

PSA 2 Area Agency on Aging
Virtual Advisory Council Meeting
January 31, 2025
10:00 am
Minutes

A. Call to order and Flag Salute

Meeting called to order.

Jerry Kirouac, PSA 2 Ombudsman Program Manager, participated in the meeting on behalf of PSA 2 Executive Director, Teri Gabriel.

B. Roll Call (Establishment of a quorum)

Vacant	Lassen	
Tina Kennemore	Lassen	Present
Vacant	Lassen	
Angela Reed	Lassen	Present
Clinton Davis	Modoc	Unexcused
Debbie Mason	Modoc	Present
Tiffany Gwinn	Modoc	Present
Laurie Wayne	Modoc	Present
Staci Wadley	Shasta	Excused
Nancy Quirus	Shasta	Present
Maggie McNamara	Shasta	Present
Marianne Seifert	Shasta	Absent
Michelle Harris	Siskiyou	Present
Vacant	Siskiyou	
Lydia Gil	Siskiyou	Present
Joan Smith	Siskiyou	Present
Elaine Brown	Trinity	Present
Benjamin Sarkisan	Trinity	Present
Michael Cottone	Trinity	Present
Vacant	Trinity	

Quorum Established.

C. Introduction of Guests

Genevieve Eller - Health Educator-Healthy Aging Program - Siskiyou County Public Health

Angie McKnight –Healthy Brain Initiative - Siskiyou County Public Health

Ashley Saechao - Mental Health Services Act Coordinator for Shasta County Behavioral Health and Social Services.

Jennifer Banuelos – COC - Siskiyou Public Health

D. Approval of the Agenda

Motion to approve the agenda – Lydia Gil
Nancy Quirus seconds approval.
Approved.

E. Approval of October 25th Minutes

Motion to Approve – Lydia Gil
Joan Smith Freeman seconds approval.
Approved.

F. Open Session/Announcements

- Lydia shared that the Tulelake's 60+ Brunch Bunch comes together every 3 months. The Tulelake Advisory group has been using Lulas cafe to make lunch for the senior citizens during the other months. Lydia had a conversation with a Corner Stone board member about having a one hour a week for social connection. Moving forward, Lula's will be a \$5 lunch menu on Wednesdays.
- Jerry Kirouac – Bringing on two more new ombudsmen. Maleah Barnett is working with us now. Paula Karmann will be starting within the next week or two. To become an ombudsman, an individual has to complete 36 hours of certification trainings and 20 hours of shadowing. It takes 6-12 months to get an individual up to speed. Having four ombudsmen will allow for a more scheduled regimen. Maleah and Paula will monitor facilities. I want to ensure residents are able to connect and talk with the ombudsmen. Jan and Jerry will handle the cases that come up.

G. Reports

Chairman Report – Mike Cottone

- Vacancies; one in Trinity County, one in Siskiyou County and two in Lassen

TACC Report

- Next meeting Feb 13th.

California Senior Legislature Report – Nancy Quirus

- Senior related activities in Legislation
 - Bills have moved forward to Senate and Assembly
 - 43 legislators have indicated an interest in the CSL proposals.
 - Only 35 bills will be considered for legislative period in the next two years (2025-2027). Will find out soon what senior specific bill will be moving forward. There are 43 legislators that have indicated a desire to support senior legislation.
 - Great news: Proposal SP-5, which will increase the personal needs allowance from \$35 to \$50 a month, already has been chosen with several sponsors of the proposal in the Senate! SP-5 supports MPA goal 2—Health Reimagined with increased access to optimize the health and quality of life for seniors.
 - The California State Legislature is made up of two houses: the Senate and the Assembly. There are 40 Senators and 80

Assembly Members representing the people of the State of California (Shared in the Chat).

- Unfortunately, Proposal AP-11 which linked improved lighting for seniors' homes as essential for fall prevention--had the least amount of legislator interest/support.
- Remaining bills in the Assembly
 - AP-10 would require standardized Patient Discharge Summaries (to improve communication and continuity of medical care) as patients move from hospitals to home or another care facility)
 - AP-6 is like AP-10 but includes detailed care plan and required medication list for any patient transferring from an acute care hospital. Both AP-10 and AP-6 are also efforts to support MPA 2- Health Reimagined for seniors.
- Senior Rally Day on May 6th– Seniors attending the event visit with their legislators to make them aware of the need to provide funding for senior programs
 - PSA 2 Advisory are encouraged to attend. In person and virtual options.
- Feedback needed for Sharon Howard – Consideration of the cost vehicle registration for seniors. Large vehicles have a higher cost of registration. Often our rural roads require larger vehicles and/or 4-wheel drive.
 - Tina – Doctors can sign a waiver for disabilities that may reduce yearly registration. DMV can provide more info.
 - Lydia – shared about vehicle being considered a commercial vehicle means a higher cost. Must have a special attached unremovable camper shell/canopy. Great Northern Services provided weatherization. Maybe if there was funding GNS could help improve lightning for senior citizens to prevent falls.

Nutrition Report

- Michelle – PSA 2 CalFresh Healthy Living (CFHL) will be having a new Program Manager starting on Monday to provide CFHL services to Lassen, Siskiyou & Shasta Counties. Healthy Shasta is celebrating their 20-year anniversary this year. On March 29, there will be a 2 Mile Fun Walk at the Turtle Bay Arboretum at 10 am. Flyer will be shared soon. PSA 2 CFHL staff are staying abreast of the new changes for the Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program and plan to be supporting farmers and older adult recipients.

- Lydia – GNS and Baptist Church have team up to for boxes for senior 12-2 4-7 is for rest of community. People grow their own food and set up a table to sell their produce. An individual picks up leftover produce from a Klamath food distribution and brings it to Tulelake.

Mental Health Services Act Report – Mike Cottone

- Nancy introduced Ashley Saechao, the Mental Health Services Act Coordinator for Shasta County Behavioral Health and Social Services, who oversees Shasta’s funding stream for mental health and substance abuse. Billionaire tax – funding goes to county’s-based population size. Prop 1 aims to increase access to mental health and substance abuse disorder services and support housing for veterans and individuals facing homelessness.
- The Shasta County Mental Health Services Act (MHSA/BHSA) will be hosting 2025 Quarterly Workgroups. There is one this February 27th at 10 am at the Mae Helen Bacon Boggs Building.
- See here for more information - <https://www.shastamhsa.com/get-involved/mhsa-advisory-committee/>

Food Access Report – Staci

No report

Ombudsman Program Report – Jerry Kirouac

Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program (LTCOP) New item on Agenda. Jerry can update the Advisory Council with quarterly reports. The next update will be in March, and we will have a presentation in June.

- Developed through Medicare and Medical in 1965.
- The Ombudsman Program focuses on advocating for and responding to any type of abuse or neglect in long term care facilities (**skilled nursing facilities / Residential care facilities only**). Representatives are resident-directed advocates.
- Investigate and resolve complaints (made by or on behalf of residents).
- Provide information to staff and families.
- Advocate for systemic changes to improve residents’ care and quality of life.
- Represent in Shasta, Siskiyou, Lassen, Modoc and Trinity Counties
- **Volunteers are needed** (little paperwork, mileage reimbursement, to be boots on the ground and send up situations/problems) in Lassen Modoc and Siskiyou counties.

Directors Report – Teri Gabriel

- **Lassen Co. RFP Process** - The RFP process for Lassen Co. nutrition services has begun. Advisory Council members should have received notice in the mail. Nancy Quirus and Angela Reed have volunteered to participate on the RFP Review Committee. Teri will be in contact with them soon with more information on the process. In the interim, Dignity Health Connected Living continues to provide Home Delivered Meals in Susanville to

59 eligible seniors. They are recruiting more volunteers to help expand their meal services further in the community and remain hopeful they can also expand congregate dining with the community's support. A recent flyer was released by DHCL to help recruit volunteers.

- **Alzheimer's Association First Responder Training** PSA 2 is working with the Alzheimer's Association to bring First Responder Training to the region. See the flyer in the packet for the first training scheduled in Shasta Co. on March 13th. There has been interest expressed in Lassen Co., so watch for more soon. Siskiyou County is also hosting trainings for first responders hosted by the local Public Health's Healthy Brain initiative. (No dates announced yet).
- **Caregiver Support Video Presentations** PSA 2 continues to work with family caregiver support consultants Kelsi Halvarson and Maggie McNamara to bring caregiver support presentations to the region. During November and December, the presentations were offered virtually on a series of topics. All presentations were recorded and are now loaded on the PSA 2 website. See the flyer in the meeting packet for access to the videos. PSA 2 continues to offer educational resource materials which are available to all caregivers. Contact the PSA 2 office with any questions on the materials or to request copies. In-person family caregiver presentations will resume in April throughout the 5 counties.
- **Other Agency Activity** PSA 2 is working to schedule its annual Public Hearing as it relates to the Fiscal Year 2025/2026 Area Plan Update. Updates to the Area Plan occur annually and the Public Hearing targeted for March 26th at 10:00 in Redding offers a time for community feedback on the needs of older and disabled adults in the region. Watch for a flyer in the coming weeks.
- **Other:** Possible threat to federal funding of many social service programs across the nation. This threat of funding loss does impact Older Americans Act funding which thereby impacts the services funded through PSA 2. While the latest news stated the memo addressing the funding pause had been rescinded, it does not mean the threat of the loss of funding has been eliminated. PSA 2 staff is closely monitoring updates from USAging, the national association of Area Agencies on Aging, as well as news from the CA Department of Aging to help keep PSA 2's contracted service providers informed of this funding crisis. Pertinent news impacting the funding will also be shared with the Advisory Council. In the interim, members are encouraged to reach out to their regional elected officials to discourage the interruption of Older Americans Act funding to our valuable programs.
- Angie shared that Siskiyou had their in person First Responder Training with 8 attendees. Another training course is scheduled for Feb 26 from 2pm -3pm via zoom. Flyer will be shared soon.

H. Report on FY 24/25 Area Plan Goals & Objectives Activities

- News Brief Release - The latest News Brief for January – March is being prepared for release by HICAP staff. The HICAP newsletter will also include a

flyer on the symptoms of COVID-19 which ties into the News Brief topic on healthy new year's resolutions for Older Adults. Thank you to Debbie and Maggie for the support in bringing valuable information to our older adult community. Watch the newsletter in the mail.

I. Report on 25/26 Proposed Area Plan, Goals and Objectives

- Digital Divide Efforts - This language is being provided as an option to indicate the Advisory Council's support of Digital Divide efforts already being offered by PSA 2. This language would be added to Objective 2M already included in PSA 2's Area Plan. PSA 2 is open to adjustments to this language. Final revisions will need to be approved by the Advisory Council at its March meeting to remain on schedule with the Executive Board's approval of the FY 2025/2026 Area Plan Update in April.

J. Correspondence

Incoming: Resignation Notices from Justin Cadili & Cyndie Brophy
Outgoing: None

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING:

Advisory Council Virtual Meeting ▪ Friday, March 28, 2025

Meeting adjourned at 11:00 am.