



Advisory Council Meeting
Monday, September 8, 2025
1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Functions of the Council

The A1AA Advisory Council shall conduct advisory functions which further the area agency's mission of developing and coordinating community-based systems of services for all older persons in the planning and service area. The council shall advise the agency relative to:

1. Developing and administering the area plan.
2. Conducting public hearings.
3. Representing the interests of older persons; and
4. Reviewing and commenting on all community policies, programs and actions which affect older persons with the intent of assuring maximum coordination and responsiveness to older persons.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/98730014300?pwd=88NQVr8aTaKrHgZP2FQSBPL9jrEHWD.1>

Meeting ID: 987 3001 4300

Passcode: 762977

	Agenda	<i>Page #</i>
I.	CALL TO ORDER	
II.	LEARN-ABOUT-SERVICES: Northcoast Homeshare, Julie Andre, Homeshare Program Coordinator	
III.	AREA PLAN PROGRAM UPDATES: a. LTCOP Andrea Bruhnke, Program Manager b. Social Services, Susan Cleverdon, SS Manager c. Aging & Disability Resource Connection, Lisa Leon, ADRC Program Manager d. HICAP, Rosana Bruhnke, Program Manager	
V.	ADVISORY COUNCIL BUSINESS a. Approval of Minutes: 4-7-25..... b. New Council Member Orientation, Maren Rose	1-5
VI.	AREA PLAN CORRECTIONS, Maren Rose	
VII.	Flyer: Young At Heart Fundraiser.....	Separate Attachment
VIII.	CALIFORNIA SENIOR LEGISLATURE UPDATES	
IX.	ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBER UPDATES	
X.	ADJOURN: Next Meeting: NOVEMBER 3, 2025	



**Advisory Council
April 7th, 2025
Area 1 Agency on Aging
333 J Street
Eureka, CA
1:00 – 2:30 pm**

Members Present: Valerie Starkey, Tasha Romo, Kim Perris, Dave Zuber, Charles Fielder, Nancy Powers-Stone, April Joyce

Members Excused: Jamie Jensen, Steve Madrone

Guests: Rebecca Smith, Legal Services of Northern California

Staff: Maren Rose, Katie Parrish, Jamee Morrow

Minutes

I. CALL TO ORDER 1:03 PM

Chair Valerie Starkey called the meeting to order at 1:03 PM.

II. INTRODUCTIONS 1:04 PM

Rebecca Smith of Legal Services of Northern California was introduced.

III. LEARN-A-PROGRAM 1:05 PM

Smith, Managing Attorney for Legal Services of Northern California in Eureka, gave a detailed overview of the organization's services in Humboldt, Del Norte, and Trinity Counties. Services include housing legal aid, public benefits, civil rights and education access, and health-related legal support. Outreach and virtual services are provided. A pre-screening determines eligibility. Smith welcomed referrals and noted her team is available for community education sessions.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES 1:18 PM

M/S/C Romo/Zuber/Unanimous

V. AREA PLAN UPDATE 25-26, Rose 1:18 PM

a. Changes/Updates – Social Services (referencing Section 7, pages 44–52)

Parrish reviewed proposed revisions to program goals and objectives, noting that many of the changes reflect a more realistic alignment with current staffing capacity and actual service levels. Several objectives were modified to allow greater flexibility in implementation while reducing administrative burden.

Key programmatic updates included:

- **Volunteer Driver Program and North Coast Home Share:** Targets for new volunteer recruitment were reduced to reflect more achievable outcomes based on staffing and community engagement realities.
- **Objective 6.3:** Language was revised to remove the requirement that educational workshops be held specifically at senior independent living sites. The updated objective allows workshops to be held at any location with demonstrated need.
- **Objective 6.5:** A requirement for pre- and post-surveys was removed, as staff are currently using intake forms to evaluate workshop impact. The revised language better reflects on-the-ground capacity.
- **Objective 8.2:** This objective, which was not tied to Older Americans Act funding and had no identified resources, was deleted.
- **Objective 22 (new):** A new objective was added to support the use of “Cash Material Aid” in emergencies. This addition expands Rose’s ability to respond flexibly to client needs with tangible support.

Additional technical updates included:

- Adjustments to service units for Information & Assistance, Homemaker services, and Cash Material Aid.
- Updated language in disaster preparedness objectives to specify outreach and coordination activities.
- Renaming of the “Senior Information Guide” to the “Aging and Disability Resource Guide” to align with the ADRC partnership.
- Clarification of staff roles in facilitating meetings related to disability services.

b. Public Hearing Results (referencing Section 6, pages 42–45)

Rose shared a summary of feedback received during public hearings held across Humboldt and Del Norte counties. Attendees voiced strong support for continuing education and outreach services, particularly digital literacy programs and emergency preparedness. In Garberville, participants expressed gratitude for being included and emphasized a desire to advocate for themselves and others in underserved rural areas.

Several comments supported the need for program flexibility and responsiveness, reinforcing the rationale behind proposed changes to goals and reporting requirements.

c. Proposed Change to Adequate Proportion (Referencing Section 6)

Rose detailed a proposed revision to the allocation of Title IIIB funding under the "Adequate Proportion" rule. The recommendation is to reduce the Access Services proportion from 40% to 30%, while keeping In-Home Services at 3% and Legal Services at 10%.

The change will not reduce current funding for Information & Assistance or Transportation services but will allow Rose to respond more nimbly to future emergencies or emerging community needs. This flexibility is especially important in light of potential funding shifts or policy changes affecting older adults.

The proposed change was discussed at the public hearing and received no opposition. It aligns with the addition of Objective 22 (Cash Material Aid), which requires adaptable funding streams to support client-centered interventions during crisis situations.

d. Recommend Approval

Zuber raised concerns regarding language that appeared to limit emergency preparedness efforts to Humboldt County. Parrish and Rose acknowledged the omission and agreed to revise the language to include Del Norte-specific references and partners.

With that correction noted, a motion was made and seconded to approve the proposed changes to the Area Plan and recommend submission to the Board of Directors.

M/S/C Zuber/Powers-Stone/Unanimous 1:32 PM

VI. ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS 1:33 PM

Two applications were presented for approval:

- a. Cynthany Windwalker (Garberville) – Recognized for her community leadership as Chair of the Healy Senior Center and enthusiastic public hearing participation.
- b. Patty Rose – Brings extensive experience as a caregiver and advocate, including for individuals with disabilities and visual impairments.

M/S/C Perris/Powers-Stone/Unanimous 1:34 PM - Windwalker

M/S/C Powers-Stone/Romo/Unanimous 1:34 PM - Rose

VII. CALIFORNIA SENIOR LEGISLATURE UPDATES 1:38 PM

Fielder provided an update on activity from the California Senior Legislature (CSL), noting that three of CSL's ten proposals were picked up by legislators—an achievement in a year where the Governor has limited the number of bills lawmakers can introduce.

SB 508 (Valadares): Would allow patients with life-threatening conditions to receive telehealth from out-of-state physicians without traveling. Currently, insurance won't cover this unless the physician is licensed in California. The bill is cost-neutral and especially relevant to rural residents.

SB 239 (Guzman): Would allow advisory councils and other public bodies to meet remotely under amended Brown Act provisions. This would support ongoing virtual participation while

maintaining transparency and public access.

Budget Request: CSL is also sponsoring a budget ask to increase the Medi-Cal Personal Needs Allowance (PNA) from \$35 to \$50/month. The PNA, unchanged since the 1980s, helps long-term care residents pay for basic personal items.

Fielder also flagged **AB 474 (Ward)**, which supports home-sharing by excluding certain shared housing income from gross income calculations. The bill also allows seniors in subsidized housing to reside with adult children or grandchildren serving as caregivers, a growing need in multigenerational households.

Fielder encouraged council members to consider submitting letters of support for relevant proposals via the state's legislative website. He confirmed that CSL reviews all proposed bills for senior relevance and continues to spotlight rural concerns through the Northern California Rural Caucus, which includes both Fielder and Bass.

VIII. Advisory Council Member Updates 1:50 PM

Powers-Stone announced that an in-person caregiver support group will begin meeting monthly in Del Norte County at Addie Meedom House. A social worker from RCRC will also offer drop-in services during these sessions, including assessments, consultations, and counseling.

In response to requests for more flexibility, RCRC will also pilot a hybrid version of the six-week class, *Powerful Tools for Caregivers*. The course will be accessible both in person and virtually, aiming to reach a broader group of caregivers.

RCRC has also made progress in expanding tribal engagement. A caregiver support group was recently launched in Mendocino County in partnership with Consolidated Tribal Health, specifically for caregivers of tribal elders. Powers-Stone hopes to explore a similar model in Del Norte, beginning with outreach at the upcoming Yurok Elder Summit, where RCRC will be tabling.

Action Item: Powers-Stone to distribute materials on *Powerful Tools for Caregivers* to Advisory Council members.

Romo reported on the Area Plan public hearing held at the Healy Senior Center, noting strong participation and a clear interest in advocacy and self-representation. She highlighted the importance of including Southern Humboldt voices in council discussions.

Romo also shared that lobbying efforts are active at the state level, particularly around nutrition modernization funding and Medicaid protections, in partnership with Meals on Wheels California and PACE programs.

IX. PROPOSED MEETING SCHEDULE FOR FY25-26:

Meeting dates were confirmed as follows:

August 4, 2025

October 6, 2025

February 2, 2026

April 6, 2026

X. ADJOURNMENT 2:05 PM

The meeting was adjourned at **2:05 PM**

NEXT MEETING: Monday, August 4th, 2025, 1:00 - 2:30 PM