

CONTRA COSTA COUNTY ADVISORY COUNCIL ON AGING ANNUAL REPORT

JANUARY 2025 – DECEMBER 2025



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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	Deborah 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 707, 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, launched onsite visits of County-based organizations, and facilitated and participated in five 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. In addition, the Committee was instrumental in authoring the Brown Act updates in SB 239 which merged into SB 707 and subsequently was signed by the Governor.

- **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 these 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

- Chalo 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 5 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)

Name	District	Committee
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 from most districts improved, with a large participation 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.
- representation from most districts improved, with a large participation from district 2

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

Name	Organization
Kevin Donovan, Co-Chair	Danville Parks Commission
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 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. From its late 2024 completion the Committee presented the slide deck to seventeen separate 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

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2025 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/Medi-Cal 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".

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 Contra Costa Senior Centers.

Terri Tobey

Health and Elder Abuse Awareness Committee Co-Chair

Michael Wener

Health and Elder Abuse Awareness Committee Co-Chair

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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 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 was adopted initially in 2025 as SB 239 and then merged into SB 707 which was enacted into law by the Governor of California in October 2025.
- 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 SB 707 with the Board of Supervisors for adoption for the County.
- The development of additional legislative proposals for promotion by the CSL.
- Educational outreach to all ACOA Committees 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 (Co-Chair)
- 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.

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.
- Provided updates of services for older adults in need of transportation services.

2026 Work Plan

- Organize & Orchestrate SMAC Informational Workshop
- 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 Committee:

- Provide ACOA Website Recommendations Edits/Updates/Additions.
- Identify non-county web resources (e.g. OATS /AARP) for use by CoCoElders411.net an unaffiliated digital resource.
- Support the AAA in the execution of technology programming grants.
- Coordinate with the Legislative Committee on technology specific legislative proposals.
- Monitor 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