

Advisory Council and other Relationships

The Area Agency plays a pivotal and fundamental role in the provision of services in that it is the “link” between the older adults and adults with functional impairments and the funding streams. To accomplish the “forging” of the link, the voice of the people must be heard at the Area Agency level (often through the service providers), then the concerns are addressed through the *directed* provision of services, and lastly the link reaches to the California Department of Aging to implement the mandates as set forth by the OAA & OCA.

The PSA2AAA Executive Director’s role with the Advisory Council is to serve as a leader and to offer direction in their mission to be the “grassroots voice” of our older adults and adults with functional impairment, in the PSA2AAA. The Advisory Council is composed of five representatives from each of the five counties served. The majority of Advisory Council members are aged 60+, have leadership experience, and represent the populations in which we serve. The members bring a voice, from their own experience, for our “targeted populations” which include minorities, low-income, aged 75+, and functionally impaired. This relationship provides a grounding “link” which connects the needs of our populations to the Area Agency.

The PSA2AAA Executive Director is involved with the Commissions on Aging (in Shasta and Trinity counties). Another “link” which connects the needs of our populations and the Area Agency is forged with this relationship. It should be noted that Commissions on Aging in the other three counties currently are nonexistent. However, it is the intent of PSA2AAA to likewise become involved with new commissions should they be formed.

The PSA2AAA Executive Director sits on the Older Adult Policy Council (OAPC), which links the Shasta County department heads and community leaders to a team that is empowered to produce change on an as-needed basis. This provides yet another “link” which can implement change based upon the needs of our populations. It should also be noted that if other such organizations were to develop in the other four counties, it is the intent of PSA2AAA to become involved, likewise.