



SENIOR AFFAIRS ADVISORY BOARD

Meeting Minutes

WEDNESDAY, May 20, 2026

In Person Meeting: 10:00 AM

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

Item 1: Call to Order

Chair Gwenmarie Hilleary called the Senior Affairs Advisory Board meeting to order at 10:03 AM.

Item 2: Roll Call

Antoinette Alioto, Marissa Feliciano, Gwenmarie Hilleary, Michelle Matter, Bob Prath, William Peetoom, and Mary Scott Knoll present.

Kasey Cheal, Jacqueline Jackson, JB Robinson, and Rosemary White Pope absent.

Item 3: Approval of the April 15 Meeting Minutes

Gwenmarie Hilleary introduced the item. Marissa Feliciano made a motion to approve the minutes, which was seconded by William Peetoom. The motion passed unanimously, with Antoinette Alioto abstaining.

Item 4: Information – Chair Report

Gwenmarie Hilleary thanked the Board for their active engagement and participation in recent events, including the City Council proclamation presentation and district meetings. She also reported meeting with Joaquin Quintero from Council President Joe LaCava's office regarding cryptocurrency-related issues.

She also invited Board members to share updates from the City Council meeting where a proclamation was presented in recognition of Older Americans Month. William Peetoom shared that several Board members attended the event and that he provided public comment. Kristi Fenick noted that photos from the event will be posted on the SAAB webpage.

Gwenmarie reported attending a meeting with the County of San Diego Mental Health and Social Services group, where the Blue Envelope Program was featured as a guest presentation. The program provides tools and resources to support interactions between law enforcement and individuals with disabilities or communication challenges. Based on a conversation with Ana Lozano, who oversees the program for the County of San Diego, the program has expanded rapidly across the country, with Riverside identified as one of the early adopters. The discussion also highlighted opportunities to expand awareness among medical and care providers. The Board discussed the possibility of sending a letter to City Councilmembers regarding the program and potential implementation opportunities.

Item 5: Information – Legislative Report

JB Robinson was not present to provide a legislative report. However, Kristi Fenick shared updates related to the City of San Diego budget process. She noted that Mayor Todd Gloria's budget hearing scheduled for May 18 was postponed out of respect for the victims following the tragic event at the Islamic Center of San Diego. The hearing has been rescheduled for May 27.

Kristi shared proposed reductions to Parks and Recreation services, however she noted that senior programming currently remains protected. She highlighted the importance of community advocacy, referencing the proposed closure of the La Jolla Recreation Center. Due to significant public comment and community response, the proposed full closure was reversed.

Gwenmarie referenced the State Budget "rainy day" fund and Michelle Matter shared concerns regarding proposed state-level cuts impacting Adult Protective Services (APS) and In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS).

Item 6: Staff Liaison Report

Kristi Fenick noted that she is working on securing an intern for Age Well Services that may also provide support to SAAB during the fall semester.

Kristi also shared a response from the City of San Diego regarding the You Are Not Alone (YANA) program and noted that Daniel Lopez may be invited to attend a future meeting to provide additional information about the program.

Kristi reminded members that Board elections are scheduled for the June meeting in accordance with the bylaws. She noted that if Mayor Gloria does not appoint a new Chair by July 15, the Board will need to move forward with appointing officers through the election process. She shared that several Board member terms may be ending and stated that additional information would be shared via email.

The Board also discussed the possibility of going dark during either July or August, with the June meeting taking place at the Fourth District Senior Center.

Item 7: Update – County of San Diego Aging and Independence Services

Antoinette Alioto provided an update on the California Senior Legislature (CSL) elections. Several individuals serving on the AIS Board are also CSL members. It was noted that all San Diego and Imperial County caucus seats were filled, resulting in a full caucus for the first time in many years.

She also shared information from a presentation by Assmaa Elayyat, Deputy Director of Self-Sufficiency Services at the Health and Human Services Agency, regarding eligibility and reporting requirements related to public benefits programs, including work requirements and annual recertification processes tied to immigration status. The discussion emphasized the importance of ensuring that participants keep their contact and personal information current within the system to avoid interruptions or termination of benefits.

Bob Prath raised a question regarding whether the County would take a proactive role in protecting CalFresh services. Antoinette noted that this topic was not addressed during the meeting. Bob also referenced concerns raised through the IHSS Advisory Group regarding increased federal scrutiny of IHSS programs, particularly related to family caregiving provisions, as well as concerns regarding fraud and program oversight.

Item 8: Old Business: Report on District 7 Meeting/Council District Summary Report

Marissa Feliciano shared an update on the meeting with Councilmember Raul Campillo and his staff. She described Councilmember Campillo as highly engaged and informed regarding issues impacting older adults, noting that approximately 27% of the district population is over the age of 65 and projected to increase to 35% by 2030.

Discussion topics included transportation, housing instability, cryptocurrency safeguards for older adults, volunteer engagement, and increasing awareness of senior services and resources. Councilmember Campillo proposed the concept of a senior volunteer corps modeled after RSVP programs to increase engagement and community involvement among older adults.

The Councilmember also discussed the importance of social connection, “third places,” and intergenerational opportunities that support healthy aging and community engagement. Additional discussion focused on communication strategies, partnerships, and housing-related challenges impacting older adults.

Gwenmarie requested that a summary report be developed highlighting the district meetings, key discussion points, and potential follow-up actions for SAAB. Marissa volunteered to prepare a draft for Board review.

Item 9: Old Business: SAAB to host Listening Sessions/Advocacy Training

This item was not discussed.

Item 10: Discussion – Board Member/Officer Discussion (topics for future SAAB meetings)

Gwenmarie Hilleary shared information about [*Rebuilding Together*](#), a nonprofit organization that provides free home repair and rehabilitation services for individuals at risk of losing their homes

due to safety or maintenance concerns. She noted that the program partners volunteers with licensed professionals to complete projects such as wiring, plumbing, painting, and other repairs. Bob Prath shared that he has participated in several projects and explained that homes can be nominated for assistance through the program.

Antoinette Alioto also shared information on home modification programs, particularly concerns related to code enforcement and situations where homes may be identified as unsafe.

Item 11: Non-Agenda Public Comment

Teresa Frazier shared her interest in supporting the Board's efforts and expressed willingness to volunteer, provide guidance, and share expertise related to home modification programs. Mary Scott Knoll provided information regarding housing civil rights issues, which led to a brief discussion among Board members, including comments from Bob Prath regarding universal design principles.

Adjournment

Michelle Matter made a motion to adjourn the meeting. William Peetoom seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 11:13 AM.