



## **SENIOR AFFAIRS ADVISORY BOARD**

### **Meeting Minutes**

WEDNESDAY, January 21, 2026

In Person Meeting: 12:00 Noon

Location: **Park de la Cruz Community Center**  
**3901 Landis Street, San Diego, 92105**

### **Agenda**

#### **Item 1: Call to Order**

Chair Gwenmarie Hilleary called the Senior Affairs Advisory Board meeting to order at 12:03 p.m.

#### **Item 2: Roll Call**

Antoinette Alioto, Kasey Cheal, Marissa Feliciano, Gwenmarie Hilleary, Jacqueline Jackson, Michelle Matter, William Peetoom, Bob Prath, Mary Scott Knoll, and Rosemary White Pope present.

JB Robinson absent.

#### **Item 3: Approval of the November 19 Meeting Minutes**

Gwenmarie Hilleary introduced the item. Bob Prath made a motion to approve the minutes, which was seconded by Marissa Feliciano. The motion passed unanimously, with Kasey Cheal abstaining.

#### **Item 4: Presentation by Antoinette Miles – Village Movement**

Antoinette Mills, an SDSU gerontology student and intern with Serra Mesa Village, provided an overview of the Village Movement and its role in supporting older adults who wish to age in place through community-based support and access to vetted resources. She shared that she is exploring the creation of a new village in the 92114 Skyline Hills area and plans to survey residents to assess community concerns, needs, and interest in forming a village.

Antoinette provided historical context, noting that the Village Movement began in 2001 with the Beacon Hill Village in Boston, where residents formed a nonprofit to support aging in place. While early villages primarily served middle-class, predominantly white communities, she emphasized a focus on expanding the model into lower-income and more diverse communities. As of 2024, there are approximately 350 villages across 41 states, with California leading the movement with 50 active villages. A statewide coalition, Village Movement California, established in 2015 and led by Carolyn Ross, provides tools and best practices for communities interested in developing villages.

She outlined key benefits of the Village model, including independence and autonomy, reduced reliance on institutional care, social connection, and access to trusted service providers. Antoinette also discussed challenges facing villages, such as balancing membership fees with operating costs, financial sustainability, volunteer recruitment, and limited awareness of the model among older adults.

Antoinette noted the use of call hubs that allow older adults to submit service requests, which are then connected to appropriate resources. She emphasized diversity and inclusion as central values of the Village Movement, with an intentional focus on meeting individuals where they are and fostering a sense of belonging. Collaboration among villages was highlighted as an emerging strategy to strengthen the movement.

She shared data underscoring the need for village-based supports:

- Approximately 70% of older adults live alone
- Older adult women are twice as likely as men to live alone
- An estimated 101,000 adults age 65 and older live alone in San Diego County
- Across California, 1.8 million adults age 60 and older live alone

While many village members report being in good health, Antoinette noted that approximately 50% require assistance with at least one activity of daily living. She emphasized that villages are a critical component of age-well strategies, particularly as one in four San Diego County residents will be age 60 or older in the coming years, with the 65+ population expected to increase by 130%. She also highlighted economic insecurity among older adults, noting that 29% of older adults in San Diego County lack sufficient income to meet basic needs. She referenced the “Forgotten Middle,” representing the 34% of older adults statewide who do not qualify for Medi-Cal yet cannot afford private care. Additionally, she noted that although overall homelessness has declined, homelessness among older adults has increased, and there are no shelters designed specifically for older adults.

During discussion, Bob Prath referenced AARP’s support for village models and noted ongoing challenges related to diversity and inclusion, insurance, and operational overhead. He shared that Village Encinitas partnered with Helpful Village to help address administrative costs and asked whether the City of San Diego or philanthropic partners could assist with overhead expenses, particularly for a potential village in the 92114 area. Antoinette responded that public spaces are often underutilized and identified the Southeastern Live Well Center as a potential location for meetings.

Mary Scott Knoll asked whether villages provide education on housing rights for older adults. She offered to share resources in this area. She also discussed cognitive health, suggesting activities such as teaching older adults to play bridge to support brain health and social connection, and expressed interest in collaborating with the Village Movement.

#### **Item 5: Old Business – Intern for SAAB**

The Board continued a prior discussion regarding the consideration of an intern. Gwenmarie Hilleary shared a draft job description for a potential internship, however, the Board agreed that engaging an Age Well intern who could attend meetings and work on defined projects for SAAB would be a more appropriate approach.

This item will remain under Old Business, with updates to be provided by Kristi Fenick at the next meeting following the upcoming SDSU Internship Fair.

#### **Item 6: Information – Chair Report**

Gwenmarie Hilleary formally introduced new board member Kasey Cheal, who has over 20 years of experience in the home care industry, including 13 years as a business owner.

#### **Item 7: Information – Legislative Report**

J.B. Robinson was not present to provide a report.

Gwenmarie Hilleary noted that legislative meetings with Districts 3 and 7 were not held despite numerous attempts to schedule them. The Board suggested that Kristi Fenick make one additional outreach attempt.

#### **Item 8: Discussion by William Peetoom – You Are Not Alone**

This item was tabled for a future meeting.

#### **Item 9: Discussion – Cryptocurrency**

Bob Prath shared that three City Councilmembers have expressed interest in the issue of cryptocurrency kiosks, noting that these machines have increasingly become tools used by scammers, particularly targeting older adults. There are approximately 400 cryptocurrency kiosks operating within the City of San Diego, and it was noted that vendors generate revenue from these machines. This issue is a priority for AARP, which previously worked with legislators in Nebraska on legislation requiring clear warning signage on cryptocurrency machines, an approach that has shown signs of reducing fraud.

Michelle Matter will work with Bob Prath to research relevant information and draft a letter for the Board to consider at the next meeting, encouraging City Councilmembers to move this issue forward.

#### **Item 10: Staff Liaison Report**

Kristi Fenick reported that updates related to the Brown Act were emailed to Board members. She shared that Boards and Commissions may choose to hold hybrid meetings if that determination is made by the Board. This item may be brought forward for future discussion, pending City Council approval.

Kristi also noted that the Chair has the authority to remove members of the public from a meeting, provided a warning is issued first.

Additional updates included announcements from Parks & Recreation Age Well Services. A Resource Fair will be held on Monday, January 26 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Kristi also announced the 50th Annual Senior Talent Show, hosted at the Fourth District Senior Center. Auditions will take place on February 2, with the two-day performance scheduled for March 17–18.

### **Item 11: Update – County of San Diego Aging and Independence Services**

Antoinette Alioto provided an update from a recent County meeting with Aging & Independence Services (AIS). She noted that there is currently no director in place at AIS. The County's annual Opportunities for All report has been released, which includes data points across areas such as behavioral health, environmental sustainability, and public safety. A link was shared to access the report:

<https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/annualreport/en/home.html>

She also shared updates from the California Senior Legislature (CSL), which brings together representatives from approximately 33 Area Agencies on Aging across the state to develop policy recommendations that are advanced to the Governor's Office. Three CSL proposals were highlighted as having been picked up:

1. A personal income tax senior credit of \$2,500 for grandparents raising grandchildren and claiming dependents under age 18.
2. Expanded older adult education initiatives through local health departments, including communal meals, digital literacy, and fall prevention.
3. A mandate for Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) in locations where more than 50 adults age 55 and older regularly gather.

Antoinette also noted a presentation by clinical pharmacists from Scripps Health who work in medication management clinics, addressing the impact of polypharmacy on older adults. Discussion included increased fall risk associated with taking five or more medications, medication interactions, and whether all prescribed medications are necessary. She highlighted the role of multidisciplinary teams, including public health nurses, in supporting medication management.

Finally, she reported on County subcommittee discussions focused on affordability and aging. A major concern identified was that the 2-1-1 system does not adequately meet the needs of older adults due to limited staff training and low awareness among older adults about how to effectively use 2-1-1 services.

**Item 12: Board Comments, Announcements, Meeting Locations/Topics for Future SAAB Meetings**

Mary Scott Knolls announced the Fair Housing Conference, which will take place February 12-13. Additional information is available at [www.fhconference.com](http://www.fhconference.com).

Rosemary White Pope announced the MLK Community Parade taking place on Saturday, January 24 at 9:00 a.m. along Skyline Drive. The event will include vendors, information booths, and resource tables. She also shared information about Black History Month programming at the Fourth District Senior Resource Center, presented in partnership with UCSD, themed *Heart and Soul of Black History Month: Honoring Health, Heritage, and Humanity*.

Bob Prath shared that a survey on human services and community transportation in San Diego has been completed, with responses from approximately 2,000 older adults.

**Item 13: Non-Agneda Public Comment**

None.

**Adjournment**

Michelle Matter made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Jacqueline Jackson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 1:26 p.m.