.
- There is a free educational Networking and Training for Caregivers event happening on Saturday, January 25<sup>th</sup> from 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. in Santa Maria.
- Senator Monique Limon will be speaking at the Gray Panthers meeting in Santa Barbara at 5:30 this evening.

**9. Adjourn Meeting**

Barbara adjourned the meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 26, 2025.

*Respectfully submitted by Elizabeth Drake*