

Comments to Alameda County BOS Health Committee November 9, 2015

I'm Wendy Peterson with the Senior Services Coalition, a coalition of 40 nonprofit and public community-based organizations that serve seniors in Alameda County.

I would just like to thank Health Care Service Agency for recognizing the critical needs of the growing older adult population in Alameda County, and the importance of investing in services that will address those needs in ways that have the greatest impact and improve health outcomes.

Thanks to the BOS for initiating the comprehensive planning process that has enabled the county to begin to identify the needs of the county's older adult population and gaps in services. We all know there is a significant gap between service capacity and the real level of services needed by older adults in the community.

I appreciate the thoughtful process that HCSA staff have taken and their willingness to listen and understand what defines effective health interventions for older adults. The power of community-based services to turn around lives, improve health, reconnect and revitalize older adults.

We very much appreciate that long-term base allocations will be maintained with minimal change. We've seen the effectiveness of the senior injury prevention interventions

Looking to the future, we hope the RFP process to allocate any additional funding would include older adult services and could invest in community-based interventions that target address chronic disease, isolation, depression and mental health.