

# CONTRA COSTA COUNTY ADVISORY COUNCIL ON AGING ANNUAL REPORT

JANUARY 2025 – DECEMBER 2025



## CONTACT:

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**CONTRA COSTA COUNTY ADVISORY COUNCIL ON AGING**

**ACOA Officers:**

- Lorna Van Ackeren                      President                      1st Term
- Michael Wener                      Vice President                      1st Term
- Michelle Hayes                      Secretary/Treasurer                      1st Term

**Current Roster of Members as of November 20, 2025:**

- |                 |                       |
|-----------------|-----------------------|
| Roger Boaz      | Gerry La Londe-Berg   |
| Chalo Buckman   | Thomas Lang           |
| Cate Burkhart   | Steve Lipson          |
| Deborah Card    | Nicola Lopez          |
| Cesar Court     | Shari Maxwell         |
| Kevin Donovan   | Kathryn Monroy-Dexter |
| Sheila Driscoll | Richard Morisky       |
| Candace Evans   | Brian O'Toole         |
| Marilyn Fowler  | Logan Robertson       |
| Holly Frates    | Sam Sakai-Miller      |
| Steven Freshman | Carol Schaefer        |
| Alan Goldhammer | Indy Sekhon           |
| Sarah Green     | Sonja Shepard         |
| Michelle Hayes  | Terri Tobey           |
| Denise Kalm     | Lorna Van Ackeren     |
| Carol Kehoe     | Michael Wener         |
| Jill Kleiner    | Deobrah Wiener        |
| Shirley Krohn   | Teresa Wright         |
|                 | Dennis Yee            |

**Advisory Council Objectives**

The Council shall provide a means for countywide planning, cooperation and coordination for individuals and groups interested in improving and developing services and opportunities for older residents of this county. The Council provides leadership and advocacy on behalf of older people and serves as a channel of communication and information on aging issues.

The Council advises each: the Area Agency on Aging on the development of its Area Plan, the Bureau of Aging and Adult Services, Employment and Human Services and the Board of Supervisors. The basis of the Agency on Aging Area Plan is on unmet needs and priorities experienced by older people, as determined by assessments and input from the senior network throughout the County.

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In 2025, the Advisory Council on Aging (ACOA) remained highly active in its advocacy efforts on behalf of Contra Costa County's older adults. The Council focused on several critical issues, with particular attention to housing and food insecurity. Throughout the year, ACOA provided ongoing input into the implementation of California's Master Plan on Aging and continued its engagement as a Regional Coalition member of the California Collaborative for Long-Term Services and Supports.

ACOA participated in the March public hearing for the 2025–2026 Area Plan Update, and many of our members also attended the annual Senior Rally in May. ACOA and California Senior Legislature (CSL) representatives played an integral role in the passage of SB 239, related to the Brown Act, which was signed into law by the Governor in October. The Council also took a lead role in supporting the Area Agency on Aging (AAA) in the development and successful launch of the Age-Friendly initiative.

Below is a summary of key activities from ACOA Committees and Workgroups:

- **Planning Committee**  
The Committee continued its collaboration with AAA staff to provide guidance for the 2025 update of the 2024–2028 Area Plan. Members participated in the RFP review process, conducted onsite visits of several County-based organizations, and attended four community events highlighting available resources.
- **Membership Committee**  
The Committee prioritized recruitment, resulting in all Member-at-Large (MAL) and alternate seats being filled. A total of 24 applications were received and 18 interviews conducted. Vacancies among city/local seats were reduced to only two (San Pablo and San Ramon). Quorum was met for all meetings in 2025.
- **Housing Committee**  
The Committee continued to serve as a forum for examining housing trends, challenges related to affordability and availability, and the ongoing issue of homelessness. The “No Place to Call Home” infographic and slide deck were presented to 11 organizations throughout the County, including several city councils.
- **Health and Adult Abuse Awareness Committee**  
Formerly the Health Committee, the group expanded its scope and delivered several health-related presentations across the County.
- **Legislative Committee**  
The Committee monitored and tracked state legislation affecting older adults, providing updates to ACOA on key Assembly and Senate bills.
- **Transportation Committee**  
The Committee continued to advocate for accessible and dependable transportation options for seniors and adults with disabilities, including supporting state legislation that strengthens senior mobility programs.
- **Technology Committee**  
Members remained active participants in the Bay Area Digital Inclusion Coalition and

monitored emerging Artificial Intelligence (AI) technologies and their impact on older adults.

### **Training and Certifications**

All ACOA members are required to complete the following trainings upon appointment:

- Brown Act & Better Government Ordinance
- Ethics for Local Government Officials
- Implicit Bias Training

Members must also renew the Ethics and Implicit Bias trainings every two years.

### **Recommendation**

The Advisory Council on Aging respectfully recommends that the Board of Supervisors continue to allocate adequate resources to support essential senior services, including housing, food security, transportation, caregiver support, and other emerging needs affecting the County's older adult population.

During this period of significant funding uncertainty at the local, state, and federal levels, ACOA recognizes the critical importance of maintaining strong advocacy to ensure equitable distribution of resources within our County.

It has been my honor to serve as President of the Advisory Council on Aging.

***Lorna VanAckeren***

Executive Committee Chair

Advisory Council on Aging President

**Planning Committee Roster**

- Chaló Buckman
- Debbie Card
- Kevin Donovan
- Candace Evans
- Jill Kleiner (Chair)
- Dick Morisky
- Dennis Yee
- Jim Donnelly

*EHSD staff members Tracy Murray, Alicia Espinoza, Cristina Ugaitafa, and Jennifer Gomes-Figueiroa strongly supported the Committee throughout 2025.*

**Committee’s Role**

The Committee has three primary roles:

- Work with the Area Agency on Aging (AAA) staff and the Advisory Council on Aging (ACOA) Committees to develop and provide an annual review and updates of the four-year Area Plan for Contra Costa County.
- Participate in the Request for Proposals (RFP) review process.
- Provides support to the AAA as requested.

**Accomplishments**

- Provided input for the 2025 update of the Area Plan for 2024-2028.
- Reviewed proposals for Organizational Capacity Building and Senior Nutrition Services.
- Facilitated and participated at 4 onsite community presentations led by Nhang Luong on accessing county resources.
- Determined approach for community-based organizations (CBO) site visits, since AAA ceased support request for monitoring of contractors.

**2026 Work Plan**

- Facilitate at least two onsite educational community presentations on topics of interest (e.g. Medicaid updates).
- Review and provide comments on the Annual Area Plan update for the March Public Hearing.
- Support the AAA with RFP processes.
- Coordinate at least two CBO site visits to enhance ACOA members’ understanding of services provided in Contra Costa County.
- Provide support to the AAA as requested.

**Jill Kleiner**

Planning Committee Chair

**Membership Committee Roster (Includes Nominating Committee Roster)**

<b>Name</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>Committee</b>
Roger Boaz	III	Membership/Nominating
Denise Kalm	IV	Nominating
Jill Kleiner (Chair)	II	Membership
Thomas Lang	I	Membership/Nominating
Kathryn Monroy-Dexter	V	Membership/Nominating
Mike Wener	II	Nominating
Lorna Van Ackeren	IV	Membership

*EHSD staff member Jenny Lam and Jennifer Gomes-Figueiroa strongly supported the Committee throughout 2025.*

**Committee’s Role**

To recruit and select Contra Costa County residents to serve as members of the Advisory Council on Aging. Conduct ten monthly meetings per year to review membership requirements, attendance, and recruitment activities. Form a Nominating Committee to prepare a slate of 2026 officer candidates for consideration. Assign and maintain a list of mentors for new members.

**Accomplishments**

- Strong focus on recruitment resulted in all Member-at-Large (MAL) and alternate seats being filled.
- Received 24 applications and conducted 18 interviews for Member-at-Large (MAL) and alternate positions.
- Local/city seat vacancies dramatically decreased to two seats (San Pablo and San Ramon).
- Achieved quorum for all meetings in 2025.
- Representation among districts improved, despite most members still coming from District 2.
- With the passage of new bylaws, the Senior Nutrition Council seat was eliminated, resulting in a total of 39 seats (20 MAL and 19 local/city seats) plus four alternate seats.

**2026 Work Plan**

- Recruit to fill any Member-at-Large (MAL) vacancies and support recruitment efforts for local/city seats.

- Encourage meeting attendance to ensure a quorum for conducting Council business.
- Monitor and manage membership requirements, providing regular updates to the Executive Committee and general membership.

***Jill Kleiner***

Membership Committee Chair

**Housing Committee Roster**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organization</b>
Kevin Donovan, Chair	Danville Commission on Aging
Uche Uwahemu, Co-Chair	Center for Elders’ Independence
Roger Boaz	Resources for Older Americans and Retirees (ROAR)
Marilyn Fowler	Concord Commission on Aging
Michelle Hayes	Richmond Commission on Aging
Logan Robertson	Front Porch – Home Match
Victoria Snyder	Contra Costa Senior Legal Services

*EHSD staff member Nhang Luong and strongly supported the Committee throughout 2025.*

**Housing Committee Goals:**

- Supports initiatives that address the shortage of adequate and affordable housing for older adults in Contra Costa County.
- Advocates for legislation that promotes the development and preservation of low-cost housing for older adults.
- Provides educational outreach to local officials, commissions on aging, and the community to raise awareness about housing issues affecting older adults.

**Accomplishments**

2025’s Committee’s focus was on continuing to provide a forum for the discussion of current housing trends, challenges impacting housing availability and affordability as well as the ongoing issue of homelessness. Additionally, the Committee provided advocacy for pending legislation and information to increase community awareness of the challenges facing low-income seniors and the disabled.

The Committee actively presented the “No Place to Call Home” infographic and slide deck throughout the County. During 2025 the Committee presented the slide deck to eleven separate groups throughout the County.

Committee meetings became a venue for housing focused groups, representatives of state legislators and county staff to share information and advocate for specific programs. During 2025 twelve presentations were made to the Committee.

**2026 Work Plan**

The “No Place to Call Home” infographic and slide deck will be updated and revised as needed. The primary goal of the 2026 work plan will be to present the slide deck and infographic to groups throughout the county. We will continue to provide a forum for the discussion of housing and homeless issues and as requested provide support for the MPA Impact Committee’s local playbook. Legislation impacting affordable housing and homelessness in Sacramento will continue to be monitored and support letters will be issued when warranted.

***Kevin Donovan***  
Housing Workgroup Chair

### **Health Workgroup Roster**

- Alan Goldhammer
- Sarah Green
- Thomas Lang
- Nikki Lopez
- Shari Maxwell
- Brian O'Toole
- Carol Schaefer
- Dennis Yee
- Terri Tobey (Co-Chair)
- Michael Wener (Co-Chair)

*EHSD staff members Cristina Ugaitafa and Jennifer Gomes-Figueiroa strongly supported the Workgroup in 2025.*

### **Workgroup's Role**

Review current and health-related programs and systems (physical, mental, and long-term care) that affect older adults who are residents of Contra Costa County. Advocate for and educate about quality, suitability, accessibility of these programs and systems.

### **Accomplishments**

- Completed the main goal of presentations to the community. HWG/EA members Thomas Lang and Brian O'Toole presented to various older adult community groups on Bone Density Research and Medicare/Medical respectively.
- The following presented to ACOA HWG/EA and guests throughout the year: Amber Carroll, Senior Director, Front Porch Connection Program; Delinda Brown, Director of Outreach of Admissions, Hope Hospice and Health Services; Christina Irving, Client Services Director, Family Caregiver Alliance; Alan Goldhammer on elder abuse and mandated reporting; Denise Kalm on "Dignity and Dying: A Real Life Experience", Brian O'Toole, Attorney gave a Medi-Cal Update; and Thomas Lang, UCSF Health Researcher, on "Osteoporosis: The Disease, Its Diagnosis, and Treatment".
- The workgroup acquired several new ACOA members: Nikki Lopez, Sarah Green, and Shari Maxwell.
- One month the committee meeting was cancelled by AAA due to technical problems at the facility.
- The only goal that wasn't met this year was completing the "Aging in Place" brochure submission for AAA approval. The AAA Director (Tracy Murray) requested more vetting of resources and edits to follow. The chairs were not participants in its creation which took place 3 years ago so they didn't feel comfortable changing it. To their knowledge, none of the creators followed up vetting and editing the brochure.

### **2026 Work Plan**

- Educate older adults about healthcare resources in the community through distribution of collateral material.
- Schedule a minimum of four presentations at monthly meetings delivered by subject matter experts/professionals on topics specific to the Master Plan on Aging's Health Reimagined goal to increase awareness about community resources and supports

for older adults.

- Facilitate four health-related informational presentations, including mental health, at Consta Costa Senior/Community Center.

***Terri Tobey***

Housing Workgroup Co-Chair

***Michael Wener***

Housing Workgroup Co-Chair

**Legislative Workgroup Roster**

- Shirley Krohn (Chair)
- Steve Lipson
- Lorna Van Ackeren

**Workgroup's Role**

- Review legislation and legislative issues that are important to older adults and people with disabilities in Contra Costa County.
- Develop letters of support/opposition concerning proposed and potential legislation.
- Identify potential legislative ideas for consideration by the California Senior Legislature (CSL).

**Accomplishments**

- Re-introduced CSL's SP6 (now renumbered to SP4), The Brown Act Teleconferencing Proposal, to allow older adults, caregivers, people with disabilities, and the poor to work remotely with advisory councils, commissions, committees, and their attendant workgroups. The proposal continued to be voted #2 out of the top 10 CSL legislative proposals.
- Workgroup members wrote letters supporting additional CSL proposals in areas including health, housing, and transportation.
- During the ACOA general meetings, briefed members on the process for reviewing bills and bill progress.

**2026 Work Plan**

- Ongoing support and promotion of CA Senior Legislature's SP6 with the goal of seeing it sponsored and subsequently enacted into law.
- The development of additional legislative proposals for promotion by the CSL.
- Educational outreach to all ACOA Workgroups to increase legislative ideas and advocacy throughout the ACOA.
- Additional outreach to nonprofits and service organizations that address the needs of older adults and people with disabilities.
- Meet from January through July to coincide with State Legislative schedule.

**Shirley Krohn**

Legislative Advocacy Workgroup Chair

**Transportation Workgroup Roster**

- Candace Evans (Chair)
- Kevin Donovan
- Denise Kalm
- Jim Donnelly
- Bryan Harris
- Riki Juster
- Rosa Noya
- Deanna Perry
- Debbie Toth
- Elaine Welch

*EHSD staff member Alicia Espinoza, Thomas Weisbrich, and Jennifer Gomes-Figueiroa strongly supported the Workgroup in 2025. SMAC went through Committee Structural Changes of times where we meet every first Monday of each Month from 1:00pm - 2:30pm*

**Workgroup's Role**

To address transportation barriers and gaps in service experienced by Contra Costa older adults through education, advocacy and the promotion of effective coordination of services and mobility management that enhances the autonomy and independence of older adults in Contra Costa County.

**Accomplishments**

2025 Presentations from:

- Seamless Bay Area - Adina Levin
- People Centered Mobility - Tim Haile (CCTA)
- Next Generation Fare Gate Press Conference & Ribbon Cutting - Candace & Bryan
- GLYDWAYS "Transit should be for everyone" - Mariah Ray SVP, Head of Government Affairs
- Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) "Role in the Region" - Robert Franklin
- Provided advocacy for Mobility Management in Contra Costa City-based transportation programs.
- Reviewed and Reported survey data and report on COVID 19 Impacts on Accessible Transportation Services.
- Attended community meetings and training that provided information on the CCTA and Regional Transportation Organizations.
- Organized & Orchestrated SMAC Informational Workshop
- Provided updates of services for older adults in need of transportation services.

**2026 Work Plan**

- Continue to Schedule and Organize 3 SMAC Informational workshops
- Schedule five presentations in 2026 from transportation service providers and educators in Contra Costa County.

- Participate in the Paratransit Coordinating Council, DACLAC, Accessible Transportation Task Force, and Regional Transportation Organization meetings.
- Participate in Master Plan for Aging local implementation, ensuring senior transportation and people with disabilities' issues are addressed.
- Participate in CCC's Accessible Transportation Strategic Plan implementation.

***Candace Evans***

Transportation Workgroup Chair

**Technology Committee Roster**

- Steve Lipson, Chair
- Cate Burkhart
- Brock Dubbels
- Denise Kalm
- Carol Kehoe
- Jill Kleiner
- Sam Sakai-Miller
- Jim Donnelly, Emeritus Member
- Gerry LaLonde-Berg, Alternate

*EHSD staff members Alicia Espinoza, Glenda Pacha, and Jennifer Gomes-Figueiroa provided strong support to the work group throughout 2025.*

**Committee's Role**

To support the Advisory Council on Aging (ACOA) by identifying and recommending ways to improve access and use of technologies for both the Contra Costa County older adult community-at-large as well as ACOA members. The workgroup:

- Provided ACOA Website Recommendations Edits/Updates/Additions.
- Identified non-county web resources (e.g. OATS /AARP) for use by CoCoElders411.net an unaffiliated digital resource.
- Supported the AAA in the execution of technology programming grants.
- Coordinated with the Legislative Committee on technology specific legislative proposals.
- Monitored AI (Artificial Intelligence) technologies and their impact on older adults.

**Accomplishments**

In 2025, the Technology Workgroup provided recommendations to the ACOA website, identified non-county resources for CoCoElders411.net (an unaffiliated website for older adults); supported the AAA in the execution of technology programming grants; provided input for SB 239/SB 707, legislation to revise the Brown Act and allow teleconferencing; monitored AI (Artificial Intelligence) technologies and their impact on older adults.

Hosted speakers from technology-related organizations including OATS (Older Adults Technology Services), Well Connected. Advised the AAA in the implementation of federal, state and local technology funding programs.

**2026 Work Plan**

- Review new technology-centric proposals for the California Senior Legislature.
- Provide recommendations to the AAA regarding technology-related funding.
- Continue to monitor AI issues as they relate to older adults and the disabled.

- Identify Educational Pathways for Older Adult Technology Training.
- Help formulate Inclusion & Equity, and Not Isolation and advise on CSL legislative proposals relevant to technology education/training for older adults.
- Explore Advisory Technology Partnerships with other agencies, including Public Health.
- Continue to identify non-county resources for CoCoElders411.net.
- Identify additional speakers to help keep the Committee informed.
- Identify and support new programming that addresses Goal 3 - Inclusion & Equity, and Not Isolation - of the California Master Plan for Aging and Local MPA Playbook.
- Create an infographic providing AI-related information important to older adults and caregivers.

***Steve Lipson***

Technology Committee Chair

