



2015 Year End Update: Countywide Plan for Seniors

Development of the Countywide Plan for Seniors

Alameda County's Area Agency on Aging (AAA), which is housed in the Social Services Agency, is developing a new four-year area plan to provide programs and services to the growing population of older adults age 60 and older in Alameda County. By 2040, the senior population is projected to increase to 513,367, which represents an increase of 108%. The services are provided by the AAA along with our network of community partners that include community-based organizations, public, and private sector organizations. Throughout 2015 and 2016, Alameda County has taken a comprehensive public planning process, which has been led by a partnership between Social Services Agency and Health Care Services Agency (HCSA), to update and develop the 2017-2020 Alameda County Plan for Older Adults. Tracy Murray, Director, Area Agency on Aging, is the primary lead for the Planning Committee and is overseeing the development of the AAA plan. Lillian Schaechner from Behavioral Health Care Services (BHCS) and Angela Ball from the Public Health Department are the HCSA representatives on the Planning Committee, which meets every third Wednesday of the month.

The AAA Countywide Plan for Seniors Planning Committee Meetings Presentations

In 2015, the Planning Committee monthly meeting provided an array of diverse, interesting and engaged topics related to our Older Adult programs and services.

March	Kick Off Meeting - Committee/Recruiting Update; <i>The Ralph M. Brown Act</i> presented by Miruni Soosaipillai, Office of the County Counsel
April	Planning Committee Retreat
May	<i>HUNGER 2014: Alameda County Uncovered</i> - Presented by Alameda County Food Bank
June	<i>Seniors and Dental Health</i> - Presented by Bahar Amanzadeh, DDS, MPH, Dental Health Administrator, Alameda County Public Health Department
July	<i>Health Status Report Older Adults in Alameda County</i> - Presented by Angela Ball, Director, Public Health Nursing
August	<i>Older Adults System of Care</i> - Presented by Lillian Schaechner, Older Adult System of Care Director Behavioral Health Care Services Agency
September	<i>Client-Directed Service: The Importance Many Seniors Place on Consumer Choice in the Delivery of Services</i> - Presented by Thomas Gregory, Deputy Director
October	<i>Listening Session: Measure A</i> - Presented by James Nguyen, Measure A Coordinator, Alameda County Health Care Services Agency and <i>Coordinating Solutions for Optimal Living</i> - Presented by Marciela Narvarez-Foster, Director, Alameda County Healthy Homes Department and Linda Gardener, Director, Alameda County Housing & Community Development Department
December	<i>Elder Abuse</i> - Presented by Alicia Morales, Director of Division of Adult Protection

Countywide Consumer Survey Update

From June to October 2015, a consumer survey was distributed to Alameda County residents 55 years and older. Approximately 3,800 completed surveys have been collected. The survey was available in seven threshold languages (Cambodian, English, Farsi, Mandarin, Spanish, Tagalog and Vietnamese) to providers and individuals. The survey was distributed non-randomly by mail, online and available at various community organizations to capture information of how Alameda County can be better place for older adults to live. The analysis of the surveys shows a good representation of social, economic, ethnicities and the diversity of the Older Adults within Alameda County. Information from the surveys will provide key information in the AAA Countywide Plan for Seniors plan.



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Senior Services Coalition Conference

On November 12, 2015 the Senior Services Coalition held a conference, *Making the Difference: Creating Age-Friendly Institutions and Community in Alameda County*. Community-based service providers, health care professionals, health and social services agency leaders, policy makers and stakeholders in Alameda County convened to learn about the World Health Organization's model for age-friendly communities. Through panel discussions and breakouts, we used the WHO model as a guidepost for considering how to move beyond traditional silos in planning and delivery, and to engage counties, cities, CBOs and our communities in bringing about broad, deep and lasting improvements.

Rebecca Gebhart, currently Acting Director of the Alameda County Health Care Services Agency (HCSA) was a panelist at the conference to discuss: *Alameda County Aging Initiative: Are We Getting There?* In her role, she oversees the HCSA financial and administrative operations including the \$650 million budget and financial reporting, revenue maximization, contract management, agency-wide initiatives to improve business processes and infrastructure, and special projects, one of which is the HCSA initiative on Older Adults. Rebecca is lead on the HCSA's participation in the Countywide Plan for Seniors, which includes convening the working group of HCSA leaders who coordinate internally and with the Social Services Agency. The goal of the HCSA initiative on Older Adults is to significantly increase the services and investments for the aging population in Alameda County. Rebecca worked with staff and stakeholders to develop the 2016-2019 Measure A Base Allocation Funding Recommendation, including a new allocation dedicated for Older Adults services (*see below*).

Addition of Intranet Link

On October 2015, HCSA launched an Older Adults intranet page on the HCSA site

<http://achcsa.org/hcsa-admin/older-adults.aspx>

The intended audience will be primarily the HCSA staff. The purpose of communication is to keep the HCSA staff up to date on the progress of developing the countywide plan for seniors, as well as to keep them informed about HCSA's commitment to increase our investment in services to older adults. The intranet page will be the online portal for the HCSA internal workgroup meeting agendas, minutes, materials and also the materials from the monthly AAA Planning Committee meetings.

https://alamedasocialservices.org/public/services/elders_and_disabled_adults/aaa_planning.cfm

BOS Approval of Increased Older Adults Allocation for Senior Services

On December 8, 2015, the BOS approved the recommendation of an annual base allocation in Measure A funds each year beginning in Fiscal Year 2016-2017 for 3 years ending in Fiscal Year 2018-2019 to provide essential health care services to Alameda County residents. A new investment in Alameda County health priorities was recommended for a proposed annual funding of \$1.5M for Older Adults and Seniors:

- Home-Based Nursing Case Management (\$500,000)
- Hospice & Advance Life Planning (\$250,000)
- Injury Prevention & Meals/Nutrition (\$750,000)

Plans for 2016 – Looking Ahead

- Implementation of increased services for Older Adults through the Measure A allocation
- Increased systems coordination between county departments, and within HCSA
- Continued refinement of the HCSA Older Adult services inventory to better identify gaps, challenges and opportunities
- Planning for Age Friendly Communities, conducting conversations, and verifying the ability to adopting "Age Friendly Community" concept within Alameda County
- Working with the Board of Supervisors on moving forward with the Older Adults initiative