



Sonoma County Aging & Disability Commission Meeting



Minutes

Wednesday, August 20, 2025 | 9:00 AM – 2:30 PM

Carnelian Conference Room, 3725 Westwind Blvd. Santa Rosa 95403

In-person Attendance: Deanna Shaat, Robin Thompson, Trayce Beards, Terry Kelley, Denise Johnson, Sandra Hoevertsz, Priyanka Varma, Suzanne Edwards, Jenny Helman, Jaime Penaherrera, Rick Baum, Eric Larson (*Emeritus Member*)

Virtual Attendance: Diane Spain (*Pre-approved*)

Absent: Alain Serkissian (LOA), Monte Cimino (LOA)

Staff Attendance: Sara Avery, Paul Dunaway, Cody Milner, Cassandra Denson, Joni Huntsperger, Betsey Johnson, Sheila Patel

1. **Doors Open (9:00 AM)**
2. **Welcome & Commission Member Introductions (Helman) (9:30 AM- Call to Order)**
 - Reminder that Monte Cimino and Alian Serkissian are on approved leaves of absence.
 - Christian Nava submitted her resignation to the Commission on August 19, 2025.
3. **Public Comment and Commission Member Open Forum**
4. **New Member Application- Action (Helman)**
 - Commissioners discussed Eddie Estrada's application and interview.

Motion to appoint Eddie Estrada to the Commission.
1st Motion: Rick Baum | 2nd Motion: Robin Thompson | Vote Result: Passed
5. **Group Picture**
6. **Get to know the Commission Members (Johnson/All)**
 - Each Commission Member provided a brief introduction, including personal and professional background information.
7. **FY 2024 – 2028 Area Plan Presentation (Milner)**
 - Provided an overview of the Older Americans Act, the California Department of Aging, and the Area Agency on Aging.
 - Presented an overview of the Community and Administrative Services Section staff.
 - Reviewed the Sonoma County Area Plan (FY 2024–2028).



Sonoma County Aging & Disability Commission Meeting



- Shared opportunities for the Commission to engage with and support the Area Plan.
- Held a Commission discussion on the Request for Proposal (RFP) process, with emphasis on the importance of supporting smaller organizations in applying for RFPs.

8. Impact of Community Feedback (Dunaway)

- AAA Director discussed various aspects of Community Feedback.

LUNCH BREAK

9. Research Topics and Community Convenings (Beards)

- Commissioners reviewed the 2025-2026 objectives for ad hoc committees and suggested potential research and convening topics.
- Suggestions were collected by Trayce Beards and will be reviewed by the Commission Executive Committee.

10. Legislative Advocacy and the Role of the Commission (Milner)

- Cody Milner facilitated a conversation with the Commission on how to be more strategic with legislative planning.

Commissioner Comments:

- Requested a review of the legislative calendar and updates on the work of State, County, and City legislators.
- Requested that the Commission be provided with information on Board of Supervisors agenda items and actions that may impact the Commission or the aging and disabled community.
- Suggested collaboration with Senior Center newsletters to inform the community about legislation or measures supported by the Commission, including potential calls to action.
- Emphasized the need to organize community members, noting the importance of collective action and strength in numbers.
- Commissioners were invited to email Cody Milner with any additional feedback.

EXERCISE BREAK

11. Talking to the Public about the Commission and ADRH (Thompson, Harper)

- Sheila Patel provided an example of her tabling outreach speech and shared tips for effectively communicating with community members visiting the table.



Sonoma County Aging & Disability Commission Meeting



- Commission conducted a group activity focused on developing elevator speeches.

12. Aging & Disability Commission Jeopardy (Thompson)

13. Reflections and Next Steps (Helman)

14. Adjourn (Helman)(2:30 PM)

Supplemental materials related to an agenda item are available for public inspection during normal business hours at the Adult & Aging Office, 3725 Westwind Blvd., Suite 101, Santa Rosa. All listed times are approximate and subject to change. Agenda items are scheduled for consideration by the Aging & Disability Commission, which may or may not choose to act. Breaks may be called at the discretion of the Chair. If you need any accommodations to effectively participate, please contact aaa@schsd.org or (707) 565-5238 at least 48 hours prior to the meeting.

To submit items for the AAA Newsletter, or to receive the AAA Newsletter: AAA@schsd.org

Upcoming Aging & Disability Commission meetings:

African Soul Festival, Rohnert Park, August 30, 2025, 11:00 AM – 5:00 PM

Executive Committee: Tuesday, September 9, 2025

2025 Safe Mobility Forum: September 10, 2025, 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Commission Meeting: September 17, 2025
