

# SONOMA COUNTY AREA AGENCY on AGING Annual Report 2008 - 2009



*"Empower, Support, Protect"*

**Human Services Department**

COUNTY OF SONOMA

**Adult & Aging Division**

P.O. Box 4059

Santa Rosa, CA 95402

707.565.5950

[www.socoaaa.org](http://www.socoaaa.org)

# Mission

**The Sonoma County Area Agency on Aging provides leadership, services and advocacy to promote the dignity, independence and quality of life for seniors, adults with disabilities, and their caregivers.**

## *A Message from the Chair*

This past year the Sonoma County Area Agency on Aging and its Advisory Council have been challenged by a declining and desperate economy, recalling the Great Depression of the last century. Our constituency of seniors, adults with disabilities, and their caregivers face increasing vulnerability as their need for services increases while the financial resources to fund those services decline. All levels of government are reducing or eliminating the funding allocations so desperately needed by the citizens we serve.



*Henry Lasky, Sonoma County Area Agency on Aging Advisory Council*

In this atmosphere the Area Agency on Aging, its staff and Advisory Council have addressed these challenges with ingenuity, dedication and energy. Client needs have been prioritized to maximize the use of limited resources assisting our constituency in maintaining their independence and dignity.

Despite the many challenges, successes during this year are numerous. A new three-year plan was developed, focusing on outreach to Latinos and the Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual/Transgender populations. The "Step Wise" program, a senior falls prevention program, reached over 300 seniors countywide with the "A Matter of Balance" series and succeeded in encouraging Kaiser Permanente and Santa Rosa Junior College to become licensed sites for the program. Transportation and mobility remained a key focus. AAA staff participated in the Senior Transportation Institute in Washington, D.C. to learn about integration of transportation services. The "CarFit" program assisted seniors in identifying adjustments to their cars that would make them safer drivers. Representatives of the council attended over 15 community events distributing outreach materials and met with elected officials to advocate on behalf of services for seniors, adults with disabilities, and their caregivers. AAA staff and the Advisory Council welcomed the California Commission on Aging and participated in their Santa Rosa hearings and meetings.

Bud Metzger completed two extremely successful years as chairman of the council and was honored for his leadership, hard work and dedication by the Board of Supervisors. Despite the economic challenges of the year, the mission of AAA was accomplished by the tireless and capable staff and the unique blending of efforts by the multi-talented and distinguished members of the Advisory Council.

*Henry Lasky, Chairman, Area Agency on Aging Advisory Council*

# Area Agency on Aging

*The Area Agency on Aging (AAA) is a program of the Sonoma County Human Services Department. The AAA and its Advisory Council plan, coordinate, and allocate funding for services for persons 60 years of age and older in Sonoma County. The AAA Advisory Council serves as an advocate for seniors, adults with disabilities, and their caregivers, and advises the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors on the needs of the community.*

## Direct Services provided by the AAA

Caregiver Support ❖ Linkages Program ❖ Multipurpose Senior Services Program (MSSP) ❖ Step Wise Program

## Service Providers

- ❖ **Catholic Charities** (*Alzheimer's Day Care Resource Center*)
- ❖ **Council on Aging** (*Adult Day Care, Case Management, Information & Assistance, Legal Services, Meals*)
- ❖ **Northcoast Opportunities** (*Caregiver Support Services*)
- ❖ **Petaluma People Services Center** (*Adult Day Care, Case Management, Information & Assistance, Meals*)
- ❖ **Redwood Empire Food Bank** (*Brown Bag Food Program*)
- ❖ **Santa Rosa Memorial Hospital** (*Medication Management*)
- ❖ **Sebastopol Area Senior Center** (*Volunteer Driver Program*)
- ❖ **Senior Advocacy Services** (*Health Insurance Counseling & Advocacy & Ombudsman Programs*)
- ❖ **West County Community Services** (*Case Management, Information & Assistance*)

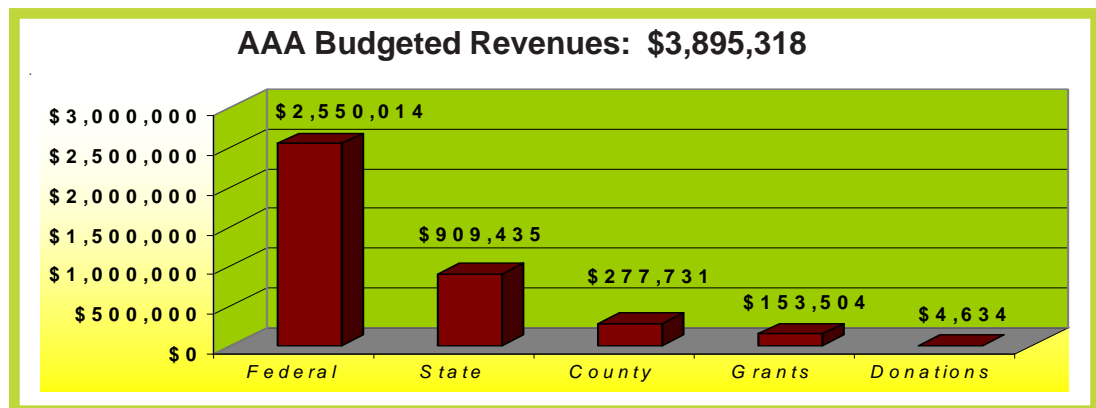
# Sonoma County Demographics

The California Department of Finance population projections for 2009 indicate that there will be 92,343 individuals 60 years of age and older in Sonoma County. This represents 19% of the county's total population of 486,630.

## 2009 Population Projections for Sonoma County\*

Category	Number	Percent of Seniors
Total Seniors (60+)	92,343	100.0
Age 60 - 74	63,752	69.0
Age 75 - 84	18,829	20.4
Age 85+	9,762	10.6
Ethnicity		
White	78,758	85.3
Hispanic	7,469	8.1
Asian, Pacific Islander	3,351	3.6
African American	911	1.0
American Indian	752	.8
Multi-race	1,092	1.2

\*State of California, Department of Finance, Population Projections 2008; July 7, 2007



## AAA Budgeted Expenditures

### Contracted Services:

#### Older Americans Act Programs - federal funding:

Adult Day, Information and Assistance/Case Management, Legal Services, Transportation, Nutrition Services, Medication Management, Family Caregiver Support Services, Elder Abuse Prevention - Ombudsman and Ombudsman Initiative; Health Insurance Counseling Advocacy Program

#### Community-based Services Programs (CBSP) - state funding:

Alzheimer Day Care Resource Center (ADCRC); Brown Bag

### AAA Direct Services:

#### Older Americans Act Programs - federal funding

In-Home Care, Information and Assistance; Senior Safety; Family Caregiver Services - Respite; Elder Abuse Prevention

#### Community-based Services Programs (CBSP) - state funding:

Linkages, Respite Purchase of Services

# Access to Transportation

*Advocate to improve access to transportation resources for seniors and adults with disabilities.*



*Don Streeper, Advisory Council member, provides information to "CarFit" participant*

- Invited to participate in the Senior Transportation Institute in Washington D.C. with county and city officials
- Held Older Americans Month Event highlighting senior transportation and mobility issues
- Trained 15 volunteer "CarFit" technicians and conducted four events countywide

# Awareness of Services

*Improve awareness of health and social services for seniors, adults with disabilities, and their caregivers through community education and outreach.*

- Participated in 14 outreach events that focused on the needs of seniors and individuals with disabilities
- Distributed over 25,000 *Sonoma County Senior Resource Guides* in English and Spanish
- Provided three mandated elder abuse prevention reporter trainings educating 55 professionals



*Marce Becerra and Gail Pardini-Plass, Advisory Council members, staff booth at the Sonoma County Fair on Senior Day*

# Home & Community-Based Services

*Provide leadership to increase access to an effective system of home and community-based services for seniors and adults with disabilities.*

- Advocated with legislators to support funding of programs and legislation that keep seniors safely in their homes or that protect them in nursing facilities

- Presented information to Section on Aging, a network of senior care providers, regarding legislative issues and processes



*Legislative visit with Senator Mark Leno; Jim Redding, Legislative Committee Chair, Richard Ruge, Legislative Committee, Bob Picker, Advisory Council, Henry Lasky, Advisory Council, Diane Kaljian, Area Agency on Aging, Senator Mark Leno, Rabia Hunter, Advisory Council, Gail Atkin, Legislative Committee, Dick Schwartz, Advisory Council*

## Partnerships

*Participate in collaborative partnerships to address the unmet needs of older adults and adults with disabilities.*

- The “Step Wise” program reached 300 seniors with “Safe Steps” presentations and the “A Matter of Balance” series to help prevent falls and trained 19 volunteer coaches; Santa Rosa Junior College and Kaiser Permanente became licensed sites for the “A Matter of Balance” program, expanding the program’s reach and sustainability

- Attended Santa Rosa mayor’s meetings to keep city officials informed about county wide issues and services for seniors and disabled, focusing on addressing common solutions for transportation issues



*“Celebrating Fall Prevention Week;” Jo Sandersfeld, Memorial Hospital, Barbara Graves, Department of Health Services, Jo Weber, Human Services Department, Supervisor Valerie Brown, Jane Eckels, Advisory Council, Susan Alesi, Area Agency on Aging, Diane Kaljian, Human Services Department, Andrea Michelsen, Kaiser Permanente*

# The Adult and Aging Division

The Area Agency on Aging (AAA) is a program of the Adult and Aging Division and contracts with community agencies to distribute state and federal funding. The AAA directly administers the following services and programs:

- *Linkages*
  - case management services
  - respite purchase of service
  - personal care
  - caregiver support
- *Multipurpose Senior Services Program (MSSP)*, (case management services)
- *Step Wise*, (a falls prevention program)
- *Transportation & Mobility Program*

The Human Services Department, Adult and Aging Division, provides assistance to older adults and adults over 18 with disabilities. Services are provided by Sonoma County employees and through contracts with community-based organizations.

## Additional Services of the Adult & Aging Division

*In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS)* provides in-home care services to eligible elderly and younger adults with disabilities who need assistance to live in their own homes rather than institutions. During FY 2008-2009, 6,078 clients received 5,607,201 hours of in-home care services.

*Adult Protective Services (APS)* received 2,186 reports of elder and dependent adult abuse during FY 2008-2009. Response to these reports included investigation, follow-up case management, and coordination with law enforcement.

*Veterans Services* assisted and represented 2,862 veterans and their families during FY 2008-09. The Veterans Services staff is employed by the county to ensure that veterans and their families receive all benefits to which they are entitled.

*The Public Administrator/Public Guardian/Public Conservator (PA/PG/PC)* provided services to approximately 405 clients each month during FY 2008-2009. The Public Guardian (PG) and Public Conservator (PC) assist people who are unable to care for themselves and their finances. The Public Administrator (PA) oversees estates for people who die without a will.

*IHSS Public Authority* maintains a registry of screened caregivers for referral to IHSS consumers, provides training opportunities for caregivers and consumers, and offers an Urgent Substitute Provider Program (USPP) to assist consumers with urgent needs. During FY 2008-09, the Public Authority made 161 consumer/caregiver matches, provided trainings to 345 caregivers/consumers, and filled 138 USPP assignments.

# Sonoma County Board of Supervisors

Valerie Brown, 1st District

Mike Kerns, 2nd District

Shirlee Zane, 3rd District

Paul L. Kelley, 4th District

Efren Carrillo, 5th District

## Advisory Council

Henry Lasky, Chair

Jane Eckels, Vice Chair

Rich Broaddus, Secretary

Marce Becerra

Margaret Dale

Judith Eisen

Lou Funk

Vaughn Held

Rabia Hunter

Jan Kiely

Warren Metzger

Gail Pardini-Plass

Alice Perlman

Bob Picker

Jim Redding

Dick Schwartz

Alain Serkissian

Gary Shepard

Don Streeper

Katherine Taylor

Elizabeth Tipon

Mary Raymond, Member Emeritus

## Administrative Staff

Jo Weber, Human Services Department Director

Diane Kaljian, Adult & Aging Division Director

Gary Fontenot, Adult & Aging Division Section Manager

Janice Kay, AAA Fiscal Officer

Julie Cox, AAA Program Development Manager

Susan Alesi, AAA Program Planner/Analyst

Ginny Doyle, AAA Program Planner/Analyst

Joanne De Alejandro, Secretary

Becky Weislow, Accounting Technician

Amos Eaton/Sue Haynes, Account Clerk

Sally Livingston, Nutritionist