



County of Santa Cruz⁰¹⁹³

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

701 OCEAN STREET, SUITE 500, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95060-4069

(831) 454-2200 FAX: (831) 454-3262 TDD: (831) 454-2123

JANET K. BEAUTZ
FIRST DISTRICT

ELLEN PIRIE
SECOND DISTRICT

MARDI WORMHOUDT
THIRD DISTRICT

TONY CAMPOS
FOURTH DISTRICT

JEFF ALMQUIST
FIFTH DISTRICT

AGENDA: 2/6/01

January 30, 2001

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
County of Santa Cruz
701 Ocean Street
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

RE: ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SENIORS COMMISSION

Dear Members of the Board:

Attached is the Annual Report of the Seniors Commission for calendar year 2000. I recommend that the Board accept and file this report and direct the Chairman to thank the members of the Commission for their efforts on the County's behalf.

Sincerely,

TONY CAMPOS, Chairman
Board of Supervisors

TC:ted

cc: Seniors Commission

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County of Santa Cruz

0194

SENIORS COMMISSION

1400 EMELINE AVE., 3rd FLOOR, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95060
(831) 4544864 FAX (831) 4544290
PRISCILLA LOEWENSTEIN, CHAIR

January 25, 2001

Board of Supervisors
County of Santa Cruz
701 Ocean Street
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Dear Board of Supervisors:

Please find attached a copy of the Seniors Commission 2000 Annual Report, which the Commission approved at its annual meeting January 8, 2001. The Commission respectfully requests that the Board of Supervisors accept its 2000 Annual Report.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sandi Boulé".

Sandi Boulé
HRA Departmental Administrative Analyst
Assigned Staff

cc: CAO

Encl. - 2



County of Santa Cruz

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SENIORS COMMISSION

(83 1) 4544864
FAX (83 1) 454-4290
1400 Emeline Avenue., 3rd Floor, Santa Cruz, CA 95060

2000 ANNUAL REPORT

ROLES OF THE COMMISSION

1. Advise the Board of Supervisors on all matters affecting senior citizens and make recommendations to the county administrative officer and the Board of Supervisors on any senior citizens program proposal to be considered by the Board of Supervisors.
2. Review the needs of senior citizens in the county, and develop a set of comprehensive goals and objectives for effectively meeting those needs.
3. Monitor the various services made available to senior citizens by public and private agencies in Santa Cruz County to ensure efficient delivery of those services.
4. Communicate with Federal and State agencies and commissions serving senior citizens, and assist in the preparation, implementation and review of any regional plan or program designed to serve senior citizens.

MEETING DATES, TIMES AND LOCATIONS

Seniors Commission meetings are held on the second Monday of each month, at 1:30 p.m. at the Sutter Hospital Conference Room, 2900 Chanticleer Avenue, Santa Cruz. If the second Monday fell on a County holiday, the Commission met on the third Monday. The Commission did not meet in the months of July or December.

C&MISSION STRUCTURE

The Seniors Commission is composed of ten voting members, two each appointed by the five Supervisors. There are two ex officio members representing the California Senior Legislature (CSL). The Commissioners are:

1 st District: Priscilla Loewenstein, Charles Molnar
2nd District: Jeane Kelley, Marian Wood
3rd District: Barbara Schaller, Charles Levine
4th District: James Carter, Lorraine Stucki
5th District: Grace Verutti, Matt Natale
CSL: Anne Candia, George "Bud" Winslow

COMMISSION STAFF

Sandi Boulé is the HRA Departmental Administrative Analyst assigned to staff the Seniors Commission.

ATTENDANCE

Please see attached Attendance Roster.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR 2000

1. Seniors Services

A. The Commission heard reports from the following Community Agencies and County programs:

- Courts and Community Focus Group – Judge Heather Morse & Christine Patton
- Long Term Care Integration Pilot Project – Suzzanne Koebler
- Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Program (HCIAP) -Jan McGinnis
- Nutrition Sites – Annabelle Dirks
- Lifeline – Scott Bugental
- Central Coast Alliance for Health – Jan Wolf
- Metro A.D.A. Recertification – Kim Chin & John Daughtery
- Seniors Council Needs Assessment – Clay Kempf
- Volunteer Services – Fairfax Lomonsof

B. Commissioners served as members of the following other County commissions or committees:

- IHSS Planning Advisory Committee (Commissioner Wood, Commission Loewenstein)
- IHSS Advisory Board (Commissioner Wood & Commissioner Loewenstein)
- Long Term Care Interagency Commission (Commissioner Wood),
- Long Term Care Interagency Pilot Project (Commissioners Loewenstein and Wood),
- Courts and Community Planning Committee (Commissioner Loewenstein), and
- Domestic Violence Commission (Commissioner Schaller).

Additionally, commissioners attended the following commission or committee meetings and reported to the Seniors Commission on their activities: Mobile Home Commission (Commissioner Loewenstein), Parks and Recreation Commission (Commissioner Verutti), and Elderly and Disabled Advisory Committee for the Transportation Commission (Commissioners Schaller). Commissioner Molnar served as a liaison to Seniors Organizational Leaders Alliance (SOLA).

C. Commissioners participated in other senior serving or related community organizations, including the Seniors Council/Area Agency on Aging (Commissioner Kelley), Human Care Alliance (Commissioner Levine), Site Committee for Louden Nelson Nutrition Center (Commissioner Schaller), and Association of Watsonville Area Seniors (Commissioner Carter).

- D. The Commission is mandated to monitor senior services. The Commission collaborated with the Seniors Council in this endeavor, using guidelines from the Seniors Council to assess jointly monitored programs. Teams of commissioners and members of the public made monitoring visits to six senior service providers that contract with the Seniors Council. The programs included: Meals on Wheels, Alzheimer's Association, Ombudsman/Advocate, Senior Network Services, Senior Citizens Legal Services, Volunteer Center (RSVP and Helping Hands). The commissioners issued a written monitoring report on services provided by these six programs, which they submitted to the Seniors Council and the County Board of Supervisors. Commissioners also evaluated nutrition sites for their treatment of participants, quality of meals, and other amenities.
- E. Commissioner **Stucki** facilitated meetings with Supervisor Campos, Suzanne Koebler and **Rama** Kahlsa to review the need for **Elderday** Adult Health Care in Watsonville. Seventy-four elders are currently being transported to Santa Cruz each day. Commissioner **Stucki** spoke at the Board of Supervisors and as a result the Board approved a \$250,000 grant to proceed with developing an **Elderday** branch in Watsonville. Efforts to secure a location for this service are ongoing and the project is slated to begin sometime in 2001.
2. Senior Housing
- A. The Commission monitored extension of the HUD Contracts for senior housing projects. The Commission examined the rent control hearings related to **Capitola Gardens**. Commissioner Kelley reported on her visit to the new Aegis Assisted Living facility.
3. Transportation
- A. John Daugherty, Accessible Services Coordinator for Santa Cruz Metro, attended many Seniors Commission meetings and served as liaison. He made a presentation at one Commission meeting.
- B. Commissioner Barbara Schaller, Member of the Transportation Commission, Committee Member of the Metro Users Group, Bus Stop Advisory Committee and **MASTIF**, reported regularly to the Seniors Commission regarding service, improvements and changes as relates to Seniors and Disabled Individuals.
4. Legislative Review
- A. The Commission routinely heard updates on the status of state and federal legislation that affected seniors. The Commission sent letters to local, state, and

federal legislators, as appropriate, asking for support on senior legislation or thanking them for their assistance.

- B. Anne Candia and George Winslow, members of the California Senior Legislature (CSL), participated on the Seniors Commission as ex officio members and routinely made reports on the progress of the CSL top priorities.
- C. Commissioner **Stucki** met with Supervisors and actively supported **SB2011**, effective Jan 1st, that allows privately owned homes in Senior Communities to retain this protection without meeting current code requirements.

5. Health Care

- A. Senior Legislator Winslow kept the Commission apprised of state and federal health care reforms.
- B. Commissioners Loewenstein and Wood participated on the Long Term Care Interagency Pilot Project, which addresses health care needs of seniors, among other things.
- C. Commissioner **Natale** participated in the Health Insurance and Advocacy Program (**HICAP**), which provides medical insurance information and advocacy for Medicare beneficiaries over 65 years, and disabled persons on Medicare.

6. Outreach

- A. Commission members assisted in distributing the 2000 edition of the *Senior Resource Directory*.
- B. Agencies that serve seniors and interested community members who asked to be kept informed on seniors issues received Commission agendas and minutes.
- C. Portions of the Seniors Commission regular meetings were broadcast on the public access television channel.
- A. The Commission distributed a brochure that explains the history of the Commission, lists the Commission's goals and objectives, and includes a roster of Commission members.
- B. Commissioner Molnar initiated and authored a bimonthly article, "Seniors Comer", for the Santa Cruz Sentinel providing important information to seniors.
- C. The Commission submitted articles to the *Sentinel* and other daily and weekly papers addressing senior's issues.

- D. Commissioner **Stucki** facilitates meetings with seniors and Supervisor Campos the fourth Monday of each month in Watsonville.
- E. Commissioners made presentations about the Seniors Commission at community senior centers.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES FOR 2001

The Commission will review the following Goals and Objectives once quarterly at their regular meeting. This will commence in February 2001.

1. Senior Services Monitoring
 - To adopt and implement a comprehensive plan for future monitoring of local senior services.
 - To continue hearing reports from senior service providers, evaluating their services, and responding with action whenever possible and necessary, either by assignment to a sub-committee or to a designated commissioner.
2. Senior Services Needs
 - To review needs of senior citizens as brought to the attention of the Commission by citizens or as assessed by other agencies. To evaluate available information regarding senior needs and concerns including United Way and Seniors Council Needs Assessments. To explore other means of gathering information on senior needs and concerns.
 - Create a plan and/or schedule of contacts with Board of Supervisor members to discuss senior needs. Maintain close communication with the Board of Supervisors on an individual and collective basis. Monitor this communication at regular meetings.
3. Senior Centers Review
 - To monitor senior centers and to work with their Boards of Directors as requested.
 - To participate in and represent the Commission at the Seniors Organizational Leaders Alliance (SOLA) Meetings.
4. Senior Housing Review
 - To continue monitoring trends related to affordable senior housing.

- To continue to support the County Mobile Home Commission through a liaison to this commission. (Loewenstein)
- To review future housing projects for seniors, including but not limited to Bay Village and Pajaro Village senior housing communities, congregate, continuing care, cooperative, rental, and “second unit” housing. To coordinate with the County Planning Department, Planning Commission, Housing Authority, and other appropriate agencies to accomplish this goal.
- To draft letters to HUD and appropriate Legislators urging them to find some relief for seniors as relates to the housing crisis.

5. Transportation

- To coordinate with Metro, Paratransit and various groups that implement the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), including participation on the Elderly and Disabled Advisory Committee for the Transportation Commission
- To assess cost effectiveness of available senior transportation programs in the county.

6. Legislative Review

- To monitor senior legislation at local, state, and federal levels and act when appropriate.
- To cooperate with the Seniors Legislators in developing a special group for advocacy for seniors.

7. Health Care for Seniors

- To monitor health services for Santa Cruz County seniors, including Monterey and Santa Cruz Health Care Alliance (the Alliance) and Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Group (HICAP).
- To continue cooperation with the Long Term Care Interagency Commission on health care issues.
- To continue to participate in the IHSS Advisory Board process toward establishing a “Employer of Record” for providers of In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) in Santa Cruz County.
- To investigate how the County is using the Tobacco Settlement Money and provide feedback to the Board of Supervisors as to the needs of seniors.

8. Outreach

- To communicate and be accessible to members of the public concerning issues related to seniors through public access TV, senior centers, senior agencies, senior communities, newsletters and other means.
- To continue exploring ways to communicate with the public, including increasing and improving local media coverage of the Seniors Commission.
- Create a liaison relationship with local AARP chapter.
- Create a “Senior’s Column” for the Register-Pajaronian newspaper.

The Seniors Commission accepted this annual report at its meeting on January 8, 2001.

J
Priscilla Loewenstein

Priscilla Loewenstein, Chairperson

PL/sb