

**Contra Costa County Advisory Council on Aging  
Legislative Advocacy Workgroup Minutes  
Tuesday, February 8, 2022**

**Call to Order:** Shirley Krohn called the meeting to order at 9:30 am.

**Present:** Shirley Krohn, Jagjit Bhambra, Jim Donnelly, Michael Wener, Michael Rigsby

**Staff:** Anthony Macias

**Approval of Today's Agenda:** Jagjit made a motion to approve agenda. Shirley motioned second. The agenda was unanimously approved.

**Work Group Objectives**

- Identify legislation proposed by State legislature that relates to Senior and Disabled Adult interests.
- Determine if workgroup will be supporting legislative bill by writing letter of support to state assemblyperson or senator sponsoring bill.

**Review of Meeting Schedule**

- This workgroup meets monthly on the second Tuesday of each month, through July.

**Update on California Senior Legislature proposals**

The following are the top California Senior Legislature (CSL) State Legislative proposals for 2022:

- **Assembly Proposal (AP)-5: Oral Healthcare in Skilled Nursing Facilities** This measure would require the State Department of Public Health to promulgate regulations to authorize registered dental hygienists in alternative practice to provide oral health in-service training to staff in skilled nursing facilities and provide oral health care services in skilled nursing facilities.
- **Senate Proposal (SP)-14: Personal Needs Allowance** This measure would increase the personal needs allowance from \$35 to \$50 per month.
- **SP- 13: Skilled Nursing Facilities: End of Life Privacy** This measure would require the administrators of skilled nursing facilities to provide sufficient privacy for dying residents so that the family or clergy or both may be with the resident and help provide a dignified death and the giving of the Last Rites.
- **AP-14: Hospice Standards** This measure would require the State of California to make various reforms relating to hospice, including strengthening hospice standards by requiring inspections every 3 years and requiring the recertification for hospice enrolled patients to be conducted by at least one independent physician in conjunction with the hospice physician.
- **SP-4: Home Care Aides: Home Health Aides: Training Program Scholarships** This measure would enact legislation titled "The California Caregivers Training Scholarship Act" to incentivize enrollment in home care aide or home health aide training programs at a California Community College or Public Adult Day School. Awarding scholarships of \$1,500 each to up to 1,000 people per year through December 30, 2026, for tuition and other expenses, with requirements that scholarship recipients work in the field for at least one year.
- **AP-4: Default Hierarchy Surrogate Consent Laws** This measure would adopt default hierarchy surrogate consent laws, in which family members become designated surrogate decision makers for the patient's health care decisions under appropriate circumstances, including where the patient is incapacitated or otherwise unable to personally designate a surrogate.

- **AP-6: Public Transportation: Accessible Transportation Services: Seniors and Disabled Persons** This measure would create the Accessible Transportation Account in the State Transportation Fund by establishing a new vehicle registration fee or vehicle license fee to the fund the account. Moneys in the account used to fund accessible transportation services for seniors and disabled persons, and authorize consolidated transportation services agencies to oversee local expenditures of the moneys in the account.
- **AP-3: Skilled Nursing Facilities: Back-Up Electrical Supply** This measure would require a skilled nursing facility to have an alternative source of electricity, that complies with specified Federal requirements, to protect resident health and safety for no less than 96 hours during any type of electrical outage.
- **SP-3: Adult Residential Facilities: Notification of Closures** This measure would require the licensee to notify additional specified local and county entities of a proposed closure under certain circumstances.
- **AP-12: Mental Health: Telephone Support Services** This would use appropriate sources of behavioral health funds to fund grant programs in counties that would provide telephone support services for the senior and disabled populations. Providing paraprofessional volunteers who would recognize when a professional referral should be made, contacting seniors and individuals with disabilities, and providing a “listening setting” to identify resources needed to reduce anxieties and other behavioral challenges, in order to combat social isolation and help rebuild social capital.

Review of the Adopt-A-Bill process Tabled until next meeting

Discussion on letters of support for legislation Tabled until next meeting

There was no Public Comment.

10:30 Adjourn