



County of Santa Cruz

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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: 2/5/02

January 25, 2002

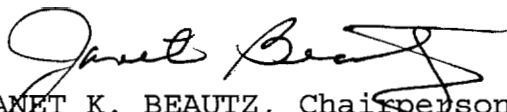
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
County of Santa Cruz
701 Ocean Street
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

RE: ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SENIORS COMMISSION

Dear Members of the Board:

Attached is the Annual Report of the Seniors Commission for calendar year 2001. I recommend that the Board accept and file this report and direct the Chairperson to thank the members of the Commission for their efforts on the County's behalf.

Sincerely,


JANET K. BEAUTZ, Chairperson
Board of Supervisors

JKB:ted

cc: Seniors Commission

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County of Santa Cruz

SENIORS COMMISSION

1400 EMELINE AVE., 3rd FLOOR, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95060
(831) 454-4864 FAX (831) 454-4290
PRISCILLA LOEWENSTEIN, CHAIR

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January 23, 2002

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

701 Ocean Street
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Dear Board of Supervisors:

Attached is the Annual Report and attendance record for the 2001 Santa Cruz County Seniors Commission. As you will see, the Commission remains committed to learning about and supporting those issues relating to the senior population of the County and the State.

As demonstrated in the Report, Commissioners are active on numerous boards and committees in the community. They bring their knowledge and various views to the Commission at the regular monthly meetings. The range of presentations this past year were great and the information brought to the Commission and to the general public (at visits to meetings and through viewing on local cable television) was extremely valuable in contributing to a well informed advisory body. It is my pleasure to submit this report on behalf of the Commission.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gail Goudreau".

Gail Goudreau
Staff to Commission

c: Cecilia Espinola, HRA Administrator
Don Allegri, HRA Adult Services Director



County of Santa Cruz

SENIORS COMMISSION

(831) 454-4864
FAX (831) 454-4290
1400 Emeline Avenue., 3rd Floor, Santa Cruz, CA 95060
Priscilla Loewenstein, Chairperson

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2001 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.

COMMISSION 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:

1st District: Priscilla Loewenstein, Charles Molnar
2nd District: Jeane Kelley, vacant
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

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Gail Goudreau is the HRA Departmental Administrative Analyst assigned to staff the Seniors Commission.

ATTENDANCE

Please see attached Attendance Roster.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR 2001

1. Seniors Services

A. The Commission heard reports from the following Community Agencies, County programs and other interested entities:

- e Update of the IHSS Public Authority of the County of Santa Cruz – Francie Newfield
- e Seniors Circle – Diane Wohnoutka
- e CA Telephone Access Program (CTAP) – Francis Franco
- e County Bidding on Ambulance Service Contract – Diane Akers
- Long Term Care Integration Project – Carmen Robles
- e Adult Protective Services – Sandy Skezas
- Housing Issues – Don Allegri
- e Paratransit Recertification – Kim Chin & John Daugherty
- e Tobacco Settlement Money – Betsy McCarty
- e Housing Authority – Mary James
- e Long Term Care Innovation Grant – Carmen Robles
- e Mercy Housing California re: Gault Street Complex – Anna Maria White

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

- e IHSS Planning Advisory Committee (Commissioner's Wood and Levine)
- e IHSS Advisory Board (Commissioner's Wood and Loewenstein)
- e Long Term Care Interagency Commission (Commissioner Wood),
- e Long Term Care Interagency Pilot Project (Commissioner's Loewenstein and Wood),
- e 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 (Commissioner 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's Carter, Kelley, Natale, and Molnar), Human Care Alliance (Commissioner Levine), Site Committee for Louden Nelson Nutrition Center (Commissioner Schaller), and Association of Watsonville Area Seniors (Commissioner Carter).
- D. Commissioners evaluated nutrition sites for their treatment of participants, quality of meals, and other amenities.

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.
- B. Commissioners attended Mercy Housing California presentations for the Gault Street Project and prepared letters of support for the Project.
- C. Commissioners Molnar and Natale are members of the *Santa Cruz Sentinel's* "Creative Solutions Task Force for Housing."
- D. The Commission prepared a resolution asking the Legislature to appropriate \$3 billion to address the housing crisis in the State that was sent to the State Legislature.
- E. The Commission prepared a resolution asking the Board of Supervisors to simplify the permit process and lower fees that was sent to the Board of Supervisors.

3. Transportation

- A. Kim Chin and John Daugherty from Santa Cruz Metro, presented to the Commission on the Paratransit Recertification process.
- 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.
- C. The Commission heard a report regarding the change to the Paratransit service delivery areas impacting those seniors and disabled living $\frac{3}{4}$ mile outside of regular Metro bus routes. Community Bridges is working to provide services to this group of affected people.

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.

5. Health Care

- A. Senior Legislator Winslow kept the Commission apprised of state and federal health care reforms.
- B. Commissioner's 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 2001 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.
- D. Commissioner Molnar initiated and authored a bimonthly article," Seniors Corner", for the Santa Cmz Sentinel providing important information to seniors.
- E. The Commission submitted articles to the *Sentinel* and other daily and weekly papers addressing senior's issues.
- F. Commissioners made presentations about the Seniors Commission at community senior centers.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES FOR 2002

The Commission will review the following Goals and Objectives once quarterly at their regular meeting. This will commence in February 2002.

1. Senior Services Monitoring

- 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.
- To continue to explore possibilities and be available to monitor various local senior services grantees, under the Area Agency on Aging.

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

- To be available to work with the Boards of Directors of the senior centers.
- To participate in and represent the Commission at the Seniors Organizational Leaders Alliance (SOLA) Meetings.

4. Senior Housing Review

- To continue to review trends related to affordable senior housing.
- To continue to support the County Mobile Home Commission through a liaison to this Commission. (Loewenstein)

- o To review future housing projects for seniors, 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.
- o 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

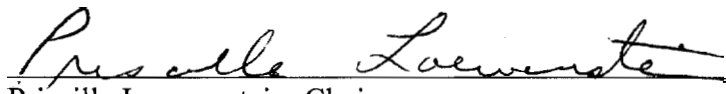
- To monitor health services for Santa Cruz County seniors, including Monterey and Santa Cruz Health Care Alliance (the Alliance) and Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Group (HICAP).
- To continue to cooperate with the Long Term Care Interagency Commission on health care issues.
- To continue 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 meetings.
- Create a liaison relationship with the local **AARP** chapter.
- Create a “Senior’s Column” for the Register-Pajaronian newspaper.
- Explore development of a speaker’s bureau, to provide speakers to local clubs and organizations to educate the public about current seniors issues.

The Seniors Commission accepted this annual report at its meeting on January 14, 2002.


Priscilla Loewenstein, Chairperson

PL/gg

SENIORS COMMISSION ATTENDANCE ROSTER FOR 2001

COMMISSIONER	JAN	FEB	MAR	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	AUGUST	SEPT	NOV
Loewenstein, Priscilla	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Candia, Anne	X	X	X	X	E	X	X	X	X
Carter, James	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Kelly, Jeane	A	X	X	X	X	X	A	X	X
Levine, Charles	X	X	A	E	X	X	X	X	X
Mulnar, Chuck	X	X	X	X	X	E	E	E	E
Natale, Matt	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Schaller, Barbara	X	X	X	A	X	X	X	X	X
Stucki, Lorraine	X	X	E	X	E	X	X	E	E
Verutti, Grace	A	X	X	X	X	X	A	X	X
Winslow, Bud	E	X	X	X	X	E	A	X	X
Wood, Marion	X	X	X	R	R	R	R	R	R

X – PRESENT
 A – ABSENT
 E – EXCUSED
 R – RETIRED