

South Bay Cities Council of Governments

Senior Services Working Group Meeting Notes

Tuesday, March 22, 2022 @ 9:30 am, Zoom Meeting

Link to Meeting Video: [March 22 Senior Services Meeting Video](#)

Elected officials/representatives in attendance:

Councilmember Huff, Chair (Rolling Hills Estates, H.E.L.P); Councilmember Valentine (Hawthorne); Councilmember Uphoff (Lomita); Janet Turner (Representative Congress Member Ted Lieu)

Others in attendance: Susan DeMarois, Amanda Lawrence (Calif Dept of Aging); Dana Wynkoop (American Cancer Society); Emily Brosius, Nicole Meneses (Beach Cities Health District); Diane Brown (Hawthorne); Kambria Vint (Hermosa Beach); Thomas Uwal (Inglewood); Harriet Chase, Teri Neustaedter (League of Women Voters Beach Cities); Marcelle Herrera (Palos Verdes Estates); Monique Sugimoto (Palos Verdes Library District); Fran Wielin, Marianne Propst (PVP Village); McKenzie Bright (Rancho Palos Verdes); Rosa Pinuelas (Rolling Hills Estates); Ghislaine Davis (Torrance Commission on Aging); Ana Abril-Urias, Courtney Reed (PATH); Megan Grasman (USIM); Kathy Hilberg (Stakeholder); Ronson Chu, Laurie Jacobs, Jacki Bacharach, Steve Lantz (SBCCOG)

1. **Welcome and Introductions**

2. **Previous meeting notes** are posted on SBCCOG Senior Services Working Group webpage <https://southbaycities.org/committees/senior-services-working-group/>

3. **PATH Update – Courtney Reed, Associate Director and Ana Abril-Urias, Program Manager, SPA 8**

PATH currently case managing 22 seniors (10 in SD2 and 12 in SD4). 3 seniors have been permanently housed 5 seniors and connected to services of emergency housing vouchers and in-home care. Seniors continued to be a main priority to get connected to services and housing. More matches are coming through although it is a slow process.

Courtney reminded everyone to continue to use LA-HOP.org portal to report any homeless people even if seniors or not, and enter as much information in the portal as possible so an outreach team can be employed. The deadline to submit applications for the EHV has been extended although the extension date is not yet known.

4. **California Department of Aging presentation**

Susan DeMarois, Director and Amanda Lawrence, Project Director
Presentation Link: [Master Plan on Aging Presentation](#)

Susan was appointed to this position last November. She reviewed the Master Plan for Aging (MPA) and how this frames all the work that they do that is inclusive of health services, housing, transportation, disaster preparedness and all other topics that impact older adults, people with disabilities and care givers.

The MPA, a 10-year blueprint for California, has five bold goals for 2030:

Goal 1: Housing for All Ages and Stages

Goal 2: Health Reimagined

Goal 3: Inclusion and Equity, Not Isolation

Goal 4: Caregiving that Works

Goal 5: Affordable Aging

Susan reviewed some of the priorities of the MPA. There is activity in all 5 goal areas with tremendous resources, funding, and initiatives currently being devoted to Goal 4 as one of the top priorities.

One of the first outcomes of the MPA was that California joined AARP's network of Age-Friendly states having received this designation just under a year ago. 60 communities in California have already embarked on local age-friendly initiatives.

Review the power point presentation and/or the video recording for all specifics on this plan, the MPA Local Playbook, and taking action to build California Communities for All Ages. A Data Dashboard for Aging is being built to assist communities in working on age-friendly planning. Susan encouraged all to subscribe to their newsletter to stay updated and informed.

Sign up for the Together We Engage newsletter for MPA updates: [California Dept of Aging](#)

Questions

Q Councilmember Olivia Valentine asked about Goal 3 Inclusion and Equity, Not Isolation; seniors have changed, specifically retiring at older ages than in the past so would like to see information on older seniors included in work to continuing to contribute to their communities.

A: Susan agreed. Combatting isolation does include plans of employment and volunteer opportunities for adults over the age previously considered retirement age. This is addressed in item C in Goal 3.

Q: Marcelle Herrera had a question about more state support for family care givers for older adults

A: There are paid and unpaid caregiving. Currently the majority of older adult care giving is unpaid so recognition with funding augmentations have been added as a priority in the MPA to support the care givers.

Q: Marcelle Herrera also requested the age groups in surveys be expanded to breakdown to more specific ages other than just 65+.

Q Harriet Chase mentioned the challenges of having a designated person to oversee city planning to be an age-friendly city so she suggests there needs to be a funded facilitator to help develop the program. City budgets do not allow for this.

A: Susan acknowledges this is a leadership issue that needs to be addressed. Governor Newsom included the position of a Senior Advisor on Aging, Disability, and Alzheimer on the Governors office. This position is needed on the local level, so Susan suggested ways to get grants for a consultant or facilitator in this role.

Q: Ronson Chu asked about how other areas organized to tackle building a Master Plan for Aging in their regional communities.

A: Susan said this is an emerging area of focus so there are many different methods. It must be strength based. In some communities, City Councils have been very active, in other areas the County might be organized towards this goal to provide dedicated staffing to oversee adult services, funding, and resources. It looks different in each community. One funding source Susan pointed to Aging and Disability Resource Connection (ADRC) network.

Link [ADRC](#)

Q: Councilmember Britt spoke a bit about the area of concern about supportive care givers. Many middle-income families or upper-middle income families are suffering from needs of in-home care which is very costly. She asked that these needs to be relayed to the Governor.

A: About 60% of families fall in between eligibility of in-home care funding resources. This is a priority of this administration in Goal 5 of the MPA and Susan elaborated on several ideas being studied to possibly create a universal benefit.

5. Community Outreach Presentation on Cancer Prevention

Dana Wynkoop, Development Manager, American Cancer Society (ACS)

Dana's contact information: 424-702-4096, dana.wynkoop@cancer.org

<https://www.cancer.org/>

Dana runs both the San Pedro and Beach Cities Relay for Life which are cancer research fundraiser events in the south bay.

Relay for Life is a walkathon to increase cancer awareness while raising funds for the American Cancer Society's patient service programs, cancer research, advocacy, and community education. Teams formed by local businesses, community groups, friends, and families raise funds before the event.

- San Pedro Relay For Life - Saturday, May 21, 2022 @ Christ Lutheran Church & School - 28850 S. Western Avenue, San Pedro
www.RelayForLife.org/
- Beach Cities Relay For Life - Saturday, August 27th, 2022 @ Alta Vista Park in Redondo Beach California
www.RelayForLife.org/

Dana presented information on cancer prevention with a focus on skin cancer which is the most common cancer. Skin cancer is almost entirely preventable as opposed to other cancers. The biggest culprit is too much skin exposure although there still must be a balance as sunlight does help with vitamin D levels. Use sun block and wear sunglasses when outdoors. People should get screened at least once a year. Dana also reviewed how one can recognize possible signs of skin cancer along with various treatments once diagnosed.

Q: Britt Huff asked about cancer reoccurrences

A: Dana replied that all cancers have strong possibilities of reoccurrences however skin cancer can get caught early because of visible signs. Once skin cancer is completely removed it will not occur again.

Q: Ronson asked if there were resources for seniors for cancer preventative screening.

A: The American Cancer Society has a 24-hour hotline (800-227-2345) to help people get connected to local screening and other cancer resources. In addition, there is a “Road to Recovery” program to provide free transportation to treatments as well as places to stay free of charge during treatments (partner with hotels). [Link to Road to Recovery](#)

Q: Laurie asked if someone should go directly to a dermatologist and where is there free skin cancer screening.

A: Dana said probably best to go first to primary physician who can then determine if going to a dermatologist is needed. There are free clinics but not necessarily locations for free screening.

Q: Harriet Chase asked about more about reoccurrences of specific cancers if the PSA test shows cancer free.

A: Dana responded this something to review with your doctor. The cancer could have come back and/or spread. Being diligent to recognize possible cancer is most important.

Q: Laurie asked about some insurance not covering preventative measures, that you must first have symptoms.

A: Dana advises the ACS is lobbying for insurance to cover screenings. One recent win was insurance must cover a second test of colon cancer.

Q: How does the “Road to Recovery” program work, does someone just call the number?

A: Yes, and there are no income restrictions.

Update from Legislative Offices

Janet Turner (Representative Congressman Lieu)

Janet advises the Congressman joined with Senator Padilla introducing a bill called “Housing for All” which includes a whole section called “Supportive Housing for the Elderly” that includes \$15 million for technical assistance to support state level efforts to improve and design delivery of voluntary supportive services and \$125 million for the secretary to oversee and administer the implementation. Janet will advise the bill number.

Congressman Lieu is a co-sponsor of another bill (HR5723) called “Social Security 2100, A Sacred Trust” which includes provision of a social security benefit bump for current and new beneficiaries that is equivalent to about 2% of the average benefit. It repeals the WPE and GPO that penalize many public servants. It sets the new minimum benefit at 25% above the poverty line to ensure that the minimum benefit does not ever fall behind. It extends the depletion date when a 20% cut to benefits would have to occur in 2038 which will give Congress more time to ensure long term solvency and it applies payroll tax to wage earners who make above \$400K.

Janet advises her office is always available to help with any issues related to Medicare and social security or anything related to a federal agency.

6. SBCCOG updates, Jacki Bacharach

Jacki announced this Thursday is the SBCCOG’s 22nd annual General Assembly (GA). We usually get about 350 people to this free event. This is the first GA where there will be all private sector speakers. Drew Boyles, the Mayor of El Segundo, will be monitoring two

panels; one is on community of innovation with young entrepreneurs and the second panel will focus on aerospace and what that means to the south bay. After lunch and the announcement of the photo contest winner for “why I love the south bay”, the CEO of Beyond Meat will talk about they have created and how it will serve not only the future but also climate change. Early attendance is encouraged to attend the exhibitor hall. The free event will be at the Carson Civic Center and includes a continental breakfast and lunch.

We are now starting to go to in-person events and are looking for volunteers to join outreach events and to help with in-house data work. We value our volunteers. We also are available to table at any upcoming events to cover a variety of topics such as environmental services, homelessness services and other SBCCOG services.

We had a California legislative victory yesterday and we hope you will join in us in support. We put in two bills this year which is new to us.

Jacki explained about the need for local elective vehicles which will be an asset to free up some of the congestion. We created a local travel network which we are now in the process of implementing which will provide signed streets to warn drives to watch out for these slower vehicles. The new legislation is to provide a couple of things: Bill AB2432 by Maratsuchi provides for neighborhood electric vehicles (NEV) signage on our streets and the other bill by Assemblyman Gipson AB2074 will provide rebates for micro mobility vehicles with a 30% rebate up to \$3,000. There are organizations marketing this to seniors and people with disabilities. These are ways seniors can still keep their independence at a slower speed.

AB2074 passed the Assembly Transportation Committee with no opposition so is moving on to Assembly Appropriation. Our website provides a sample template letter of support which we would like you all to sign and send from your organization to help promote for the entire community.

Link to template: [Legislative Advocacy](#)

7. Senior Services Updates – Discussion: round-robin member updates

- Brit Huff introduced one of her City Staff Rosa Pinuelas, new Community Services Supervisor for Rolling Hills Estates
- Thomas Uwal provided an update on Inglewood applications Age-Friendly Status and for the AARP Grant Challenge. So far, no work has been done on the Age-Friendly other than the application due to lack of resources to proceed. They really need help with this process. The grant applications are for 1) Applied for seating and shade at a nearby park to be used for events such as cooking classes and 2) Applied for ADA accessibility at the Locust Street side of the Inglewood Civic Center.
- Ronson mentioned that three south bay cities have shown moving in the direction to be an Age-Friendly city: Inglewood, El Segundo, and Hermosa Beach. We need to look for funding resources for a consultant or other help for this complex process. Jacki mentioned the SBCCOG could help if funding can be sourced.
- Fran Wielin announced they are looking for either a part time or full time Executive Director for the PVP Village. Link to job opening description: [Job Description](#)
- Marcelle Herrera announced she is retiring in May from the City of Palos Verdes Estates, so they are looking to fill her position as Community Relations Officer. We wish Marcelle best of luck for the future and appreciate all her hard work for the past 10 years. Link to job description: [Job Description](#)

- Ronson Chu spoke about the launch of a pilot program with the Beach Cities for a mobile and mental health van as part of the 90-day initiative where 911 calls will be diverted to these non-law enforcement units. Currently we are looking for service providers to assist and Ronson asked Emily from BCHD to assist.
- The City of Los Angeles is looking at a motion aimed at preventing landlords from doing credit and background checks. We have seen the inability of tenants to pass these credit checks as a barrier to the emergency housing voucher lease ups with landlords. We are following this City action and hope the County will follow with similar actions. This has a racial equity issue as 1 in 5 black people cannot pass the credit check level of 650. This could help with our re-housing efforts.
- Bill Uphoff inquired as when the new 988 help line will be live. Ronson advises it has gone live in some jurisdictions, but it is unclear when it will live elsewhere. It supposed to be up and running by this summer, but Ronson is skeptical that all areas will be ready.
- Laurie asked for all to send us any suggestions to add people to our distribution.
- Harriet Chase asked Emily if the Beach Cities Health District was looking to apply for Age-Friendly status for the beach cities. Emily is going to look into this and report back.
- Ronson mentioned the Scam Stopper presentation by Senator Ben Allen that might be helpful to this group for a future presentation. We have posted information online.

2022 Meeting Schedule – January 25, March 22, May 24, July 26, September 9

Notes submitted by Laurie Jacobs