

AGENCY ON AGING AREA 4 Advisory Council



Date: July 16, 2026

Location: **Sacramento County**

I. **CALL TO ORDER, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE, WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS****

Sylvia McBride called the meeting to order at 10:06 a.m. and lead the Council in the Pledge of Allegiance. Sylvia asked the three (3) new members, Heidi Wingo, Iulia Bodeanu, and Sabrina Smith to introduce themselves.

Advisory Council Attendance

<i>County</i>	<i>Members Present - 15</i>	<i>Excused = ; Absent =</i>
Nevada	K. Carpenter, P. Rasada* H. Wingo	A. Mikal-Heine (E)
Placer	K. Flanagan*, S. Klabunde (arrived 10:30)	
Sacramento	S. McBride; A. Zonderman; M. Jacobs	Dr. C. Koss (E), Dr. T. Abah (E)
Sierra	S. Smith*	W. Church-Bergstrom(A)
Sutter	T. Thomas	P. Epley (E)
Yolo	J. Bohon, Iulia Bodeanu*	S. Brunner (E), Y. Jacobs (A)
Yuba		P. DeHaan (A)
At Large	R. Saenz*, M. H. Linder, P. Nelson	M. Moreno (A)

*Teleconferencing according to Brown Act Emergency Provision.

On-site AAA4 Staff

Will Tift, Dr. Julie Bates, Anson Houghton, Sara Martinez, Jennifer Hassouna, Tina Linn, Dennis Eldridge

AAA4 Staff via Zoom

Alyssa Valenzuela, Ben Scalero, Cindy Reigert, Dagne Buck, Gail Samuels, Julie Beckner, Nancy Vasquez, Melyssa Santos-Hollitz

On-site Guests

Sharon Jennings, Stephanie Thrasher, John Boyer

Guests via Zoom

Vivian Ruiz, *Sierra Senior Services*

II. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

III CONSENT CALENDAR

A. Motion: Adopt the Agenda.

Motion	Second	Passed
Tanna Thomas	Rita Saenz	Y= 14; N= 0; Abstain= 0

Motion: Approve the minutes from the May 21, 2026 meeting. Heidi Wingo, Sabrina Smith, and Melissa Jacobs abstained as they did not attend May 21 meeting,

Motion	Second	Passed
Jim Bohon	Harrison Linder	Y= 11; N= 0; Abstain= 3

IV. CORRESPONDENCE

None.

V. ACTION ITEM

A. Accept Hybrid Meeting and Remote Participation Policy

Dr. Julie thanked the members of the ad hoc committee for determining the provisions of the SB707 remote participation policy for the Agency. The policy states that all Advisory Council members are expected to attend meetings in person as feasible and attend a minimum of four meetings per year. Those meetings include the two joint meetings with the Governing Board in April and November, one meeting in the members' jurisdiction, and at least one additional Advisory Council meeting. This will be especially beneficial for our committees and enable active participation throughout the seven counties we serve. Adjustments can be made when illness, weather, financial hardships, geographic distance, and other reasonable circumstances affect a member's ability to attend. The policy has been vetted by legal counsel and was approved by the Governing Board at the July 10, 2026, meeting.

Motion	Second	Passed
Tanna Thomas	Ann Zonderman	Y= 14; N= 0; Abstain= 0

VI. DISCUSSIONS/PRESENTATIONS

A. Update on State Budget Items relating to Older Adults: An Overview, *presented by Julie Bates, PhD*

- Dr. Julie discussed that the governor's May Budget proposal would have significantly reduced the asset limit for people receiving Medi-Cal from \$130,000 to as little as \$2,000-\$5,000 for an individual. The legislature rejected that proposal and settled on an asset limit of approximately \$21,000 for an individual Medi-Cal recipient. This is still a significant reduction, but less damaging than the original proposal.
- A primary residence and automobile remain exempt from the asset test, so a Medi-Cal recipient can continue to own and live in their home and own a car.
- When one spouse enters a skilled nursing facility and receives Medi-Cal, there are protections that allow the remaining spouse in the home to continue living in and retain the home should the institutionalized spouse pass away.
- Reductions to In-Home Support Services (IHSS), Adult Protective Services (APS), and a proposed rate cap for Program of All Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) were all rejected.
- Medi-Cal cuts for immigrant groups have been delayed until July of 2027.
- The budget includes \$75 million for older adult homelessness including \$15 million for Home Safe and \$25 million for Housing and Disability Advocacy Program (HDAP).

- The Senate had passed legislation to reauthorize the Older Americans Act and the bill is expected to move to the House. This would provide a stronger foundation for the OAA funded programs serving older adults.
- Attendees were encouraged to advocate directly with U.S. representatives and senators as to why it is important to reauthorize the Older Americans Act.

B. AAA4's New Care for Caregivers (C4C) Program, *presented by Anson Houghton*

- Anson Houghton explained that he oversees grant development and administration for several programs including Aging and Disability Resource Connection (ADRC) programs, case management and caregiver programs, PEARLS, the Dignity grant, Veterans Directed Care, and CalAIM
- The new program is called Care for Caregivers (C4C). Previously the agency used Benjamin Rose Institute's evidence-based care consultation program under the Older Americans Act Title III-E funding.
- Participation was limited because the program required a significant amount of information from individuals who were already overwhelmed. This new program is designed to make engagement easier. Basic information and select topics relevant to the individual caregiver makes for a quick and easy intake process.
- The platform provides metrics on utilization and user satisfaction which will provide important data on program effectiveness and supporting future funding.
- The first year's data will determine if key performance indicators capture the desired outcomes so future data collection can be refined if necessary.
- There were questions from the council asking if topics can be tailored. The platform can accommodate additional categories and content. Questions can also be addressed through a counselor.
- Overall, the Care for Caregivers Program was enthusiastically supported by the Council members.

C. An Update on the Executive Director Transition, *presented by Julie Bates, PhD*

- Dr. Julie announced that Wendy Brown Personnel Consultants (WBPC) will conduct the Executive Director search on behalf of the Agency. WBPC is one of the 5 (five) professional executive search firms that were considered and came highly recommended by several Board members.
- Lauren with WBPC joined the meeting via Zoom to gather information from the Advisory Council. She asked what attributes the ideal candidate would have that they felt were important for her to consider in searching for the next leader for the Agency. In summary, the suggested qualities provided by the Advisory Council were:
 - Strong depth and breadth of leadership experience
 - Empathy and the ability to connect with the organization and stakeholders
 - Strong political acumen, particularly the ability to navigate sensitive issues while maintaining balance
 - A collaborative leadership style
 - The ability to avoid becoming overly defensive or alienating stakeholders
- Members were encouraged to recommend potential candidates who may be a strong fit.
- The recruitment period is expected to remain open for approximately one month.

VII. REPORTS

Executive Committee

- Pamela Nelson discussed her “What’s your Why?” by sharing her experience and how she came to the Agency after retiring from the State of California. Pamela had some experience with ATC through her work so she started to look for something to do where she could utilize her experience. That was when she found AAA4 and met with Pam Miller. Pamela has been working with the ombudsman now for about seven months and is hoping to become certified. Pamela also enjoys being part of the Legislative Committee.

Governing Board

- Sara Martinez shared that the Governing Board met on Friday, July 10. They adopted the remote meeting protocol which the Advisory Council accepted today.
- The transition benefit policy for AAA4 staff was adopted.
- The Board reviewed and chose to hold off approving the revised salary chart for AAA4 for staff until more information is gathered and provided.
- The Board approved the Title III-D recommendations for minor RFP cycle and renewed Title III-B and III-C awards.
- There were presentations for the Nevada County Volunteer Transportation Program and the Executive Director Position Update.

Bylaws Committee

- Sara said the new Bylaws will be presented at the next meeting for approval.
- There will be some updates to the membership terms which will match the January through December terms recognized by the Governing Board.

Acting Executive Director

- Will thanked Secretary Sylvia McBride for stepping in today as the Chair.
- Will shared the names of a couple of new staff members. Shayla Patton has joined the ombudsman team doing intake. Kimberly Pimienta is in her second week in case management.
- Regarding Senate Bill 1249, there are no significant new developments to report. The Department of Aging recently held a webinar and plans to offer quarterly webinars going forward. These webinars will be open to anyone interested and will provide updates on the continuing implementation of the Modernization of the Aging Services Network.
- The modernization effort includes discussions related to Planning and Service Areas (PSAs), service-area designations, Area Agencies on Aging, core services, and the intrastate funding formula.
- At the May meeting, an update was provided regarding the California Department of Aging’s trailer bill, which had been attached to the Governor's May Revise. There were concerns because portions of the proposed language did not appear consistent with information previously provided by the state. The situation now has returned to a more orderly process, and the trailer bill has been postponed for another year.
- A key issue under consideration is how the state defines “unit of general purpose local government” which narrows the definition to mean a county only rather than including cities. The Department of Aging is also considering regulatory changes concerning the designation of and potential revocation of AAAs. There are concerns that some of the proposed language could conflict with the Code of Federal Regulations and the Older Americans Act.

- The Office of Administrative Law is reviewing the proposed regulatory changes to determine if they are legally permissible. A significant issue involves first right of refusal and the sequence of actions that would be triggered when that right is exercised. If the regulations continue in their current form, litigation and legal challenges will most likely occur.
- The state has held multiple listening sessions and received substantial stakeholder feedback without any meaningful revisions causing frustration and raising questions about the balance between federal, state, and local control.
- AAA4 has a fifty-three (53) year history of providing services through a Joint Powers Authority (JPA) model and it provides important economic sense for the seven (7) counties it serves. Counties should, however, conduct their own due diligence when considering whether to separate or establish a different organizational structure. The evaluation should include both the potential benefits and drawbacks of operating independently. Any county considering a change in organizational structure would need to carefully evaluate the administrative, financial, regulatory, and operational responsibilities it would assume before proceeding.
- Will shared a discussion held at the Governing Board meeting regarding Agency staffing. During the pandemic, the Agency grew to eighty (80) employees and there are currently just under sixty (60) employees. Current staffing is above what the revenue supports and based on current revenue; the number of employees should be closer to fifty (50). The Agency is planning a restructuring with potential layoffs or reductions in force to achieve a balanced budget. As Anson discussed, he is a major driver of obtaining funding beyond the Older Americans Act and is planning to expand healthcare contracting for future revenues. The Agency intends to right size the workforce based on the current budget while also continuing to pursue new funding opportunities.

VIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

New member, Heidi Wingo, shared that she is the Executive Director of Foothills Compassionate Care, also known as Hospice of the Foothills which is a local nonprofit in Nevada County serving the community for 46 years. Heidi's work is focused on elder care, hospice, palliative care, and bereavement services. Heidi expressed her excitement to be part of the Council and learning more about what is happening across California and in the seven-county region. She said she took a lot of notes and thanked everyone for the opportunity to learn.

New member, Sabina Smith, retired about seven (7) years ago from the State of California, mostly working in social services and healthcare. She did a lot of work with budgets, contracts, HR, and administration so she is very familiar with how the state operates. Sabrina now runs a restaurant in Downieville and is very involved in the rural community. She volunteers with the senior meal program and helps deliver food during the winter. She said she always tries to think about the little things that could make life easier for seniors, even if it is cleaning a bathroom. She was a caregiver for both of her parents and volunteered with hospice. She is grateful and excited to be here and be part of the work of the Agency.

Sara Martinez announced that the next meeting will be Thursday, August 20, 2026, in Nevada City. Will reminded everyone that as of today, members can attend meetings remotely if they choose to.

Sara also shared that members should look for an email from RAMP which is the program used for reimbursements such as mileage.

IX. ADJOURN

Sylvia McBride, adjourned the meeting at 12:00 p.m.

******TO LISTEN TO THE FULL AUDIO OR REQUEST MATERIALS FROM THIS MEETING, PLEASE EMAIL [Advisory Council@AgencyOnAging4.org](mailto:Advisory_Council@AgencyOnAging4.org)

Recordings are on file for one (1) year.