

ALAMEDA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS' SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

Monday, April 24, 2023

2:30 p.m.

Supervisor Nate Miley, excused
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: Update from the Alameda County Advisory Commission on Aging** [Attachment](#)

Laura McMichael-Cady, Chair, and Howard Kirsch, Commissioner, Alameda County Advisory Commission on Aging presented a PowerPoint presentation to update the Committee on its activities.

The Alameda County Advisory Commission on Aging (ACA) advises and provides information to the Board of Supervisors and the Area Agency on Aging (AAA). The commission is made up of representatives concerned about the needs and interests of older adults in Alameda County. The commission works in concert with the staff of the AAA to develop, plan, and administer programs designed to assist elderly and their caregivers in the county.

The presentation included information on the ACA's 2022 accomplishments and goals for 2023. In addition, there are twenty-one (21) 21 slated positions for the Commission and eleven (11) currently seated. There are 6 Board of Supervisor vacancies and four (4) vacancies appointed by the Mayors Conference North.

There is a major disagreement between the County and the Commission regarding the scope of work that the Commission should be engaged in.

The Commission sees its mandate as to act as an independent advocate for older persons as mandated by the Older Americans Act, and the Mello-Granlund Older Californians Act by taking positions on matters pertaining to federal, state, and local policies, programs and procedures, and any legislation affecting older persons.

The County, the Social Services Agency and the Area Agency on Aging sees the mandate to simply advise the AAA on decisions that affect seniors and disabled people, after the decisions have been taken.

The Advisory Commission on Aging has been constantly challenged by County Social Services Agency staff and asks the Board of Supervisors to clarify the expectations of the Advisory Commission on Aging.

Faith Battles, Assistant Agency Director, Social Services Agency, agreed that there is disagreement between the County and the Commission, and they had a meeting today and will continue to work to iron out differences.

Speaker

Kester Waters, Commissioner, Alameda County Advisory Commission on Aging, commented that he would like the Board of Supervisors to clarify the role of the ACA to allow the ACA to move forward with its work.

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: Alameda County Public Guardian Overview

[Attachment](#)

Victoria Wu, Assistant County Counsel, Office of the County Counsel, Alameda County, Nebiat Berhane, Adult Protection Supervisor, Adult and Aging Services, Social Services Agency and Caitlin Chan, Interim Director, Legal Assistance for Seniors, presented a PowerPoint presentation on the Alameda County Public Guardian Overview.

Victoria Wu presented information on the California Probate Code framework, the Probate Court's role and types of conservatorships, and the role of County Counsel.

Caitlin Chan presented information on legal assistance for seniors, with respect to the roles of the Public Defender and the Public Guardian.

Nebiat Berhane gave an overview of the Alameda County Public Guardian's Office.

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.

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