



Commission on Aging
Margot Smith, Chair
Darlene Bronson, Commission Secretary

COMMISSION ON AGING REGULAR AGENDA

Wednesday, September 18, 2024
North Berkeley Senior Center
1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Preliminary Matters

1. Call to Order by Chair Smith
2. Roll Call by Secretary
3. Public Comments

The public may comment about any item not on the agenda. Public comments are limited to two minutes per speaker. Public comments regarding agenda items will be heard while the Commission is discussing the item.

4. Approval of minutes from June, 2024 (Attachment A)

The Commission may discuss any subject listed on the Agenda. Public comments regarding agenda items will be heard while the Commission is discussing the item. Public comments are limited to two minutes per speaker.

Presentation

Serving Berkeley's Homeless Population over age 55. Josh Jacobs, Homeless Services Coordinator, Neighborhood Services | City of Berkeley

Staff report

Tentative: Age-Friendly Presentation to the Housing Advisory Council, Tanya Bustamante

Discussion / Action Items

1. City budget for senior services, George Porter
2. Reaching out by the Commission on Aging- Rani Cochran (Attachment B)
3. **Presentation proposal:** Services to the Berkeley aged population, Margot Smith
4. **Presentation proposal:** Meeting the housing needs of seniors, Margot Smith
5. Potential content ideas for future meetings, Margot Smith

Commissioner reports

The Housing Advisory Commission would like to form a joint committee with the Commission on Aging to consider Berkeley's housing needs. -Margot Smith

Information Items

1. **Please submit all agenda items by Tuesday, October 1st for October 16, 2024 meeting to the Commission Secretary, for the October 16th meeting only.

Items for Ongoing Discussion

1. Alzheimer's programs for residents of Berkeley
2. City website
3. Forum for women's safety

Adjournment

COMMUNICATION ACCESS INFORMATION

This meeting is being held in a wheelchair accessible location. To request a disability-related accommodation(s) to participate in the meeting, including auxiliary aids or services, please contact the **Disability Services Specialist at 981-6418 (V) or 981-6347 (TDD)** at least three business days before the meeting date. Please refrain from wearing scented products to this meeting.

Communications to Berkeley boards, commissions or committees are public record and will become part of the City's electronic records, which are accessible through the City's website. Please note: e-mail addresses, names, addresses, and other contact information are not required, but if included in any communication to a City board, commission or committee, will become part of the public record. If you do not want your e-mail address or any other contact information to be made public, you may deliver communications via U.S. Postal Service or in person to the secretary of the relevant board, commission or committee. If you do not want your contact information included in the public record, please do not include that information in your communication. Please contact the commission secretary for further information.

Any writings or documents provided to a majority of the Commission regarding any item on this agenda will be made available for public inspection at the North Berkeley Senior Center located at 1901 Hearst Avenue, during regular business hours. The Commission Agenda and Minutes may be viewed on the City of Berkeley website: <http://www.cityofberkeley.info/commissions>.

Secretary:

Darlene Bronson
Health, Housing & Community Services Department
(510) 981-5194
E-mail: dbronson@berkeleyca.gov

Mailing Address:

Commission on Aging/HHCS
Darlene Bronson
1901 Hearst Ave.
Berkeley, CA 94709



Health, Housing & Community
Services Department
Commission on Aging

COMMISSION ON AGING DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, July 17, 2024
1:30 p.m.

1. Roll Call

Present: (8) Smith, Yamaguchi, Evans, Orrick, Lavault, Cochran, Chisholm, Collins

Absent:

Excused Absence: Porter

Staff Present: (2) Donnarcia Scurry, Darlene Bronson

Public: (4)

2. Public Comment (1)

Presentations

Berkeley's plan for Middle Housing Zoning Code Changes, Justin Horner, Berkeley Planning Dept.

Action Items

1. Presentation proposal: Services for Aging Homeless Population

M/S: Cochran / Collins

Ayes:

Noes:

Abstain:

Motion: Passed to be presented at September's meeting

2. City Council Referral: The City Council members were mailed the document asking them to include Senior programs in monthly newsletters-Karin Evans

Discussion Items

Potential content ideas for future meetings:

1. Outreach of aging services needed to churches and synagogues
2. Geriatrics needed at Kaiser

Commissioners adjourned at 2:50 p.m.

Minutes Approved on:

Darlene Bronson, Commission Secretary

To: Commission on Aging

From: Commissioner Rani Cochran

During our Commission on Aging meetings we have often remarked on the fact that Berkeley's over-55 population has increased more quickly and to a greater number than earlier studies predicted. This led me to think about publicizing our city's services and information about aging to our elders, their families, and caregivers. This note summarizes my search for that information on the city's web site and presents some ideas and questions for discussion and planning for improved communication with our fellow Berkeleyans.

berkeleyca.gov/city>services

Much work has gone into the redesign of the city website, and as a long-time worker in the high-tech industry, I appreciate the site's elegance. As a busy Berkeley elder, however, I did not appreciate that I had to spend several hours looking for information on elder services.

I recommend that all information about elder services should be organized by topic and/or service, starting with a "welcome page" and a "table of contents" page with links at the start of the elder services section.

Note that we, the CoA, ought to discuss and determine the information. In my opinion, the information should include:

- Key personnel of Berkeley's Health, Housing & Community Services Dept., Aging Services Division, including their areas of responsibility and each person's email address and telephone number.
- Berkeley's two senior centers and their offerings, including information on how to "join" the senior centers and an opportunity to enroll in automatic delivery of *The Nugget*.
- City services related to housing.
- Transportation for elders who no longer drive or wish to do so beginning with Berkeley Rides for Seniors & the Disabled (BRSD) Berkeley Rides for Seniors & the Disabled (BRSD) include a ranking of the relative costs of the various types of available transportation (e.g. Berkeley transport services plus information about bus, BART, taxi, Uber/Lyft, etc.) along with telephone numbers and URLs.

- Information about personal papers and documents that elders should prepare and direction to any preparation guidance Berkeley can provide. The needed documents include:
 - Advance Medical Directive
 - Person appointed as medical director who has a copy of the Medical Directive
 - End-of-life wishes and/or plans, including city services related to dealing with the deceased body (burial, cremation, organ donation, etc)

The Role of CoA Commissioners in Outreach

In my opinion, CoA commissioners need to reach out to members of Berkeley's elder community, preferably to those within each commissioner's home district. We have a list of religious organizations, interest groups, adult education services, and the like that would benefit from an in-person introduction to our city's elder services.

Together we, the CoA, can plan a presentation and create hard-copy materials, after which we:

- Invite elders belonging to organizations of the same religious denomination to an informational meeting to present the web site and summarize the services available.
- Make a short presentation about elder services to any adult classes, for example those classes at the Berkeley evening adult school, and to special-interest groups and clubs.
- Contact large medical organizations such as Sutter Health, Kaiser Permanente, and others to publicize Berkeley's elder services s

Other presentation opportunities will arise as elders begin to talk among themselves about Berkeley's elder services.