
Commissioners: Robert “Bob” Scott (Chair) — **PRESENT**; Blake Spears (Vice-Chair) — **EXCUSED ABSENT**; Suzi Kalmus — **PRESENT**; Jacqueline Johnson — **PRESENT**; Brandon Hemphill — **EXCUSED LATE**

Human Services Department (HSD) Commission Staff: Ana Bagtas, Aging and Adult Services Manager; Marshay Boyd, Commission Clerk

MAYOR'S COMMISSION ON AGING

Wednesday, February 4, 2026

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Oakland City Hall, Hearing Room 1 - One Frank H. Ogawa Plaza

Meeting Minutes

1. Call To Order

Chair Robert “Bob” Scott called the meeting to order at 10:08 a.m., noted the meeting was being recorded, and reviewed public-comment protocols: speaker cards; public speaks first after each item/presentation; Open Forum at Item 10.

2. Roll Call/Determination of Quorum

Present at roll call: Chair Robert “Bob” Scott; Suzi Kalmus; Jacqueline Johnson.

Late Arrival: Brandon Hemphill

Absent: Vice-Chair Blake Spears.

Quorum: Established, three commissioners present at roll call. Four commissioners after 10:30am.

3. Adoption of Agenda

ACTION ITEM: Suzi Kalmus / Jacqueline Johnson / Moved — Approved. Agenda Adopted.

4. Approval of November 5, 2025, December 3, 2025, and January 7, 2026, Meeting Minutes

November 5, 2025 — ACTION ITEM: Jacqueline Johnson / Suzi Kalmus / Moved — Approved.

December 3, 2025 — Deferred to next meeting. January 7, 2025 — Deferred to next meeting.

Discussion: Clerk is completing backlog of minutes. Chair requested an appropriate level of detail balance for minutes, acknowledging public input while avoiding verbatim transcripts. Clerk noted new AI-assisted tooling to help complete backlog.

5. Public Comment (Specific Agenda Items, limit of two minutes)

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No speaker cards at this time.

6. Presentation: Advocacy Update – Federal, State, and Local – Wendy Peterson, Executive Director, Senior Services Coalition (SSC)

Main points:

- SSC mission & role: Strengthen the older-adult support network; align local & state policy; help health plans, government, and CBOs coordinate care.
- Federal overview: H.R. 1 (2025) cuts to Medicaid/ACA → states face cost shifts and tighter Medi-Cal access (paperwork, work requirements); CalFresh impacts and admin cost-shares rise.
- Budget note: Feb 3, 2026, deal maintains level funding for Older Americans Act, LIHEAP, CDBG, AmeriCorps Seniors (SSC cautioned level funding functions as a cut when costs/need rise).
- County (Measure W): Essential Services 5-year plan in development; SSC leading advocacy to increase aging-services funding. Offer to MCOA: align advocacy, training, letters, civic engagement, and support Senior Center Advisory Councils.

Discussion: Commissioners asked about statewide coalition coordination and expressed support for partnering with SSC within the 5-Year Plan.

7. Chair’s Announcements/Reports – Robert Scott, MCOA Chairperson

- **New Commissioners Nominees**

Chair welcomed new commissioners (seated and remote attendees) and explained that oath of office and Form 700 must be completed by March 3 to be full voting on March 4. Clerk will send orientation materials (Board & Commission Handbook, bylaws, contacts at City Clerk’s Office) and links to schedule Zoom or in-person oath appointments.

- **2026 Focus Areas – Safety and Violence Prevention, Transportation, Health & Nutrition**

Chair recorded commissioners’ preference 1 / preference 2 to seed three subcommittees—Safety & Violence Prevention, Transportation, Health & Nutrition. Chair noted Vice-Chair Spears, Tipton, and Thomas-Knight will submit preferences

- **By Laws**

- **Discussion – New Structure and New Board Liaison for Advocacy**

Chair proposed a major overhaul of MCOA bylaws (last revised 2014) to reflect current practice and future needs; an ad hoc drafting approach will be used, followed by City Attorney review.

Discussion items included formally defining an Advocacy Liaison role within bylaws to maintain continuous engagement with City/County partners and SSC. Commissioners expressed support for embedding advocacy structurally.

- **Discussion – Alternate Commissioners**

Chair introduced exploring Alternate Commissioner positions to future-proof the Commission; Aging & Adult Services staff shared precedence for such structures in neighboring counties and suggested borrowing bylaw language where appropriate.

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8. Human Services Department/Aging & Adult Services Report – Ana Bagtas, Aging and Adult Services Manager, HSD

Main points:

- WOSC reopening: Target late Feb / early Mar; programs that moved to NOSC return to WOSC; kitchen closed initially due to equipment theft under contractor custody (replacement responsibility pending).
- Staffing: One director offer made; second near final to ensure each center has a director upon WOSC opening. Ribbon-cutting to be scheduled by Public Works; April 1 MCOA at WOSC suggested.
- Transportation / AAA funding: OPEB RFP due; group trips vendor PO step underway after citywide contract delays; city re-applied for Information & Assistance (OAA) and will pursue Senior Center Activities, Case Management, Transportation RFPs to secure steady funding.
- CalAIM (IGT): City received ~50% of requested one-time funds; non-federal local match needed; Council action targeted April; aim to evolve to health-plan reimbursement model.
- Subcommittee launch: With USF students/faculty, staff proposed a March “all-subcommittee launch” (charter, roles, deliverables).

Discussion: Chair requested a WOSC Day-1 services list for March. Days/hours, programs, staffing, kitchen status.

9. 5-Year Strategic Action Plan Update

Embedded across Items 7 & 8—focus areas validated by needs assessment. Safety, Transportation, Health & Nutrition; student support and backbone staffing to help subcommittees execute; launch coordination planned for March.

10. Open Forum (Limit of two minutes)

Philip (Public Member): Proposed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for facility rentals: Human Services focuses on senior programming, while Oakland Parks & Recreation, with existing reservation systems/capital-project expertise and evening/weekend staffing, manages space rentals citywide. Aim: restore rental-based revenue at centers, including WOSC, and stabilize funding for programs.

Lenore Gunst (Former MCOA Chair): Emphasized partnerships between MCOA, SSC, and Senior Centers; urged building City Council relationships and leveraging Oakland’s scale to strengthen the countywide senior services ecosystem.

11. Closing Remarks & Adjournment

Chair thanked presenters and staff, reiterated March deliverables (bylaws ad hoc draft approach; subcommittee assignments; WOSC services list) and called for adjournment.

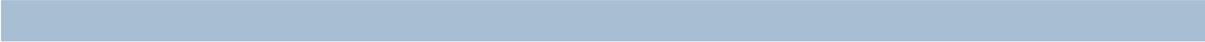
ACTION ITEM: Suzi Kalmus / Jacqueline Johnson / Moved — Approved.

Meeting adjourned at 12:08 p.m.

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The Policy Landscape and Impacts on Older Adults in Alameda County

A presentation to the
Oakland Mayor's Commission on Aging
February 4, 2026



What We Will Cover:

- About the Senior Services Coalition
- Federal Policy Changes , State Budget & Policy Reactions, and Local Impacts
- Alameda County Policy & Budget Developments
- The Role of SSC and Opportunities to Partner



Our Mission

SSC's Mission is to strengthen and improve the network of support for older people in Alameda County, especially those disproportionately impacted or at risk because of fragile health, disability, cognitive impairment, culture, language, race, financial status, age, sex or gender.





We do this by...

We do this by advancing local and state policy change through advocacy, and helping health plans, government and community-based organizations work better together to coordinate care for older adults.





What CBOs are seeing in their communities:

- More older adults who have serious health issues, functional limitations, cognitive impairment, and acute care needs
- Increasing economic insecurity
- High food insecurity and continuing high demand for brown bag, meals on wheels and congregate dining programs
- Growing numbers of precariously housed, displaced and newly homeless older adults
- Prop 1 cuts to mental health prevention programs will hit July 1, eliminating scores of programs for older adults, monolingual populations and others
- Federal cuts and policy changes are destabilizing families, communities and the systems designed to support them.



Federal Policy Changes, State Budget & Policy Reactions, and Local Impacts

- Healthcare
- Food Security
- Community -Based Services



HR1 will Limit Access to Health Care

- The Budget Reconciliation Act of 2025 (HR1) makes well over \$1 trillion in cuts to Medicaid and the Affordable Care Act
- It cuts federal funding and shifts costs to California, forcing the state to cut services, eligibility, and provider reimbursement
- Increases barriers to accessing Medicaid (Medi-Cal) coverage
 - Paperwork, retroactive coverage changes, work requirements, cost sharing
- In addition, HR1 limits Medicare eligibility for lawfully present immigrants starting January 2027



In California, Medi-Cal Changes = Local Impacts

- California implemented multiple HR1 changes to Medi-Cal in the state's 2025/26 budget that are already putting local hospitals at risk
- Changes impacting people with Unsatisfactory Immigration Status (UIS):
 - January 1, 2026 Enrollment freeze will impact over 51,000 people in Alameda County, including over 6,000 people age 60+
 - July 1 2026 Reduction of dental benefits will impact over 74,000 people in Alameda County, including over 16,000 people age 60+
 - July 1, 2027 Premiums will impact over 57,000 people in Alameda County,
- Medi-Cal Asset Test has been reinstated for people with disabilities and older adults age 65+ (Limit is \$130,000 in assets for an individual, \$195,000 for a couple)
- Cuts to federal funding will pressure California to cut optional benefits home and community-based services, dental, vision, hearing, etc



Medi-Cal Changes = Local Impacts, con't

- HR1 mandates that states implement work requirements on January 1, 2027 for all adults ages 19 -64 to be eligible for Medi-Cal's ACA Expansion coverage
 - 80 hours per month of work, education or community service
 - Requires proof of compliance for at least 1 month prior to enrolling, and prior to bi-annual eligibility redeterminations
 - Approximately 3 million of the 5 million Californians who make up the Adult Expansion population will be at risk of losing Medi-Cal



HR1 Threatens Food Security

- HR1 has already eliminated eligibility for SNAP (California's CalFresh program) for people granted refugee, asylum and other immigration statuses
- Eliminated SNAP -Ed and restricts the Thrifty Food Plan
- Requires states pay 75% of SNAP administrative costs instead of 50% (counties will pay 22.5% of total admin costs) starting October 2026, and between 5% and 15% of food benefits costs
- Expands work requirements for SNAP/CalFresh on June 1 to include adults with children 14+, older adults 55 -64, veterans, homeless, and young adults aging out of foster care – this will impact over 13,000 people in Alameda County



Federal & State Budgets Maintain Funding for Some Services

- The House/Senate budget deal that passed Feb. 3 2026 maintains level funding for almost all Older American's Act programs
- The deal also includes level funding for LIHEAP, Community Development Block Grants, and AmeriCorps Seniors
- California's current budget maintains funding for Home Safe & HDAP, and Department of Aging programs administered by Area Agencies on Aging
- The Governor's proposed budget continues level funding, but economic or federal changes could alter that path in the May Revise

Level funding is a cut when costs are rising and the population of people who need services is growing!

Alameda County Policy & Budget Developments

- Measure W Home Together Plan
- Measure W Essential Services Plan
- County Budget Process
- What Senior Services Coalition is doing
- The Role of Community



The Local Picture – Alameda County

- Alameda County’s budget and bandwidth are under pressure to mitigate the impact of federal and state budget & policy changes
 - Already invested \$16.5 million in food security amidst federal SNAP cuts
 - Creating a response plan for immigration enforcement activities
 - Reductions and cost/sharing from State are cutting into general funds
- Measure W plays a central role in County’s ability to maintain course
 - Home Together (80% of Measure W) – homelessness prevention, housing solutions and subsidies, housing navigation, shelters, etc. - Underway
 - Essential Services (20% of Measure W) – includes Food Security and Older Adult priority areas – Emergency Allocations Underway; 5 -year funding plan in development



The Local Picture - Aging Services in Alameda County

- SSC has been successful in preventing cuts to aging services contracts in the last 2 budget cycles.
- The current county budget uses Measure W funding to maintain funding levels and to augment funding for senior food and meal services through June 30 2026
 - AAA services include meals on wheels, congregate meals, senior center activities, case management, visiting, caregiver support, fall prevention, legal assistance, HICAP, information & assistance, LTC Ombudsman, and more
- The Board of Supervisors will consider the Measure W Essential Services 5-year Plan starting in March, and incorporate it into the County's 2026/27 budget in June

What Senior Services Coalition is doing

State Level Advocacy

- Leverage our power in Sacramento to take proactive role in protecting funding and programs and uplifting at -risk and marginalized populations.
- Assist in pursuing continued state funding for programs with one -time funding that is sunsetting



What Senior Services Coalition is doing

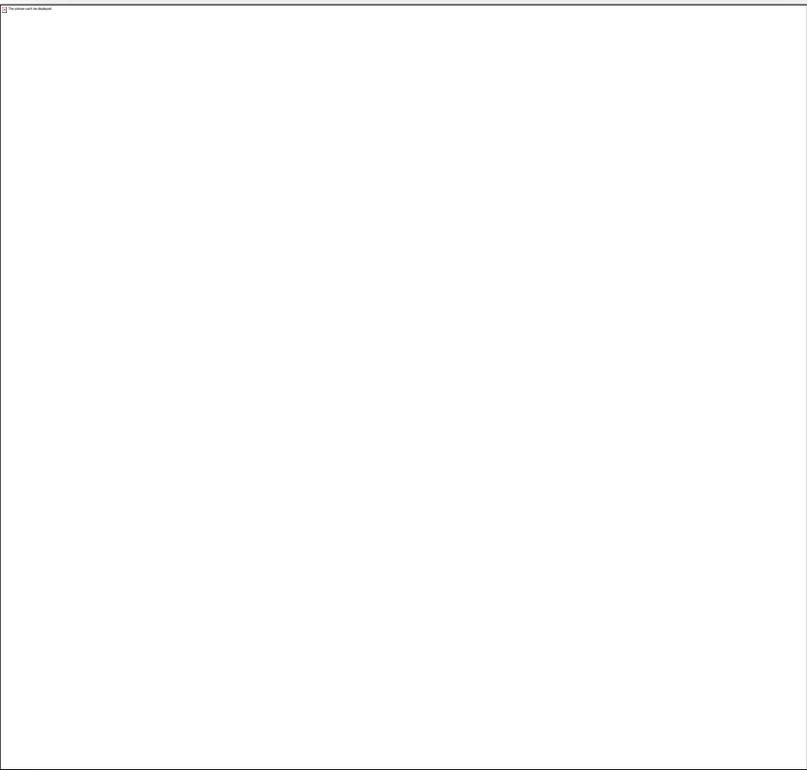


County Level Advocacy

- Lead effort to secure increased funding for aging services in the Measure W Essential Services Plan and the County 26/27 budget
- Ally with community -based organizations hit by Prop 1 cuts to Behavioral Health prevention programs
- Monitor Measure W Home Together initiatives to ensure elders needs are met



What the Senior Services Coalition is doing



Supporting Oakland Stakeholders

- Support stakeholders as they work to engage and educate Council and Mayor
- Focus on protecting funding and extending Senior Centers' hours to full days
- Advocate for CBOs facing contract delays who have not been able to invoice for the services they've been providing



How might we partner to support seniors?

- Ensure alignment with MCOA and coordination of advocacy efforts via Fellow
- Assist in advocacy training, letter-writing campaigns, civic engagement, etc.
- Support advocacy efforts of the Senior Center Advisory Councils...
What would that look like?



Resources

- Subscribe to Justice In Aging at <https://justiceinaging.org/sign-up/>
- California's HR1 Implementation Plan at <https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/federal-impacts/Documents/DHCS-HR1-Implementation-Plan.pdf>
- USAging at <https://www.usaging.org/currentissuesandresources>

Thank You!



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