



SENIOR AFFAIRS ADVISORY BOARD

Meeting Minutes

WEDNESDAY, June 17, 2026

In Person Meeting: 10:00 AM

Location: **Fourth District Senior Center**
570 S. 65th Street, San Diego, CA 92114

Item 1: Call to Order

Chair Gwenmarie Hilleary called the Senior Affairs Advisory Board meeting to order at 10:08 AM.

Item 2: Roll Call

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

Item 3: Speaker: Health disparities amongst marginal communities

The scheduled speaker was unable to attend. The presentation will be rescheduled for a future meeting.

Item 4: Approval of the May 20 Meeting Minutes

Gwenmarie Hilleary introduced the item. Rosemarie White Pope made a motion to approve the minutes, which was seconded by Jacqueline Jackson. The motion passed unanimously.

Item 5: Information – Chair Report

Gwenmarie Hilleary thanked Rosemary White Pope for hosting the SAAB meeting at the Fourth District Senior Center. She also provided an update on the upcoming City Council elections for Districts 2, 4, 6, and 8 and discussed the importance of building relationships with newly elected councilmembers following the November election.

The Board discussed membership and officer succession planning, as well as questions regarding current membership terms. It was noted that the bylaws were developed approximately two years ago and suggested that the Board may consider proposing revisions to the City Council in the

future such as extending officer terms and modifying appointment lengths to provide greater continuity.

Gwenmarie reported that the appointments of Gwenmarie Hilleary, Jacqueline Jackson, Antoinette Alioto, and William Peetoom to the SAAB have been renewed. She also announced the resignations of JB Robinson and Rosemary White Pope.

Item 6: Information – Legislative Report

No report.

Item 7: Staff Liaison Report – Sharon Moninger

Sharon Moninger provided the report on behalf of Kristi Fenick. She shared an update on the San Diego Senior Community Foundation Longevity Grant. The grant will provide \$27,500 to support programs focused on healthy aging, health promotion, education, and self-care for older adults. Planned activities will explore innovative approaches to topics such as fall prevention and aging well through interactive programs and community events. Funding will mainly support programming in Clairemont and Logan Heights.

Item 8: Update – County of San Diego Aging and Independence Services

Antoinette Alioto provided an update from the Aging & Independence Services (AIS) Advisory Council meeting, which was hosted at Jewish Family Service (JFS). She reported on the County's proposed budget for the upcoming fiscal year, highlighting a \$9.4 million increase for In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS), including caregiver benefits. Additional updates included changes to the CalFresh recertification process, the County Benefits Hub, upcoming work requirements for certain benefit programs, and the continued use of 2-1-1 as a resource for benefits information. The County budget adoption is scheduled for June 25.

During the meeting, JFS staff presented information on services available to older adults, including home modification programs, which currently have an approximately 10-month waiting list. Antoinette also noted that JFS staff are trained in CalFresh enrollment assistance. William Peetoom requested a future presentation on JFS programs and services.

Item 9: Action: Council District Summary Report

The Board reviewed a draft letter prepared by Marissa Feliciano summarizing key themes identified during the Council District meetings. Board members discussed several issues that emerged during the district meetings, including housing affordability, transportation, elder fraud, accessibility of information, and the needs of marginalized older adults. Bob Prath noted that housing and transportation were recurring concerns across multiple districts and emphasized the importance of continuing to address these issues. He also highlighted concerns regarding elder fraud and financial exploitation.

Mary Scott Knoll discussed the connection between housing affordability and housing discrimination, noting the importance of educating older adults about their rights and available protections to help them remain in their communities as they age.

Rosemary White Pope emphasized the need for improved accessibility of information and greater attention to equity and inclusion, particularly in Council Districts 4 and 8.

Michelle Matter made a motion to approve the Council District Summary Letter for distribution to the Mayor and City Councilmembers. Jacqueline Jackson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Item 10: Discussion – Cancel July and/or August Meetings

The Board discussed whether to cancel the July or August SAAB meeting. Michelle Matter moved to cancel the August meeting. Bob Prath seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Item 11: Discussion: Election slate/nominees

The Board discussed officer positions for the upcoming term, including Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, and Legislative Officer. Members reviewed the responsibilities associated with each position. Discussion included a potential exception to the Board's bylaws that would allow current officers to continue serving in their roles to support continuity and ongoing Board development.

Chair Gwenmarie Hilleary discussed the responsibilities of the Chair, including community outreach, representing the Board at events, identifying issues affecting older adults, and coordinating information among members and stakeholders. William Peetoom described the Vice Chair's role in supporting the Chair and assisting with Board operations, including attendance matters. Michelle Matter discussed the responsibilities of the Secretary, including preparation of meeting minutes. Members also reviewed the Legislative Officer position, which includes monitoring legislation and policy issues affecting older adults at the City, County, State, and Federal levels and reporting relevant developments to the Board.

Mary Scott Knoll suggested retaining the current leadership team to provide continuity and suggested Bob Prath for the position of Legislative Officer. Marissa Feliciano moved to approve the proposed officer slate consisting of Gwenmarie Hilleary (Chair), William Peetoom (Vice Chair), Michelle Matter (Secretary), and Bob Prath (Legislative Officer). Mary Scott Knoll seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Item 12: Discussion: Board Member/Officer Discussions (Topics for Future SAAB Meetings)

Gwenmarie Hilleary initiated a discussion regarding Board priorities and areas of focus for 2026–2027, with further planning to begin in September. Board members discussed potential topics and speakers for future meetings including speakers from San Diego Senior Community Foundation, 2-1-1, and the California Senior Legislature (CSL).

Item 13: Non-Agenda Public Comment

None

Adjournment

Michelle Matter made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Bob Prath seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 11:27 a.m.