



March 26, 2025 3:00 – 4:30 p.m.
The Grange, 2374 Alamo Pintado Rd, Los Olivos, CA

MINUTES

Attendance: Lora Aladdin, Amy Blanchard, René Cowans, John Crowell, Cathy DeCaprio-Wells, Chris Donati, Jennifer Griffin, Amelia Grover, Alma Hernandez, Amy Krueger, Supervisor Roy Lee, Loretta Parrish, Maria Vega, Eugenio Venegas, Emmanuel Verduzco, Margaret Weiss, Hilda Zacarias

Staff: Barb Finch & Elizabeth Drake

1. Welcome & Introductions

Supervisor Roy Lee called the meeting to order and invited those in attendance to introduce themselves and the agencies they represent.

2. AAN Business Approve Minutes, January 22, 2025

Chris Donati motioned to approve the January 22, 2025 minutes and Jennifer Griffin seconded the motion. There were no abstentions. The motion passed and the minutes were approved.

3. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

4. Master Plan for Aging (MPA) - Barbara Finch led a discussion focused on continued efforts to develop a local Master Plan for Aging (MPA) in Santa Barbara County. Participants discussed the importance of building a strong, collaborative aging network with guiding principles such as inclusivity, accessibility, and cross-sector integration. Using diagrams, Barbara illustrated how networks ideally evolve—from isolated organizations to interconnected, strategic alliances—and invited members to reflect on where the Adult & Aging Network (AAN) currently stands. Most agreed that while progress has been made, there is still some fragmentation and room for improvement in communication and collaboration. Advisory committees and work groups have played a vital role in setting objectives and gathering broader input. Participants emphasized the importance of balancing individual organizational goals with collective action to strengthen collaboration and information sharing.

- **Provider Survey** - Barbara asked the group to review and help refine a provider survey intended to support the MPA through resource mapping and identifying service gaps (see attached). Members provided feedback, noting the survey's length, and need for alignment with community priorities such as service capacity, quality of life, and accessibility. There was strong interest in collecting more targeted, actionable data—such as service availability, demographics served, and unmet needs—while minimizing overly technical or vague questions.
 - Attendees emphasized including underrepresented service providers, like faith-based groups and volunteer networks, in the survey outreach.

- Suggestions included rephrasing questions for clarity, focusing on program-level capacity, and aligning the survey with existing resources like 211 and Senior Connection.
- Some members proposed alternate approaches like focus groups, though resource limitations make broad implementation challenging.
- Ultimately, the group recognized the survey as a step toward greater awareness and collaboration, even if its findings are integrated into long-term goals rather than the current submission deadline.

5. Adult Services at the Santa Maria Wisdom Center – Eugenio Venegas, Loretta Parrish and Amy Blanchard reviewed and answered questions about the following programs and services offered at the Santa Maria Wisdom Center:

- **Community-Based Adult Services/Adult Day Health Center** - The Santa Maria Wisdom Center is a comprehensive adult day health care program that serves individuals aged 18 and older, primarily retired seniors. Funded through Medi-Cal (CenCal), Veterans Affairs, and private pay, the center offers transportation, medical monitoring, therapeutic services, and meals tailored to specific health needs. Participants engage in structured daily activities such as exercise, arts and crafts, games, and outings. A team of nurses, therapists, dietitians, and social workers provide individualized care plans, which are reviewed and updated regularly. The center's goal is to support clients in maintaining independence and preventing institutionalization, using a restorative and holistic approach in a highly regulated environment.
- **Enhanced Care Management (ECM)**- The Wisdom Center works in coordination with ECM programs, particularly through the CalAIM initiative, to extend support both to center participants and the broader community. Social workers play a key role in connecting individuals to services such as mental health counseling, veterans' assistance, In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS), financial aid, and transportation. Clients can be referred to ECM through the center or access Wisdom Center services via ECM referrals. This partnership enables more comprehensive care and support for vulnerable populations, whether or not they attend the center in person.
- **Housing & Homeless Services** - Housing stability is a key concern identified by the Wisdom Center. During intake assessments, social workers conduct home visits to check for basic needs like running water, electricity, and safe sleeping arrangements. They often encounter issues like hoarding and substandard living conditions. Many clients live in group homes or shared housing, and the center provides transportation to and from these residences. Plans for future expansion include opening new locations to better serve southern San Luis Obispo County and the Santa Barbara area. Outreach is also focused on raising awareness and correcting misconceptions that the center only serves seniors, emphasizing its broader role in adult care and housing support.

6. Reforming the IHSS Advisory Committee – Cathy DeCaprio-Wells announced that the In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) Advisory Committee is being reestablished after years of inactivity, dating back to before the COVID-19 pandemic. This committee, which advises the Board of Supervisors, will be composed of up to 11 members, including current or former IHSS recipients and providers, as well as one or two community representatives. The effort is being led by a county staff member working closely with the public authority and drawing guidance from the California IHSS Consumer Alliance (Cal-IHSS CA).

The goal is to recruit individuals who are passionate about advocating for IHSS services, improving communication between the community and the county, and providing input to the Board of Supervisors. The committee will be a volunteer group governed by the Brown

Act, with a small annual budget to support basic operations. Recruitment efforts are beginning, and the public is encouraged to refer interested individuals. The committee's structure, meeting frequency, and focus areas will be shaped collaboratively once members are selected.

7. **MPA Workgroups Update** - Margaret provided an update on the Master Plan for Aging (MPA) work groups, noting that each of the four groups has identified key action items to include in the final plan. Drafts of these goals are currently being prepared and will soon be circulated to the groups for review and feedback. The team also plans to hold listening sessions with community members to gather input before finalizing the goals. These refined goals will be incorporated into the formal plan submitted to the Board of Supervisors and the California Department of Aging. Margaret invited anyone with questions or interest in the editing process to speak with her afterward.

8. **Adjourn Meeting**

Barbara adjourned the meeting adjourned at 4:32 p.m. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 28, 2025.

Respectfully submitted by Elizabeth Drake