



**Human Services Department**  
COUNTY OF SONOMA  
**SONOMA COUNTY AREA AGENCY ON AGING**  
3725 Westwind Blvd.  
Santa Rosa, CA 95403



**Karen Fies**  
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December 13, 2019

The Honorable Gavin Newsom  
Governor State of California  
State Capitol  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Recommendations for the California Master Plan for Aging**

Dear Governor Newsom:

On behalf of the Sonoma County Area Agency on Aging (AAA) Advisory Council, thank you for prioritizing the development and implementation of a Master Plan for Aging. This effort is a valued call to action in Sonoma County where over 25% of our population is sixty or older. The Sonoma County Area Plan Needs Assessment completed in June of this year confirmed our most urgent needs revolve around affordable housing, transportation, caregiving, financial security and disseminating a better understanding of the services available to support our most vulnerable citizens.

Sonoma County's AAA is one of thirty-three Agencies on Aging designated by the California Department of Aging as the local Planning Service Agency (PSA 27). This agency plans, coordinates, and allocates Older Americans Act funds to services supporting people (60+) and adults with disabilities. Regionally located older adult service providers are the backbone of older adult service delivery.

The Sonoma County Area Agency on Aging supports the recommendations of California Association of Area Agencies on Aging (C4A) with special attention to:


- Creating the California Department of Community Living (AB 1136) addressing the fragmentation in the state's long-term services and support system and ensuring a No Wrong Door System of person-centered care with special attention to the social determinants of health;
- Leveraging the existing area agency on aging network which serves as a service delivery system based on an expansive local planning process with flexibility in program administration and the ability to address unique demographic and geographic needs;

- Funding and expanding the Aging & Disability Resource Connection Programs as California's primary vehicle to provide person-centered care;
- Committing to support age-friendly communities as well as elder and dependent adult abuse prevention efforts; and
- Implementation of a statewide data collection method capturing the needs of marginalized and underserved populations.

We appreciate the opportunity to support and engage in this invaluable process.

With respect,

  
Terry Kelley  
Chair, AAA PSA27

  
Paul Dunaway  
Director, AAA PSA 27

c:

Secretary Mark Ghaly, MD, MPH, Secretary California Health and Human Services Agency  
Kim McCoy Wade, Director, California Department of Aging