



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA LETTER

Agenda Number:

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
(805) 568-2240

Submitted on:
(COB Stamp)

Department Name:	Social Services
Department No.:	044
Agenda Date:	July 15, 2025
Placement:	Administrative
Estimated Time:	
Continued Item:	No
If Yes, date from:	
Vote Required:	Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Department Director: Daniel Nielson, Social Services Director
Contact Info: Barbara Finch, Adult and Aging Network Director
SUBJECT: Approve the Santa Barbara County Master Plan for Aging 2025-2030

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence:

As to form: N/A

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: N/A

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

- Approve the Santa Barbara County Master Plan for Aging, 2025-2030, a community-driven strategic plan aimed at transforming the experience of aging and living with disabilities in Santa Barbara County;
- Authorize Supervisors Joan Hartmann and Roy Lee, Co-chairs of the Santa Barbara County Adult & Aging Network, to guide the implementation of the local Master Plan; and
- Determine that the activity is not a "Project" subject to California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review per CEQA Guideline Section 15378(b)(4), since the activity is an organizational or administrative activity of government that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment.

Summary Text:

This item is on the Administrative Agenda to obtain Board approval for the Santa Barbara County (SBC) Master Plan for Aging (MPA). The Plan is embedded within a summary report, as required by the California Department of Aging. The Plan and report are the final deliverables for the Local Aging and Disability Action Planning (LADAP) grant which was received and administered by the Independent Living Resource Center in partnership with the Santa Barbara County Adult & Aging Network (AAN). The SBC MPA was written by the MPA Coordinator, and was reviewed and approved

by the Master Plan for Aging Advisory Committee, members of AAN, and work group members who contributed to the development of the Plan.

Discussion:

On January 14, 2025, the Board received the “Aging Well in Santa Barbara County” report and presentation, delivered by the County’s Adult & Aging Network Director. The presentation introduced the Board to California’s Master Plan for Aging and outlined local planning efforts, supported with a grant from the California Department of Aging (CDA). The Board agreed to review and approve the completed plan as required by the grant. With this item, the Board is being asked to review the final report for the Local Aging and Disability Action Planning grant and approve the goals and objectives set forth as the Santa Barbara County Master Plan for Aging. The plan has been collaboratively designed with extensive community input. Implementation will leverage the expertise and existing initiatives of County Departments whose work involves serving older adults and people with disabilities in some capacity. These include the Department of Social Services, County Health, the Department of Behavioral Wellness, and the Community Services Department. The Santa Barbara County Association of Governments is also a partner. Board-appointed Co-Chairs provide oversight and direction for AAN activities throughout the year, including SBC MPA implementation. Additional oversight and administration of the plan will be managed by the Department of Social Services Children & Adult Network Director, who serves as the Director of the AAN. SBC MPA Goals are as follows:

1. Create and implement an ongoing communication plan to improve awareness and understanding of 211 and the Aging and Disability Resource Center as the two primary hubs for community resource information and navigation. Include links to other specialized hubs as needed.
2. Work with Caring Together Santa Barbara County to expand support offered to family, friends, and paid caregivers while also expanding community outreach to increase awareness of resources.
3. Incorporate age- and disability-friendly guidelines into the policies of all planning bodies related to housing and homelessness.
4. Facilitate AAN meetings and utilize content area experts to examine resources, identify gaps, and create solutions that bridge healthcare with home and allow people to age in place. Areas of focus include transportation, health equity, behavioral health, nutrition, and Medi-Cal funded home and community-based services.

Background:

The AAN, established by Board Resolution in 1999 as an advisory body, came before the Board on January 14, 2025, to introduce California’s Master Plan for Aging and to share key findings and recommendations from their “Aging Well in Santa Barbara County” report.

Launched by the Newsom Administration in January 2021, the California MPA is a visionary statewide initiative designed to address long-standing systemic challenges that have hindered service providers, funders, and policy makers for decades. It identifies five goals: Housing for All Ages and Stages; Health Reimagined; Inclusion and Equity, Not Isolation; Caregiving that Works; and Affording Aging. There are 23 strategies and hundreds of actionable initiatives linked to the five goals, with new opportunities introduced each year. The MPA website (<https://mpa.aging.ca.gov/>) offers a platform for tracking the initiatives and budget investments while providing essential tools such as a data dashboard and local playbook to guide planning and foster partnerships at the local level.

AAN held an online forum in October 2021 to begin soliciting community input on the five goals. An Ad Hoc Committee began working to gather local data and stories that became the “Aging Well in

Santa Barbara County” report. Key findings from the report showed a strong foundation of services and supports within a larger context of fragmented programs, short-term funding cycles, and a growing and more diverse aging population with unmet needs. In less than six years, older adults will comprise a quarter of California’s population, with Santa Barbara County already seeing 23% of its residents aged 60 or older. The urgency for this work is reflected in the challenges faced by local residents who struggle to find the help they need: the “missing middle” who cannot afford the cost of care yet don’t qualify for public assistance, “sandwich generation” adults who are trying to raise children while also caring for aging parents, older adults who are isolated and lonely, people with complex health and mental health needs who may not receive care until there is a crisis, and elders who lose their housing and begin sleeping in their cars because their fixed income isn’t enough to pay their bills.

Older adults and people with disabilities are increasingly living without the basic necessities required for healthy aging due to a lack of affordable in-home care and a shortage of care providers. Long wait lists for affordable housing and senior housing facilities are marked by increased rental evictions and homelessness. Providers are stretched thin and unable to build capacity for expanded services.

A second AAN event was held in person in October 2023, to bring service providers and caregivers together to learn more about the MPA and to begin to envision age and disability-friendly communities throughout Santa Barbara County. This convening also marked the launch of the local planning process, supported by a Local Aging and Disability Action Planning (LADAP) grant from the California Department of Aging.

The LADAP grant represented a partnership between AAN and the Independent Living Resource Center (ILRC). An MPA Coordinator was hired, and an Advisory Committee formed to begin working on the local plan in earnest. With funding and guidance from the state, AAN and ILRC worked with consultants to conduct a Community Needs Assessment that would provide input, especially from underserved communities, to ensure the plan was responsive to community needs and concerns. The results of this assessment are included in the final SBC MPA report.

The SBC MPA provides a framework for working in partnership with policymakers, planners, and service providers to proactively address the demographic shifts impacting our communities. The Plan seeks to engage a wide array of stakeholders to look comprehensively at current infrastructure and opportunities for innovation and collaboration, with the goal of creating a future where every individual in Santa Barbara County has the opportunity to age well, with dignity, and in a community that supports their needs.

The grant requires that each local MPA be approved by a legislative body within the County, and in January, the Board agreed to review and approve the final plan.

Special Instructions:

Please scan, email and send a copy of the minute order to:

DSS Contracts Unit

C/O Tricia Beebe

2125 S. Centerpointe Parkway, 3rd Floor

Santa Maria, CA 93455

Email: tbeebe@countyofsb.org

Attachments:

Attachment A –The Santa Barbara County Master Plan for Aging 2025-2030

Authored by:

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