

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

Monday, March 9, 2026
2:00 p.m.

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

Location: Susan S. Muranishi County Administration Building
Board Chambers
1221 Oak Street, 5th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

Summary/Action Minutes

The Special Joint Social Services & Health Committee convened at 2:13 p.m. with Supervisor Tam presiding as Chair. Supervisors Fortunato Bas, Miley and Tam were present.

I. INFORMATIONAL ITEM: State Budget & House of Representatives (H. R. 1) Impacts on Medi-Cal [Attachment](#)

Juan Ventanilla, Program Specialist, Department of Workforce and Benefits Administration, Emilia Sanders, Program Specialist, Department of Workforce and Benefits Administration and Tammy Lue, Program Specialist, Department of Workforce and Benefits Administration, presented a PowerPoint presentation on the State Budget & House of Representatives (H. R. 1) Impacts on Medi-Cal.

Policy Changes

- Enrollment Freeze, effective January 2026 - Adults (19+) with unsatisfactory immigration status (UIS) are no longer eligible for new full-scope Medi-Cal enrollment (with limited exceptions).
- Dental Coverage Reduction, effective July 2026 - UIS adults will lose routine dental benefits; emergency services remain.
- Redefinition of Qualified Non-Citizens, effective October 2026 - Narrows eligibility, potentially shifting thousands to restricted coverage.
- Work Requirements, effective January 2027 - Certain adults must meet work, income, education, or community engagement thresholds to maintain coverage.

The Social Services Agency has responded to these changes by targeted outreach via texts, robocalls, and community-based partnerships. The agency's Health Navigator program supports enrollment and renewals. The agency is also planning for work requirement implementation and compliance support.

This item was informational only and required no Committee action.

II. INFORMATIONAL ITEM: Alameda County Council for Age-Friendly Communities 2025 Year-End Update [Attachment](#)

Faith Battles, Assistant Agency Director, Department of Adult & Aging Services, Alameda County Social Services Agency and Kimi Watkins-Tartt, Director, Alameda County Public Health Department, presented a PowerPoint presentation to update the Committee on the 2025 Alameda County Council for Age-Friendly Communities.

Currently there are over 380,000 County residents aged 60 and over, projected to grow to 600,000 by 2040. Less than half of older adults cannot afford basic living costs, with growing needs in housing, healthcare, and behavioral health.

Highlights

- 8,000+ older adults served
- \$8M distributed for the HomeSafe Program with 93% remaining housed
- 623,000 meals delivered
- 3,100 received legal assistance
- 2,200 received Medicare counseling

System challenges include:

- Rising homelessness among older adults
- High cost of living limiting program effectiveness
- Gaps in healthcare coverage (e.g., dental, vision, hearing)
- Increasing isolation and limited caregiver support

Speakers

Two (2) speakers commented on this item. Speakers expressed their concern regarding the Social Services Agency awarding a single provider for aging services.

Supervisor's Remarks

The Joint Health & Social Services Committee expressed Supervisors expressed concern regarding the single-provider contract model and inconsistencies in Requests for Proposals. It was noted that the final decision on the contract will be reviewed by the full Board of Supervisors.

This item was informational only and required no Committee action.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 4:23 p.m. on March 9, 2026.

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