County of Santa Cruz

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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

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JANET K. BEAUTZ	ELLEN PIRIE	NEAL COONERTY	TONY CAMPOS	MARK W. STONE
FIRST DISTRICT	SECOND DISTRICT	THIRD DISTRICT	FOURTH DISTRICT	FIFTH DISTRICT

AGENDA: 2/12/08

January 24, 2008

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 2007 Annual Report of the Seniors Commission. 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 behalf of the County.

Sincerely,

ELLEN PIRIE, Chairperson
Board of Supervisors

EP:pmp
Attachment

cc: Seniors Commission

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County of Santa Cruz

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SENIORS COMMISSION

PO BOX 1320, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95061
(831) 454-4864 FAX (831) 454-4290
TOM DAVIS, CHAIR

2007 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 were held on the second Monday of every other month after January (January, February, April, June, August, October, December) from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. at Dominican Hospital Rehabilitation Services Solarium, 610 Frederick Street, Santa Cruz. If the second Monday fell on a County holiday, the Commission met on the third Monday.

COMMISSION STRUCTURE

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

1st District: Charles Molnar, Toni Cassista
2nd District: Jeane Kelley, Faye Alexander
3rd District: Barbara Schaller, Charles Levine
4th District: Norm Hagen, vacant
5th District: Tom Davis, Hal Anjo
CSL: George "Bud" Winslow

COMMISSION STAFF

The assigned staff person is Gail Goudreau, Senior Analyst with the Adult & Long Term Care Division of the Human Resources Agency.

ATTENDANCE

Please see attached Attendance Roster.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR 2007

1. Seniors Services
   A. The Commission heard reports from Community Agencies, County programs and other interested entities:
      - County Adult & Long Term Care (Adult Protective Services, In-Home Supportive Services, IHSS Public Authority, Multipurpose Seniors Services Program, and Veterans Services) - Francie Newfield
      - Area Agency on Aging Updates – Bud Winslow, Patty Talbott
      - Long Term Care Interagency Commission – Gail Goudreau
      - California Senior Legislature – Bud Winslow
      - South County Updates – James Carter, Norm Hagen
   B. Commissioners served as members and/or liaisons to the following County Wide commissions or committees:
      - Capitola Elder Care Task Force – (Commissioner Alexander)
      - Domestic Violence Commission (Commissioner Molnar)
      - IHSS Advisory Committee (Commissioner Levine)
      - Parks and Recreation Commission (Commissioner Davis)
      - Human Care Alliance (Commissioner Levine)
      - Metro Accessible Services Transit Forum (MASTF) (Commissioner Schaller)
      - Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission (Commissioner Schaller)
      - Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transportation Board of Directors (Commissioner Hagen)

2. Senior Housing
   A. The Commission heard a preliminary report regarding the renovation application by First Community Housing for the Capitola Bay Avenue senior apartments.

3. Transportation
   A. Commissioner Schaller, Committee Member of the MASTF and the Regional Transportation Commission, reported regularly to the Seniors Commission regarding Metro and ParaCruz service, and

improvements and changes as they relate to seniors and disabled individuals.

B. Commissioner Hagen reported as a member of the Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District Board of Directors on service issues pertaining to the County, and South County in particular. He remains a strong advocate to improve transportation services to residents of Watsonville.

C. John Doherty visited the Commission periodically and provided information on specialized services too.

D. Christina Manriquez and Grant Boles of the California Highway Patrol informed the Commission about the Older Californian's Traffic Safety Program.

4. Legislative Review

A. The Commission routinely heard updates on the status of state and federal legislation that affected seniors including representative updates and status reports, and a report by Assembly Member John Laird.

B. Bud Winslow, member of the California Senior Legislature (CSL), participated in the Seniors Commission as ex officio member and routinely made reports on the progress of the CSL top priorities to keep commissioners informed of the legislative committee hearings on senior legislation. In addition, the CSL member regularly provided information on general legislation affecting the budget.

5. Health Care

A. The Commission had a panel presentation on the subject of Medicare Part D that included Sally NeSmith of the Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Program (HICAP), Richard Johnson of Central Coast Alliance for Health, and Bruce Bettencourt of Bruce's Medical Plaza Pharmacy.

B. The Commission had a presentation about the Diabetes Health Center by Martha Quintana, RN, and the Dominican Hospital Community Stroke Center by Sarah Edmondson, Cardiovascular Services Manager.

C. The Commission was informed about the Cares Project by Linda Robinson of the Long Term Care Ombudsman Program.

D. The Commission wrote a letter to the Board regarding the value of the Elderday Adult Day Health Care Center.

6. Elder Abuse

A. The Commission heard a very information report from Dan Campos of the Santa Cruz County Sheriffs Department on identify theft.

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B. The Commission supported an augmentation for the Adult Protective Services state budget through letters to the Board of Supervisors and State Legislatures.

C. Commission officers submitted a Letter to the Editor to the Sentinel regarding support of the Board and the Adult Protective Services budget increase.

D. Rich Ehle and Todd Mayer of Capitola Police Department provided an overview of several projects the Capitola Elder Task Force promote.

7. Outreach

A. An outreach subcommittee was formed and developed a Seniors Commission brochure and flier for distribution in the County.

B. The Commission visited numerous Senior Centers to inform seniors about the Commission and surveyed them about concerns and issues that they would like the Commission to consider as items to present to the Board of Supervisors.

C. Agencies that serve seniors and interested community members who asked to be kept informed on senior issues received Commission agendas and minutes.

8. Media

A. Portions of the Seniors Commission regular meetings were broadcast on the public access television channel (Comcast & Charter Cable).

B. Commissioner Molnar authored the "Seniors Corner" column for the Santa Cruz Sentinel, providing important information to seniors.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES FOR 2008

The Commission will review the following Goals and Objectives regularly during the year.

1. Senior Services Monitoring
   - To continue hearing reports from senior service providers, evaluating their services, and responding with action whenever necessary.
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, specifically the Area Agency on Aging.
   - Advocate for maintaining vital senior services in our communities.
   - Increase communication with Board of Supervisors with commissioner's meeting with their supervisors to report what the Commission is learning at meetings and during outreach, reporting back to the Commission all findings.

- Reach out to Senior Center's directors for collaborative possibilities and request Commissioners visit their community Center during the year.
- To participate in the Area Agency on Agency's sponsored Summit of Senior and Disability Groups

3. Senior Housing Review & Advocacy
   - To review future housing projects for seniors, senior housing communities, congregate, continuing care, cooperative, rental, and "second unit" housing.
4. Transportation
   - Maintain active relationships with Metro, Paratransit, and various groups that implement the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), by participation on the Santa Cruz County Metropolitan Transit District Board of Directors and the Elderly and Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee.
5. Legislative Review
   - To monitor senior legislation at local, state, and federal levels and act when appropriate.
   - To cooperate with the Seniors Legislators in developing proposals for advocacy for seniors.
6. Health Care Advocacy for Seniors
   - To monitor health services for Santa Cruz County seniors and be current on advocacy efforts of the Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Group (HICAP).
   - To continue to coordinate with the Long Term Care Interagency Commission on health care issues.
   - To continue monitoring the effects of the Medicare Part D Prescription Drug Plan.
7. Outreach & Media
   - 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, newspapers, and other means.
   - To increase visibility of the Seniors Commission in the county.
8. Emergency Preparedness
   - To be involved in the emergency preparedness planning process for the safety of the elderly and disabled.

The Seniors Commission accepted this annual report at its meeting on December 10,2007.

Tom Davis/ss

Tom Davis, Chairperson

cc: Cecilia Espinola, Director, HRA

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SENIORS COMMISSION

ATTENDANCE ROSTER

2007

COMMISSIONER	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
1st Dist. - Jan Beautz												
Charles Molnar		X		X		E		X		X		X
Faye Alexander		X		X		X		X		X		X
2nd Dist. – Ellen Pirie												
Toni Cassista		X		X		A		X		X		X
Jeane Kelley		E		E		X		A		A		A
3rd Dist. – Neal Coonerty												
Barbara Schaller		A		X		X		X		X		X
Charles Levine		X		X		X		X		X		X
4th Dist. – Tony Campos												
James Carter		E		X		X		R		-		
Norm Hagen		X		X		X		X		A		A
5th Dist. – Mark Stone												
Tom Davis		X		X		X		X		X		X
Hal Anjo		X		X		X		X		E		X
CA Senior. Legislature (Ex Officio)												
George "Bud" Winslow		X		X		X		E		E		X
Frank W. Rosten		X		A		X		X		R		

CODE:
X = Present
E = Excused
A = Absent
R = Resigned
- = Not yet appointed