

ALAMEDA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS' SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

Monday, April. 22, 2024
2:30 p.m.

Supervisor Nate Miley, Chair
Supervisor Lena Tam

Location: Board of Supervisors' Chambers – Room 512 – 5th fl
County Administration Building
1221 Oak Street, Oakland, CA 94612

Summary/Action Minutes

I. INFORMATIONAL ITEM: Alameda Council for Age-Friendly Communities, 2023 Year-End Update [Attachment](#)

Faith M. Battles, Assistant Agency Director, Adult & Aging Services Social Services Agency and Kimi Watkins-Tartt, Director, Public Health Department, Alameda County Health, presented a PowerPoint presentation on the Alameda Council for Age-Friendly Communities, 2023 Year-End Update.

The Social Services Agency, in collaboration with the Health Care Services Agency, has been working to address the needs of older adults through the Age-Friendly Council. The Council, formed in 2017, has coordinated policy changes and expanded resources to enhance the well-being of seniors. In 2019, Alameda County joined the global Age-Friendly Communities network.

Initiatives include preventing homelessness, advocating for increased funding for aging services, and supporting workforce development for caregivers. The Council has also focused on digital inclusion, housing security, and legislative advocacy, co-sponsoring bills to expand caregiver eligibility and enhance senior services.

In 2023, the Board of Supervisors approved four focus areas for the initial Alameda County's Age-Friendly Action Plan, including:

- Housing & Economic Security
- Health Services & Community Supports
- Communication & Information
- Social Participation & Civic Engagement

Challenges include staffing shortages, particularly a vacant management analyst position, but efforts continue to update the Age-Friendly Action Plan and align with state and federal aging policies. The Council remains committed to strategic improvements in housing, economic security, healthcare, and digital accessibility.

Purpose:

- Report progress**
 Advocacy or Education
 Request Social Services Committee Recommendation or Position
 Other:

This item was informational only and required no Committee action.

II. INFORMATIONAL ITEM: Public Guardian Overview

Attachment

Abiodun Oyuntuase, Supervisor, Adult Protective Services, Social Services Agency, Victoria Wu, Assistant County Counsel, Office of the County Counsel and Kirsten Voyles, Esq., Legal Assistance for Seniors presented a PowerPoint presentation on the Public Guardian Overview.

The California Probate Code, dating back to 1879, governs these matters, ensuring the best interests of the proposed conservatee. Conservatorships are the least restrictive, allowing individuals to remain in their homes when possible. The court decides on conservatorships, with various parties involved, including court investigators, the public defender, legal assistance for seniors, and county counsel.

There are different types of conservatorships: limited and general, which can be for the person, their estate, or both. Temporary conservatorships address urgent needs. The Public Guardian may file for conservatorship; however cases can originate from private parties and may be referred by the court. The Public Guardian prioritizes less restrictive alternatives when possible.

County Counsel advises the Public Guardian but does not make case decisions. Legal Assistance for Seniors (LAS) represents conservatees with assets and ensures they have legal representation, particularly as their constitutional rights may be impacted. LAS attorneys must meet annual certification requirements and provide confidential, client-centered advocacy. They inform clients of their rights, including the option for a jury trial. LAS is independent from the county and does not control conservatees' finances or care.

Purpose:

- Report progress**
- Advocacy or Education**
- Request Social Services Committee Recommendation or Position
- Other:

This item was informational only and required no Committee action.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

Board of Supervisors' Committees agendas are available via Internet at: www.acgov.org