

**ALAMEDA COUNTY
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS' SPECIAL MEETING
&
JOINT SOCIAL SERVICES AND HEALTH COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Monday, March 24, 2025
10:00 a.m.**

Supervisor Nate Miley, (Chair, Health Committee)
Supervisor Lena Tam, (Chair Social Services)
Supervisor Nikki Fortunato
(member Social Services Committee)

Susan S. Muranishi County Administration Bldg.
Board of Supervisors Chambers
1221 Oak Street, Room 512, 5th Fl Oakland, CA

Summary/Action Minutes

I. INFORMATIONAL ITEM: Alameda County Council for Age-Friendly Communities (Age- Friendly Council) 2024 Year End Update: Accomplishments in Older Adult Programs and Services

[Attachment](#)
[Attachment](#)

Faith M. Battles, Assistant Agency Director, Department of Adult and Aging Services, Social Services Agency and Kimi Watkins-Tartt, Director, Public Health Department, Alameda County Health, presented a PowerPoint presentation on the Alameda County Council for Age-Friendly Communities (Age- Friendly Council) 2024 Year End Update: Accomplishments in Older Adult Programs and Services.

In 2014, the Board of Supervisors directed the Social Services Agency (SSA) and Healthcare Services Agency, (now Alameda County Health) to build a community framework for healthy aging, addressing the “silver tsunami.”

The Age-Friendly Council’s work aligns with the California Master Plan for Aging’s five (5) goals: housing, health reimagined, inclusion, caregiving, affordable aging. In addition, it aligns with the Board of Supervisors’ Vision 10X goals and the Countywide Area Plan Area Agency on Aging.

Council Committees and activities include

Legislation & Advocacy - Reviewed 24 state bills; supported 11 that became law, e.g., rent cap protections, dementia training; opposed state funding cuts to Adult Protective Services (APS) and nutrition programs; advocated for HomeSafe program continuation - funding currently extended to 2026.

Digital Inclusion -addressed senior isolation during COVID; produced multilingual fact sheets; pursued state and federal grants; supported California’s Digital Equity Plan.

Embracing Aging / Healthy Brain Initiative -Trained staff (including social services and public health) on older adult needs; trained staff on Alzheimer’s/dementia awareness and workforce education.

Housing Committee - Promoted CalAIM housing supports, age-friendly shelters, IHSS service expansion, and HomeSafe protection.

Data Committee -Recently reactivated; aims to gather and track older adult data to support other committees.

The Age-Friendly Council relies on community partners and committee work to drive impact and remains committed to fostering healthy aging and ensuring responsive, collaborative services for older adults in Alameda County.

Purpose:

- ☐ Report progress
- ☒ **Advocacy or Education**
- ☐ Request Joint Social Services & Health Committee Recommendation or Position
- ☐ Other:

Recommendation from the Joint Committee: 1) The Age-Friendly Council will return to the Joint Committee with a data-driven report on senior housing, homelessness prevention, nutrition and digital literacy; 2) Implement a joint meeting with Housing & Homelessness, Behavioral Health, Public Health, Adult & Aging to assess measurable impacts.

II. INFORMATIONAL ITEM: Department of Children and Family Services, Alameda County's System Improvement Plan (SIP)

[Attachment](#)

Michelle Love, Assistant Agency Director, Department of Children and Family Services, Social Services Agency and Budd Seeley, Management Analyst, Department of Children and Family Services, Social Services Agency, presented a PowerPoint presentation on Alameda County's System Improvement Plan (SIP).

The System Improvement Plan (SIP) aligns with the California Child & Family Services Review (CCFSR) and focuses on the areas of permanency, safety, and well-being. The 2024 Peer Review centered on reentry into foster care, identifying issues such as parenting conflict, housing insecurity, and economic instability.

There were nineteen (19) focus groups with 115 participants who informed the findings, which highlighted gaps in mental health services, substance abuse treatment, aftercare, and foster home capacity, particularly for teens and high-needs youth.

Performance data revealed that only 23.8% of foster youth in care for more than 24 months exited to permanency, falling short of the national standard of 37.3%. For child welfare investigations, immediate response rates were close to the 90% standard at 89%, but 10-day response rates were only 32%, significantly below the required level. High staff vacancies, currently at 32.8%, were cited as a major barrier.

To address these issues, strategies include updating the permanency guide and policies, expanding referrals to needed services such as substance abuse treatment, LGBTQ+ supports, interpreters, and advocates, expanding family finding and engagement in partnership with Casey Family Programs, piloting a dedicated 10-day response unit, and pursuing continuous hiring to reduce vacancies.

Speaker

Alexandra Kay commented on investigation errors in Child Protective Services. Ms. Kay had a case with Child Protective Services and she experienced a lack of internal and external error checks, incomplete narratives, and insufficient oversight, and called for the SIP to include measures to address such issues.

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- ☐ Request Joint Social Services & Health Committee Recommendation or Position
- ☐ Other:

Recommendation from the Joint Committee: The Department of Children & Family Services will report back on staffing and permanency progress in addition to audit results later in the year.

III. INFORMATIONAL ITEM: Department of Children and Family Services Collaborations

[Attachment](#)

[Attachment](#)

Andrea Ford, Director, Social Services Agency, Michelle Love, Assistant Agency Director, Department of Children and Family Services, Social Services Agency and Michael Cull, National Partner for Child Safety, presented PowerPoint presentations on the Department of Children and Family Services Collaborations.

The National Partnership for Child Safety (NPCS), a national quality improvement collaborative formed after the 2016 Within Our Reach report on eliminating child abuse and neglect fatalities. Modeled after safety initiatives in aviation and healthcare, the partnership uses peer-to-peer learning and data sharing on rare but high-impact events such as child fatalities and near fatalities. NPCS is supported by three core partners: the Center for the Helping Professions (technical assistance), Casey Family Programs (infrastructure and jurisdictional support), and the National Center for Fatality and Prevention at the Michigan Public Health Institute (data management). Alameda County recently joined the collaborative, becoming the second county in California to do so.

Cole emphasized that the work of NPCS is twofold: strengthening workforce culture and improving systems problem-solving. With high national turnover in child welfare and only about 17% of professionals holding social work degrees, retention is critical. NPCS helps agencies address burnout, secondary traumatic stress, and organizational culture to keep staff in the field. On the systems side, the partnership promotes root cause analysis rather than blame after tragedies, aiming to identify breakdowns and prevent recurrence. Currently covering 40 jurisdictions representing 65% of children in public child welfare, NPCS provides Alameda with strategies to strengthen its workforce and adopt a proactive, learning-centered approach to child safety.

The Department of Children and Family Services presented an overview of its collaborations with Alameda County Behavioral Health, Probation, the Office of Education, and the Regional Center of the East Bay.

The Interagency Leadership Team, created under AB 2083, coordinates services for foster youth with severe trauma. The Comprehensive Prevention Plan, approved in 2023, expands prevention services with federal Title IV-E funding. The Crossover Youth Practice Model Committee addresses the needs of youth involved in both child welfare and juvenile justice; additional committees such as the High Needs Youth Committee and Interagency Placement Review Committee ensure coordinated care for multi-system youth and appropriate residential placements.

Behavioral Health also participates in the Qualified Individual Process, providing court recommendations on youth placements. The Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention subcommittee supports status offenders, such as truant or runaway youth, by building safety nets across systems. These partnerships are intended to close service gaps, improve coordination, and strengthen outcomes for vulnerable children and families.

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This item was informational only and required no Committee action.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

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