

**County of San Diego**

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY

# AGING & INDEPENDENCE SERVICES

## Advisory Council 2023 Annual Report

Stephen Huber, Council Chair

September 11, 2023



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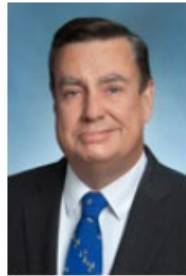
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# San Diego County Board of Supervisors



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Chair



**Joel Anderson**  
District 2



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Lawson-Remer**  
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**Vacant**  
District 4



**Jim Desmond**  
District 5



**Helen Robbins-Meyer**  
Interim Chief Administrative Officer  
County of San Diego



**Dr. Eric C. McDonald**  
Interim Agency Director  
Health and Human Services Agency



**Kimberly Gallo**  
Director  
Aging and Adult Services  
Public Administrator/Public Guardian

# The Aging & Independence Services Advisory Council

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## The Council's Role

The Advisory Council (Council) for the County of San Diego (County) Health and Human Services Agency, Aging & Independence Services (AIS) operates in accordance with the duties and responsibilities defined in the provisions of Title III of the Older Americans Act of 1965, the Mello-Granlund Older Californians Act Section 9402, and the San Diego County Code of Administrative Ordinances Article IIIa. The Council's primary responsibility is to:

*"...advise continuously the area agency on aging on all matters relating to the development of the area plan, the administration of the plan and operations conducted under the plan;"*

## The Council's Operational Activities

The Council holds regular public meetings on the second Monday of each month from 12 p.m. to 2 p.m. In Fiscal Year 2022-23, meetings were held virtually until March 2023 in accordance with the continuance of teleconferencing meeting option pursuant to Government Code Section 54953(e). On March 13, 2023, meetings resumed in person at the County Operations Center following rules defined in California Assembly Bill 2449. The Council has 30 seats, ten of which are appointed by members of the San Diego County Board of Supervisors. As of the regular Council meeting on July 10, 2023, 19 seats were filled. Council members and AIS staff have continued outreach efforts to fill vacancies, many of which resulted from the requirement to return to in-person meetings.

In Fiscal Year 2022-23, members reviewed and evaluated needs to ensure a strong and vital aging system. Monthly Council meetings featured several AIS program staff members who provided operational updates and in-depth overviews of AIS programs. The Council also heard from representatives from several other County departments and guests including the County's new Chief Geriatric Officer Dr. Lindsey Yourman, County Counsel, Medical Care Services, Agency Budget Office, the Office of Military and Veteran Affairs, and the Live Well San Diego team who provided relevant updates and information pertaining to AIS operations and support of older adults in San Diego County. The Council and subcommittees continued to be engaged with local organizations and heard from several speakers including the Elder Justice Task Force and Serving Seniors who provided insight into issues impacting the region and programs and services available to older adults. These speakers helped Council members remain informed of current needs,

resources, and trends as they provided guidance on items related to the local aging system prior to these items going before the San Diego County Board of Supervisors.

Launched at the direction of the Board of Supervisors on September 24, 2019, the Aging Roadmap is the County's plan to ensure that the region has communities and programs that support the needs and celebrate the contributions of the growing population of older adults in the San Diego region. In 2020, the Aging Roadmap was adopted as the organizational framework for AIS' Area Plan 2020-2024, which identifies the priorities and direction for County activities on behalf of older adults. The Aging Roadmap includes community teams working toward an age-friendly region. The Roadmap's priority areas include health and community support, housing, social participation, transportation, dementia, caregiver support, safety, preparedness and response, the silver economy, and the medical and social services system. Council members continued to provide support to the Aging Roadmap initiatives and participated on community-based workgroups in order to provide auxiliary representation in support of stated initiatives and objectives.

# Fiscal Year 2022-23 Accomplishments

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In Fiscal Year 2022-23, efforts continued toward strengthening the aging network in our region. The Council conducts a considerable amount of work through committees, and the committees were engaged and impactful in supporting the work of the Council.

## Standing Subcommittee

### Executive & Membership

The Executive & Membership Subcommittee continued to perform internal organizational functions including recruiting and recommending new members and reviewing and maintaining Council records. The subcommittee also set Council meeting agendas, strengthened the focus on strategic planning and goals, encouraged subcommittee development of position papers, and secured speakers for Council meetings to support Council goals.

## Ancillary Subcommittees

### Healthy Aging

The Healthy Aging Subcommittee aims to expand current programs, develop new, evidence-based communitywide programs, and promote preventative measures to eliminate or reduce the impact of disease and chronic disabilities. In 2023, the subcommittee focused on healthy living, the continued need to promote the benefits of walking, and understanding the San Diego County hospitals, their programs, and their services to healthy aging seniors in San Diego County.

### Housing

Due to changes in membership, the Housing Subcommittee was inactive for most of fiscal year 2022-23. In May 2023, a new subcommittee Chair was appointed, and work began to identify goals and priorities related to the adaptability and accessibility aspects of aging in place within age-friendly communities, including learning about current housing programs and issues impacting residents countywide.

### Long Term Care Ombudsman & Facilities

The Long-Term Care Ombudsman & Facilities Subcommittee monitored legislative proposals and changes related to skilled nursing facilities and residential care facilities for the elderly, and proposed AIS program improvements, including effective outreach, education, and training and better outcomes for residents and providers.

## **Nutrition**

The Nutrition Subcommittee ensured that the Council was informed about the delivery of AIS nutrition services contracts, site responsiveness to AIS performance standards, and community participation. The AIS Public Health Nutrition Manager is a regular participant in the Nutrition Subcommittee, adding important nutrition information and operational updates to subcommittee discussions. The subcommittee frequently meets at nutrition program sites and reports observations at Council meetings. Presentations from community agencies and County staff provide the subcommittee with greater insight into the importance of accessibility to nutritional food and nutrition information for older adults.

## **Ad Hoc Subcommittees**

### **Area Plan**

The ad hoc Area Plan Subcommittee advised on the development and annual update of the 2020-24 Area Plan, a California Department of Aging (CDA) requirement which provides a four-year plan of services and execution of the critical responsibilities addressing present and future aging and long-term care issues within San Diego County.

### **Budget**

The ad hoc Budget Subcommittee reviewed the Fiscal Year 2023-24 proposed budget and made recommendations to staff regarding content and format and provided input into the presentation of the proposed budget to the Council.

### **Legislative**

The ad hoc Legislative Subcommittee advised on the County of San Diego's 2023 Legislative Program and gave feedback on priorities related to older adults and persons with disabilities.

### **Nominating**

The ad hoc Nominating Subcommittee recommended a slate of officers for the Fiscal Year 2023-24 officer elections.



# The Year Ahead:

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## Fiscal Year 2023-24 Council Priorities

At its annual strategic planning meeting, the Council discussed progress on existing goals and streamlined priorities to establish goals with measurable outcomes for the upcoming Fiscal Year that align with the Aging Roadmap's priority areas. The Council's priorities include:

- Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias
- Behavioral Health
- Caregiver Support
- Continuum of Care
- Food Security
- Healthcare
- Housing
- Legislation
- Long-Term Care
- Nutrition
- Social Engagement
- Fitness
- Technology
- Transportation

The complete list of goals is included in Attachment A – AIS Advisory Council Goals 2022-2023.

Moving forward, the Council will continue its work in advancing services and supports for local older adults. The Council will advise and provide input on the new four-year Area Plan cycle for FY 2024-2028, including the community focus group sessions. In alignment with the Aging Roadmap, the 2023-24 year will present new challenges and exciting opportunities to support the needs and celebrate the contributions of older adults in the region.

For questions about the Aging & Independence Services Advisory Council, please contact Jana Jordan at [jana.jordan@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto:jana.jordan@sdcounty.ca.gov) or call 858-495-5858.

All meetings are open to the public, and interested parties are encouraged to attend and participate in the public comment period. Past meeting materials and other information may be found at <https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/hhsa/programs/ais/Community-Partners-and-Volunteering/Advisory-Council.html>.