



United Seniors of Oakland and Alameda County

38 Proud Years of Senior Empowerment, Advocacy and Civic Engagement

33rd Annual Convention



June 21, 2024
St. Columba's Catholic Church
6401 San Pablo Avenue, Oakland CA 94608

Seniors • Enriching Youth • Enhancing Community



SPECTRUM

COMMUNITY SERVICES, INC.

Our Mission

We enhance the quality of life for older adults and residents experiencing low income in Alameda County.



Senior Meals

In-person dining or takeaway meals for mobile seniors



Meals on Wheels

Healthy, home-delivered meals for homebound seniors



Fall Prevention

Group exercises classes to help participants stay fall-free



Connect

Friendly wellness check-ins to combat social isolation



Weatherization

Energy saving upgrades for households experiencing low income



Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)

Energy bill assistance for households experiencing low income



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United Seniors of Oakland and Alameda County

38 Proud Years of Senior Empowerment through Organizing, Advocacy, and Civic Engagement

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Agenda

- 8:30 Registration, Visiting Exhibitors, Continental Breakfast and Music
- 9:15 Welcome – Nate Miley, President
Call to Order
Pledge of Allegiance – Cecilia Cunningham, Board Member
Credentials – Nathaniel Harrison, 1st Vice President
Appointment of Officers of the Day
 Chair, Nate Miley
 Parliamentarian, Nathaniel Harrison
 Timekeeper, Lillian Black, Board Member
 Recorder, Tanya Washington, Program Assistant
Adoption of Agenda of the Day
Adoption of Rules of Rules of the Day
Membership Roll Call and Report – Mary Bradd, Administrative Assistant
Treasurer's Report – Sandra J. Johnson, Treasurer
- 10:00 President's Message and Program Highlights
Nominations Report
- 10:30 Candidate Forum
Opening Statement (2 Minutes)
 • Nikki Fortunate Bas, 5th County Supervisor District
 • John Bauters, 5th County Supervisor District
 • Jesse Arreguin, 7th California Senate District
 • Jovanka Beckles, 7th California Senate District
Questions and Answers (1 Minute Response)
Closing Statement (2 Minutes)
- 11:30 County Aging Population Budget Impacts and Solutions
 • Alameda County Health
 • Alameda County Social Services
 • Alameda Community Development
 • Question and Answers
- 12:15 Lunch Break, Visiting Exhibitors and Music
- 1:00 Keynote Remarks – Lateefah Simon, Candidate 12th Congressional District
- 1:30 Swearing-In of 2024 Board of Directors/Leadership Organizing Team
- 1:45 Presentation of Awards and Recognition
Door Prizes (must be present to win)
 • \$50 Cash
 • \$25 Cash
 • \$25 Cash
 • Oakland A's Tickets
 • Variety of Many More
- 2:30 Wrap-Up and Adjourn

Dear Convention Delegates and Guests,

I am proud to be the President of the United Seniors of Oakland and Alameda County (USOAC) and also the President of the Alameda County Board of Supervisors. Welcome to our 33rd Annual Convention. Since 1986, USOAC has served as a voice for older adults and a vehicle for senior empowerment. Last year, we commemorated 37 years of senior organizing, advocacy, and engagement for today and tomorrow. Our dedication continues with 38 Proud years of fighting for older adults' quality of life.

In 2023, USOAC was busy conducting many actions to address senior concerns. There are detailed reports on our various programs and collaborations in this Convention Booklet. At our annual convention, we raise awareness of older adults' issues, educate and hold public officials accountable, increase senior involvement, champion successful aging, provide reports on our activities, handle business, and encourage both civic engagement and senior advocacy.

In the coming years, we will continue to prioritize affordable housing for seniors, probate/conservatorship reform, walkable neighborhoods for seniors, public safety, senior nutrition advocacy and food security, senior technology capacity building and advocacy, Travel Training for Seniors, and an age-friendly county.

At this year's convention, we will hold a forum to hear from candidates who are vying for seats on the Alameda County Board of Supervisors and the California State Senate. We will also hear from a candidate who is running for the US Congress. We want them to know about the United Seniors and our plans to enrich the lives of aging adults throughout Alameda County. Finally, we will hear from top County officials on the prospects to maintain senior serves going into the next fiscal year

The 33rd Annual Convention demonstrates the strength of our organization. It is our public commitment to be that voice for aging adults and the vehicle for senior empowerment. The United Seniors has a membership of more than 13,000. We recognize that there is strength in organized numbers. And *if it is good for seniors, then it is good for everyone!*

United Seniors will not quit; we will continue to fulfill our mission for senior empowerment through organizing, advocacy, and civic engagement. I want to thank our Board for all of their hard work and commitment and our small but dedicated and mighty staff! We appreciate our friends of all ages and encourage everyone to join us in supporting the aging population of Alameda County.

May God bless you all,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nate Miley". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Nate Miley, President

Rules of the Day

1. The rules of parliamentary practice comprised in Robert's Rules of Order (Revised) govern the Convention in all cases in which they are not consistent with the Rules of the Day. These Rules of the Day may be suspended by a vote or decision of two-thirds of the delegates present and voting.
2. Only delegates or alternates replacing delegates will be allowed to speak and vote on any question before the Convention.
3. Whenever any delegate is about to speak in debate or deliver any matter to the Convention, that person shall rise, move to the nearest floor microphone and wait for recognition by the Chairperson. After being recognized, he/she shall respectfully address him/herself to "Mr. Chairman/Ms. Chairwoman," state his/her name, and confirm him/herself to the question under debate. No delegate shall name another delegate in debate.
4. No delegate shall speak longer than two minute at one time, nor shall he/she be allowed to speak a second time as long as someone who has not spoken on the subject desires the floor. Debate on a subject shall be limited to three persons speaking in favor and three speaking against. Debate on any question shall not exceed ten (10) minutes, but may be extended at the discretion of the Chairperson.
5. When two or more delegates rise at once, the Chairperson shall name the delegate who is to speak first. No delegate shall be allowed to use the floor for the purpose of public lecture.
6. When a motion is made, it shall be stated by the Chairperson or, if it be in writing, it may be read aloud by the Secretary before the debate thereon.

Rules of the Day, continued

7. Every motion shall be reduced to writing, if the Chairperson desires it.
8. The Convention shall consider the resolutions in the order presented in the program. Resolutions submitted the day of the Convention will be considered at the end of the Resolutions Report, if time permits. Otherwise, all Resolutions not considered by the Convention will be presented at a subsequent meeting of the organization scheduled by the Board of Directors within three months after the Convention.
9. All Candidates running for United Seniors of Oakland and Alameda County Board of Directors will be allowed to speak to his/her nomination. Each speech will not exceed one minute.
10. Elections shall be by secret ballot. All delegates must be seated and raise their hand to receive their ballot. In the event of a tie, a run-off election shall be conducted among those candidates involved in the tie. Other than contested races, the Convention can elect by acclamation.
11. The convention will recognize nominations from the floor only by written petition signed by five (5) delegates.
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Pledge of Allegiance

I pledge allegiance
to the flag
of the United States of America
and to the republic
for which it stands.
One nation, under God,
indivisible,
with liberty and justice for all.



Credentials, Motto and Vision

Who We Are

USOAC is a grassroots, multi-ethnic, intergenerational, non-profit organization focused on issues of concern to Alameda County seniors and their allies. USOAC utilizes organizing techniques to educate, mobilize and enable seniors and their supporters to address issues that affect their quality of life. In 1986 USOAC started organizing to address shrinking resources for older adults at both the local and regional levels. For more than 30 years USOAC has helped empower older adults throughout Alameda County by serving as a catalyst for positive change and contributing to betterment of senior citizens and the broader community. USOAC collaborates with the disabled community, youth, senior service providers and more. USOAC has a membership of more than 13,000 individuals, including those from chapters and affiliates throughout Alameda County. Community organizing and advocacy is our primary approach for senior empowerment.

Mission Statement

To provide institutional support for seniors, To collectively participate in the public arena To act from a position of strength, To enable the elderly to address their critical issues
To change the conditions that impact their lives

Motto:

Empowering Seniors
Enriching Youth
Enhancing Community

Vision:

To help enhance the quality of life for all Alameda County seniors economically, socially, physically, and mentally now and for the rest of their lives

Membership Report

(As of June 21, 2024)

Individual Members:

Individual Members:	171
Lifetime Members:	34
Total Individual Members:	205

Business Members:

Business Members	4
Total Business Members	4

Chapter Members:

Allen Temple Arms I and II	125	
Bible Fellowship	15	
Broadmoor Plaza	75	
East Bay Korean-American Senior Services Center	45	
Eastmont Town Center Walk Club	23	
East Oakland Senior Center	800	
Eden Area Senior Action Group		14
Fruitvale-San Antonio Senior Center	300	
Gold Girls Walk Club	12	
Golden Age Senior Center	208	
Lavender Seniors of the East Bay	500	
North Oakland Senior Center	600	
Our Family Circle	35	
West Oakland Senior Center	563	
Total Chapter Members	3,360	

Organization Members:

Bay Area Community Services (BACS)	240
Casa Ubuntu	100
Center for Elders Independence (CEI)	700
East Bay Center for the Blind	85
Lend A Hand Foundation	10
Life Eldercare	1,500
Lifelong Medical Care	6,000
Meals On Wheels	168
National Council of Negro Women	135
Oakland Community Action Partnership	22
Oakland Housing Authority	676
Adel Court	TBD
Oakgrove North & South	TBD
Paolo Vista Gardens	99
Harrison Towers	TBD
Senior Services Coalition	40
Spectrum Community Services Inc.	46

Membership Report, continued

St. Mary's Center	150
144000 Elect Foundation	TBD
Total Organization Members:	9,971
Total USOAC Membership	13.539

Treasurer's Report
2024 USOAC Budget Statement

Income:

In Kind	\$152,400
Ad Book	1,000
Business & Sponsors	27,000
Dues	2,600
Fees	0
Grants	140,000
Individual Donors	18,000
Other Event Income	20,000
Raffle	0
Total Income	\$361,000

Treasurer's Report
2024 USOAC Budget Statement

Expenses:

Accounting	6,000
Bank Fees	900
Consultant & Stipends	20,000
Dues & Subscriptions	150
Health Insurance	40,000
Liability Insurance	3,500
Meals	9,000
Office Expenses	3,000
Payroll Taxes	10,000
Printing	5,000
Program Expenses	2,000
Public Relations/Promotions	2,500
Special Events	2,000
Telephone/Internet	5,000
Travel	100
Utilities	2,400
Wages	100,000
Worker's Compensation	700
Trainings	500
Repair & Maintenance	4,000
Miscellaneous	950
Taxes & Licenses	300
Travel Training Cost	20,000
Rent	118,000
Covid-19 Loan Repayment	5,000
Total Expenses	\$361,000

Treasurer's Report
2023 USOAC Financial Statement

	General	HLF	Med.Mgmt.	Housing	ACTCTT	Total
Revenue						
Ad book	938					938
Business & Sponsors	10,200	16,312				26,512
Dues	2,584					2,584
Fees					2,561	2,561
Grants	10,000	1,000	10,452	35,000	83,058	139,510
Other Event	1,700	18,570				20,270
Donations	16,229	150				16,379
Total Revenue	41,651	36,032	10,452	35,000	85,619	208,754
Expenses						
Program Expenses	192					192
Accounting	4,550					4,550
Contribution	1,695					1,695
Health Insurance	38,504					38,504
Worker's Comp Ins.	529					529
Insurance	2,950		595			3,545
Bank fees	2,655					2,655
Dues & Subscriptions	200					200
Event Expenses		1,050				1,050
Printing	1,645	2,969				4,614
Office Expenses	1,710					1,710
Repair & Maintenance	3,654					3,654
Telephone	4,859					4,859
PR/Promotion	2,672					2,672
Meals	4,700					4,700
Taxes & Licenses	50					50
Misc.	8,578				9,610	18,188
Payroll	25,200		22,000		48,000	95,200
Stipends	11,200	5,600	1,950			18,750
Payroll taxes	2,155		1,881		4,104	8,140
Interest	2,640					2,640
Total Expenses	120,339	9,619	26,426	-	61,714	218,098
Change to Net Assets:						9,344

Treasurer's Report

2023 USOAC Financial Statement, continued

Statement of Financial Position as of 12/31/23				
Assets			12/31/23	12/31/22
	Current Assets			
		Checking	(334)	1,055
		Savings	507	-
	Total Current Assets			1,055
	Property & Equipment			
		Office Equipment	5,501	5,501
		Depreciation	(5,501)	(5,501)
	Total Property & Equipment		-	-
Total Assets			-	1,055
Liabilities & Net Assets				
	Current Liabilities			
		Wages Payable	6,874	-
		Payroll Taxes Payable	533	(854)
	Total Current Liabilities		7,407	(854)
	Long Term Liabilities			
		Note Payable	101,488	101,288
	Long Term Liabilities		101,488	101,288
	Net Assets			
		Retained Earnings	(99,379)	(86,553)
		Net Income	(9,343)	(12,826)
	Total Net Assets		(108,722)	(99,379)
Total Liabilities & Net Assets			173	1,055

Nomination Report

I am interested in serving on the Board of Directors of the United Seniors of Oakland and Alameda County. I am placing my name in nomination and I understand that I am required to regularly attend Board/Leadership Organizing Team meetings, actions and participate in the development of USOAC.

Eligibility: Residents of Alameda County who are 18 years or older and are members of the United Seniors of Oakland and Alameda County.

Eligibility: President and Vice President must be 55 years or older.

Officers

- President: Nate Miley
- 1st Vice President: Nathaniel Harrison
- 2nd Vice President: Linda Hambrick Jones
- Treasurer: Sandra J. Johnson
- Secretary: TBD

At-Large Board Members

- Venus Gist
- Lois Snell
- Karen Anderson
- Cecilia Cunningham
- Alma Ferguson
- Karen Smulevitz
- N'Sombi Hasan
- Janny Castillo
- Antoinette Warren
- Lillian Black
- Andrea Mok
- Meisha McGlothen

Submission Deadline - On or Before June 7, 2024

Oath of Office

To accept the Oath of Office, please raise your right hand and repeat after me:

I, [state your name], do hereby solemnly swear or affirm to uphold the Constitution of the United Seniors, perform all my duties as required by the mandates of today's Convention, to hand over to my successor or assessor all books, money or property belonging to the United Seniors, and that I will do everything in my power to forward the purpose of the United Seniors of Oakland and Alameda County.

(Article VII, Section 9(a) of the United Seniors of Oakland and Alameda County Constitution)

Conservatorship Reform - Prevention and Mitigation of Harm to Incapacitated Adults and Their Families

Lisa MacCarley, Attorney At Law

In 2026, “Baby Boomers” – one of the largest segments of the population – will reach 80 years old. Physical and mental health will inevitably decline for many of these people. Some will require surrogate decision-makers to assist them as a result of the aging process, an unexpected traumatic event or their family members just being unable to get along. More and more conservatorship petitions are likely to be filed throughout the State of California.

- Over the course of several meetings with community leaders, lawyers for LAS, and the Presiding Probate Judge, I was able to assemble concrete ideas and recommendations to abate some of the problems that have challenged the Alameda County probate courts. Misfeasance caused by lack of resources, which leads to lack of training, supervision, and accountability is more likely to be the source of pain for probate court constituents than malfeasance. As supported by the findings of the Alameda County Grand Jury report, courts are suffering more from lack of resources than lack of ethics.
- The following recommendations are obviously not perfect solutions to the myriad of problems and issues that are present with the nation’s probate and conservatorship proceedings, but could go a long way to assist with preventing and/or mitigating harm to incapacitated adults and their loved ones:

1. EVERY CITIZEN NEEDS A PLAN FOR INCAPACITY

Every competent adult should plan “early and often” for incapacity. While many people plan for the disposition of their property after they pass away, it tends to be much harder to get people to understand the importance of planning for incapacity as a means of AVOIDING CONSERVATORSHIPS!

a. The County could request that the Alameda County Bar Association join them in creating periodic clinics for seniors to prepare and sign two relatively simple and straightforward documents: An Advance Health Care Directive¹ and a Uniform Statutory Form Power of Attorney.² Experienced attorneys can go over the forms, step by step, and answer questions. A notary public could be made available for a modest fee for people who are ready to move forward. The County could pay to have a short video made to explain what these forms are and how to fill them in, when “witnesses” would suffice or when a notarized signature is needed. (A notarized signature is needed on the Durable Power of Attorney for finances if the agent is to be given permission to conduct real estate transactions.)

b. The statutory forms are readily available on-line and county agencies, such as hospitals, can add the forms to their websites. The forms can easily be printed (in large print) in large quantities. The County could have a booth at events that allows people to pick up copies.

Conservatorship Reform Reform, continued

Here are the specific action items that the County could authorize:

The County could request that I reach out to the Trust and Estate section of the Alameda County Bar Association to determine whether there is an interest in co-sponsoring “Preparing for Incapacity” clinics. I would envision inviting constituents to in-person meetings (location TBD) where the lawyer would go through the forms, step by step, with attendees. Virtual clinics are definitely a possibility, too. This has the additional benefit of introducing people to lawyers who are able to complete estate planning for people who have been hesitant.

The County could request that I reach out to local printing organizations for quotes for printing the actual statutory forms. The forms are NOT subject to any copywrite restrictions. Perhaps local charitable organizations could off-set the costs with advertisements of goods and services that are of interest to the senior community and their families.

The County could investigate whether organizations such as United Seniors of Oakland and Alameda County wish to publish and disseminate the statutory forms. This would be an excellent starting place for sharing the importance of preparing for incapacity. The message: “the best thing you can do for the probate court system is to stay out of it!” Legal guidance is available, of course, to help the USOAC members.

2. GET ELDERS OUT OF COURT BY BRINGING PEOPLE TOGETHER

Unlike civil litigation, contested conservatorships often involve people who have relatives in common (Mother, Father, Grandparents) and who will see each other again outside of the courtroom. Most of the time, family members have very limited resources and are fighting over a fixed amount of property. The County could help fund programs to help people find resolutions with the assistance of experienced attorneys who are invested in resolution, not litigation. Most probate and conservatorship matters *can be resolved* when the parties are given a chance to be heard and options (the good and bad) are fully explained.

a. The County could coordinate with the local courts to funds and implement an all-volunteer mediation program. A brilliant example is the Los Angeles County civil court’s *Resolve Law LA Virtual MSC Program* (www.ResolveLawLA.com). This program uses a Zoom platform to host 3-hour all- volunteer mandatory settlement conferences (either 9 a.m. – noon or 1:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.) which are completely *free* to the litigants. Settlement officers are experienced attorneys who volunteer for 3-hour sessions and are experienced in the various areas of law. The volunteer attorneys sign up for 3 hours sessions based on their availability and judicial officers can refer parties to the program at any stage of the legal proceeding. ALL of the calendaring is done by the software program.

b. Presiding Probate Judge Sandra K. Bean specifically offered to meet with local stakeholders such as a member of the County staff (a “justice deputy” from the Supervisors’ office?), a one members of the Public Defender’s office, the firm or entity who represents persons facing conservators, and a member of United Seniors of Oakland Alameda County could meet to discuss worrisome trends or systemic problems.

Conservatorship Reform Reform, continued

Here are the specific action items that the County could authorize:

- i. The County could request that I reach out to Judge Bean to find dates that work for her, and critical members of her staff such as the Probate Calendar attorneys and research attorneys. The County could offer to facilitate a round-table discussion that begins with a report on statistical information (how many new petitions were filed, what are the typical deficiencies that keep cases from being resolved, what forms (checklists?) could be published to help attorneys and in pro per litigants alike? We could populate an agenda with each other's concerns and suggestions.
- ii. The County could request that I reach out to the LA Court team who engaged with Zoom, track down the contact for the development of identical software for Alameda and get a quote for "ResolveLawAlameda." Perhaps funding can be obtained from within the court system itself, private sponsors, as well as the County. Truly, this virtual case resolution system should be implemented in every highly populated county in California because it is professional, user friendly and far more cost-effective for the litigants than showing up for in-person settlement conferences.
- iii. The County could certainly approach the Alameda County Bar Association and obtain names and referrals for attorney-mediators who might be willing to coordinate in-person 3 hours mediations at the Courthouse buildings. The incentive for doing so is that they could offer to continue the mediation at a negotiated hourly rate. One thing that I have learned over the years: people are amazingly kind, generous and willing to help if they are being asked to do something for the good of others. The County could contribute a modest amount of money for office equipment and clerical assistance, and this alone could least get some litigants off the docket sooner instead of later.

3. "COURT APPOINTED COUNSEL"

As a result of the violation of Britney Jean Spears' absolute and unequivocal right to hire an attorney of her own choice, the California legislature revised the California probate code to mandate that each and every person facing conservatorship be appointed an attorney if they did not act to retain their own counsel, and the law now mandates that said counsel shall be a "zealous advocate" for the stated objective of that client.³

The one thing that the Alameda County courts have absolutely done right, with the financial assistance of the Board of Supervisors, is separate the judicial officers from the direct appointment of their favorite attorneys to act in this capacity. Few things are more disturbing than hearing a judicial officer name his or her favorite attorney to act as "CAC" or "GAL" and then step into the Courtroom the following day with "the favorite" as your opposing counsel.

Ironically, the cases that have created the greatest amount of pressure to mount an investigation by the Board of Supervisors involve the conduct of "Court Appointed Counsel." In one instance, the Court Appointed Counsel made representations to the Court that his client

Conservatorship Reform Reform, continued

“trusted him” and “absolutely” disliked and distrusted the relative seeking to be appointed as conservator. In a brief social visit, I had with the Conservatee, it was clear she had no idea “who” her attorney actually was, not even his name, thus she was unable to formulate any intelligent opinions about him. Worse, she had created false (and rather bizarre) memories of being abused which were triggered when she heard that relative’s name. After listening to her complaints for about two minutes, it was clear that her versions of events did not actually transpire.

The Alameda County probate court has historically relied upon an organization called Legal Assistance for Seniors, (“LAS”) to represent persons facing conservatorship. LAS is a California charity that offers low-cost legal services to seniors for a variety of issues but is also appointed for many persons facing conservatorship in the Alameda County courts. People who are indigent are appointed an attorney from the Public Defender’s office.

Judge Bean expressed confidence in the attorneys from both offices. Constituents, however, were less satisfied and blamed the attorneys for what they observed to be patently irrational arguments and recommendations to the Court. For example, an elderly person with dementia will often lack the ability to recognize her own memory deficits in spite of failing to pay bills, buy and eat fresh food, and maintain basic hygiene, and will feistily deny the need for anyone to look after her. By law, the Court Appointed Counsel is obligated to argue that her client does not want or need a conservator. The inevitable appointment will be delayed, and an evidentiary hearing must take place because of “due process” requirements. The family is bewildered. The legal fees are higher, and it appears to any layperson that the “system” is failing them and only benefitting the lawyers.⁴

The Alameda County Grand Jury also reviewed this two-tiered system and raised concerns regarding training and supervision of court appointed counsel. The Grand Jury acknowledged the pervasive problem of inadequate funding of the court system itself and questioned whether there should be greater monitoring of the case files to ensure compliance with statutory requirements, such as proper notice. The rules are meant to ensure that every person facing or in conservatorships have been provided with due process before their liberty and property is withheld from them, and fairness requires that all citizens have access to the same quality of legal services. The Grand Jury specifically questioned whether it would make sense to have one entity perform all of the legal defense work for persons facing or in conservatorships.

Here are the specific action items that the County could authorize:

The County could conduct a review of how other larger, densely populated counties fund the mandated legal representation of persons in or facing conservatorships and determine whether a system of competitive bidding would be more cost-effective and increase the quality of legal services. Frankly, the use of donor funds to off-set the expense of legal services, while providing a slide-scale fee-based system does have the most appeal and was adopted by Nevada after a woeful lack of integrity lead to seniors being essentially kidnapped.

Conservatorship Reform Reform, continued

The County could request the Public Defender's office to provide records (timesheets like private attorneys must produce) of how much administrative and legal time is being expended on conservatorship matters. And then determine whether, with additional funding, it is possible for LAS to absorb the additional workload. Questions for the Public Defenders who are assigned to probate court: Would it be viable to establish a desk at LAS to have colleagues available to consult with, and to insure that we are operating with the same practices and standards?

The County could require that all attorneys who wish to represent persons facing or in conservatorships have training above and beyond the *three hours* required by the State of California. The ideal scenario would be a mentorship program that allows more experienced attorneys to assist newer attorneys with cases. Annual programs on aging, neurocognitive impairment, and due process for persons facing conservatorship should be a part of a mandatory curriculum. In addition, judicial officers could do a talk about what they see as systemic concerns and offer solutions.

The County could authorize the development of an "Attorneys' Guide to Defending Conservatorships" that could establish a model of best practices and also be a resource for members of the legal profession who are not associated with LAS or the Public Defender's office. This project would involve input from all shareholders and perhaps serve to get everyone "on the same page" and make the sojourn a little less painful for everyone. Again, perhaps local charitable organizations could off-set the costs with advertisements of goods and services that are of interest to the senior community and their families.

Again, this is not an exhaustive list of recommendations, and there may be additional ideas that arise during further meetings and communications. Thank you for the honor of submitting this report to you. I am absolutely available to meet with the Board of Supervisors of Alameda County at your convenience and timeframe.

¹ California Probate Code Section 4701 ² California Probate Code Section 4401

³ See: California Probate Code Section 1471

⁴ There are many versions of this story because of the inherent nature of mental decline. The need for a surrogate decision-maker is obvious to everyone except the person being afflicted with severe memory loss, and most of us are stubbornly resistant to the reality of our own deficits.

Probate & Family Court Awareness Statement

Venus Gist, Senior & Family Care Advocate

Attorney Lisa MacCarley:

On Friday April 5th, at our USOAC monthly meeting, board members and guests kicked off the 2024 year with an informative and beneficial PowerPoint presentation by attorney Lisa MacCarley. Lisa is from the Los Angeles area. Lisa is a Probate and Estate Planning attorney with a host of experience in her field. I introduced Lisa to BOS Nate Miley and she was brought onboard to investigate and support Alameda County with improving the issues occurring in Alameda County. Lisa has witnessed many cases of abuse of power within the Probate Court System in Los Angeles.

Some members requested a copy of the Probate PowerPoint Presentation and Lisa will provide us with a copy. Once I receive a copy, I can inform Mary Bradd and possibly she can email it to those who are interested. The content Lisa researched and presented is educational and will help many comprehend what is occurring with seniors & families in Probate. What are possible solutions that can transform processes & procedures that are illicit and not for the people?

Probate Page on USOAC Website:

It's a start! Headed under "Programs" we now have a Probate & Family Court Awareness page. Anyone can watch the full movie of "The Guardians", a real life documentary that shows victims who experienced the horrors of Probate/Family Court. On the page there is also a video of Senate Bill 303 that was proposed by Bob Wieckowski, a former State Senator. I had the honor of proposing the bill with Senator Wieckowski. The bill was passed in the fall of 2019 and signed into law by Governor Newsom. The issue at hand is why are bills that are passed slack and lack power? It is because Senate Bills that pass are not being enforced in the Courtrooms by our Court Officials: Judges, Attorneys, Conservators, etc. Senate Bill 303 is a law that gets passed over frequently. Feel free to explore the page!

Elder Abuse Awareness

Antoinette Warren, Warren Publishing Group Senior Alliance

Warren Publishing Group Senior Advocacy Alliance and United Seniors of Oakland and Alameda County continue to educate the community on this epidemic in the Bay Area.

Attempts are underway to access financial support to continue presenting Warren Publishing Group Training Program through Alameda County.

The barriers stem from public and private agencies, including churches and community centers, not having funds in their budgets for such training. Currently, funders are selecting organizations that support youth, homelessness and housing.

The high increase of Elder Abuse in Alameda County warrants the Alameda County Board of Supervisors to consider ways to provide funding for this critical elder abuse awareness training program to end the atrocities of Elder Abuse.

Elder Abuse Awareness Month

WHEREAS; caring about elder abuse is caring about justice for all. As a country, we are committed to ensuring the just treatment of all people, but elder abuse violates this value.

WHEREAS; elder abuse takes many forms, including, neglect or isolation, physical abuse, sexual abuse, financial abuse, exploitation, and emotional or psychological abuse (including verbal abuse and threats); and

WHEREAS; Alameda County receives approximately 6,000 reports of elder abuse per year that are believed to be only a fraction of the cases occurring in the County; and

WHEREAS; victims of elder abuse include people of diverse gender identity and educational, socio- economic or ethnic backgrounds who have been victimized by strangers and/or by people who may occupy a position of trust including family members, neighbors, friends, and others with whom the elder interacts; and

WHEREAS; the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic has impacted everyone, especially elders, by making fragile living situations more stressful, thereby putting elders more at risk for their physical safety and well-being, as well as giving those who commit scams an opportunity to morph existing scams, as well as create new scams, to prey upon the concerns and fears of vulnerable members of society in order to obtain their money and property; and

WHEREAS; the costs of elder abuse are high for the affected individuals and society alike. They may lose homes, life savings, dignity, independence, and possibly their lives. For society, elder abuse is both a social and economic issue: it creates health care and legal costs, which are often shouldered by public programs like Medicare and Medi-Cal, and isolates them from the community; and

WHEREAS; the Alameda County Social Services Agency and its Adult

Protective Services Unit and the Ombudsman Services of Alameda County (Empowered Aging), and the Alameda County District Attorney's office, its Elder Protection Unit and Victim Witness Division, provide a network of services to elders who are in danger of becoming, or who have become, victims of abuse; and

WHEREAS; the Alameda County Social Services Agency - Adult Protective Services works with the Alameda County District Attorney's Office, law enforcement and other professionals who organize local trainings and community workshops to strengthen collective knowledge of elder abuse, neglect and/or financial exploitation, improve communication, and enhance elder abuse investigations and case review among agencies that serve elders; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED; this Board of Supervisors, County of Alameda, and the State of California does proclaim **June 2023** as **Elder Abuse Awareness Month** in recognition that elders are valuable members of society who have the right to live safely and securely in the community, and that preventing elder abuse is up to everyone.

Senior Injury Prevention Partnership (SIPP) Report

Carol Powers

The Senior Injury Prevention Partnership (SIPP), in conjunction with Alameda County Emergency Medical Services Agency (EMS), continues to provide healthy aging services to older adults throughout Alameda County. Services include physical activity programs for fall prevention, medication management, home safety and modification programs, and community presentations on fall prevention, driving safety, emergency preparedness and safe medication use.

In 2023, SIPP hosted the 21th Annual Senior Injury Prevention Educational Forum virtually on March 8, 2023. The theme was *Strong Bonds, Strong Bodies: Keys to Aging Well* and featured presentations on social isolation and nutrition. As a virtual event, we had more people attending from other parts of California than usual with a total of 128 attendees. In the Fall, the SIPP Forum Planning Committee decided it was time to go back to having the Forum in-person again. It was held on May 16, 2024, with the theme *Safe Mobility Begins at Home*.

The three-year Partners in Care Foundation (PICF) grant being administered by EMS Senior Injury Prevention Program began a year-long extension on August 1st, 2023. At that time, grant deliverables had already been met. PICF offered additional funds to meet an increase of deliverables through the extension period. In 2023, 16 classes were held with a total of 255 participants in attendance. Of those participants, 128 attended enough sessions of a class to meet the evidence-based threshold set for that class. This means that these 128 participants were highly likely to have increased their balance and muscle strength, improved their flexibility, and learned about fall prevention strategies. The evidence-based fall prevention programs supported by the grant include A Matter of Balance, Tai Chi for Arthritis/ Fall Prevention, and Bingocize. Collaborating partners included Sutter Health Eden Medical Center, Alameda Health System Trauma Services, St. Mary's Center, CityServe of the Tri-Valley, Alice Home Care, City of Oakland Senior Centers and Alameda EMS Injury Prevention.

Many SIPP partners celebrated the September 2023 Fall Prevention Awareness Week with individual events and exhibiting at the 20th Annual Healthy Living Festival.

20th Annual Healthy Living Festival Report

Mary Bradd

The Annual Healthy Living Festival (HLF) was held on September 28, 2023 at the Oakland Zoo.

Following are some statistics:

- Sponsors – 18
- Honorary Hosts – 12
- Exhibitors - 96 with 128 sign-ins
- Equipment Ordered – 200 Tables, 1,520 Chairs, 240 Canopies
- Eventbrite Registration - 3,400 sign-ups.
- Event Day Check-ins – 1168
- Volunteers – 150+
- Lunches - 2,750

The Oakland Zoo reported the following:

- Actual Zoo Admissions - 2215
- Social Media – 12.6k Total Impressions
- Facebook Post – 2.2k Impressions, 2k Reach, 51 Engagements, 25 Reactions, 5 Link Clicks, and 6 Shares
- Instagram Post – 8.3k Impressions, 7.8k Reach, 239 Likes, 246 Engagements, and 8 Shares
- Twitter Post – 2.1k Impressions, 46 Engagements,, and 5 Link Clicks
- Zoo Website Event Page - 486 Sessions, 1.2k Event Count, and 3 hours 40 minutes User Engagement.
- The Zoo on-site restaurant company indicated that it was their busiest day of the week.
- The Zoo staff were great as usual. They had such a wonderful and cheery attitude, helping wherever they were assigned and performing such a good job. The Zoo staff were also knowledgeable about helping seniors who have disabilities.
- The Oakland Zoo is a tremendous asset for the HLF.

Feedback:

- The majority of exhibitors felt things went well and everyone stopping at the exhibitor tables were enthusiastic with the event. The entertainment was engaged in by all and as the exercise group said "they had a great time". The seniors had a good time dancing and singing along with the entertainers etc. It was voiced by many of the attendees that the lunch was good and they liked the little gift that was inside e.g. the bamboo utensil set.
- Some negatives complaints included (1) parking being inadequate, (2) no maps distributed to indicate where exhibitors were located, (3) driving into the Zoo was delayed with the freeway off ramp traffic backup, (4) and more portable toilets were needed.
- Overall the feedback responses to the 20th Annual Healthy Living Festival were positive with the attendees finding it enjoyable to visit the exhibitors and receiving helpful information for seniors. Many had expressed that they were not aware of some of the various agencies that could help them get food and also provide information on where to go for necessary medical assistance.

Technology Report

Janny Castillo

The 2023 partnership with the St. Mary's Center WeConnect program resulted in donations of desktops, laptops and tablets to 39 seniors. A small computer lab was opened with five internet-connected computers in a corner of the St. Mary's Center Community Center. Forty-nine seniors utilized the lab and received personalized lessons by WeConnect staff.

St. Mary's Center and USOAC is grateful to the Alameda County Computer and Technology Resource Center for a steady donation of desktops and monitors, and the Connections, Health, Aging and Technology (CHAT) program for donating IPADs to seniors. We are also grateful for the equipment donations from individuals and businesses that helped WeConnect serve just that many more seniors.

Shout out to our organizational partner: In 2023, CTRC donated 578 computer systems to low-income individuals, schools, and other non-profits. Eighty computers were donated to City of Oakland residents and 140 went to impoverished communities in Nigeria, and 65 went to schools in the Philippines.

Through a thoughtful assessment process, WeConnect matched the device to a senior's unique needs.

- A cross guard received a tablet to help them find a better job.
- A senior in a small single room occupancy hotel, who could not afford a television, received a tablet where they can watch Youtube videos. We also taught them how to use email to connect to family and friends.
- A senior who recently suffered a stroke but can still play piano received a laptop to help advertise their talent. They want to play at family events and weddings.
- A 71-year-old involved in social justice activities is using their WeConnect laptop to stay in touch with family and friends, plan gatherings and seek employment.
- Non-English-speaking seniors found an inclusionary space in the computer lab. WeConnect staff changed the operating system's language to their preferred language to practice their keyboarding skills.
- Several seniors attending the St. Mary's Center housing clinic used the lab to apply for housing outside of clinic hours.
- A senior staying at a tuff shed homeless site used the lab to improve their situation. We also donated a laptop for them to use at local spaces where the Internet is free.

This year's goal is to secure funding for equipment and staff hours to continue the much needed work of the WeConnect program.

Covid-19 Relief & Recovery and Senior Online Technology Committees Report

Tanya Washington and Sister Ansar Muhammad

Outcome #1 USOAC will assess the Covid-19 Relief and Recovery needs of our current membership of 13,460.

- Activity - Conduct outreach to our membership on senior Covid-19 related issues and wellness measures taken to enhance their quality of life. We will form a Covid-19 Relief and Recovery Committee (CRRC) to meet at least eight times with our leaders, staff and others to plan methods, follow up, and appropriate next steps.

Outcome #2 USOAC will advocate to improve senior online technology literacy, capacity, and reduce the digital divide among 100 aging adults

- Activity - We will form a Senior Technology Committee (STC) to prioritize this as a significant focus with at least eight meetings to plan and lead actions.
- Activity - We will research and identify lessons learned and best practices for senior online and digital inclusion
- Activity - We will organize and collaborate to take action and/or build senior online technology and digital literacy and capacity.

During the year of 2023 USOAC was able to make progress. USOAC Board/leadership met in retreat during January to April to develop and review our 2023 work plan. Covid-19 relief and recovery as well as senior online technology were made a priority. At monthly Board/Leadership meetings on May 5th, June 2nd, July 7th, August 4th, September 1st, October 6th, November 3rd, and December 1st, updates were provided on these efforts.

At the Friday, May 5th USOAC Board/Leadership meeting with staff, the planning occurred for the formation of the Covid-19 Relief and Recovery Committee (CRRC) and the Senior Technology Committee (STC). Each committee will consist of six leaders and two staff. The CRRC followed by the STC will meet every 4th Thursday of the month. These committees of 13 attendees will be a standing item on the USOAC Board/leadership regular meeting agendas to report on their progress.

At the Friday, June 2nd USOAC Board/leadership meeting of 13 attendees, a report was made on the progress of forming the CRRC and STC. At subsequent USOAC Board/leadership meetings on Fridays, July 7th, August 4th, September 1st, October 6th, November 3rd, and December 1st CRRC and STC reports were made with discussion on the programs and recruitment. (13 attendees, 16 attendees, 9 attendees, 16 attendees, 10 attendees, and 12 attendees)

On Friday, May 12th our Walkable Neighborhoods for Seniors (WNS4) Walk Club committee met to discuss the physical activities of older adults. Staff reviewed the objectives of the CRRC and STC in an effort to recruit members to join. The Walk Club participants stated their Covid-19 concerns and the way to safely socialize. In addition Oakland officials provided updates on dealing with blocked sidewalks, abandoned cars, sideshows, and illegal dumping. Since many older adults use Zoom for this and other meetings as well as attending exercise classes online, the work of our STC is vital to their quality of life.

Covid-19 Relief and Senior Online Technology, continued

The USOAC Walk Club committee met on Fridays, June 9th, July 14th, August 11th, September 8th,, October 13th, November 10th, and December 8th with a report and discussion on the program and recruitment for senior online technology efforts. (12 attendees per meeting)

Gold Star Senior Shared Housing/Senior Action Team met the 3rd Friday of the month on May 19th, June 16th, and July 21st. In addition to a discussion on shared housing and resources there was a report on STC progress. Gold Star is very interested in being able to use social media to market and promote senior shared housing, which the STC efforts can be supportive.

The Senior Nutrition Advocacy (SNA) committee is convened by USOAC normally once a month on the third Friday. At the May 19th SNA committee meeting there was a report on Covid-19 protocols for senior congregate dining site in-person meals and those who choose grab and go meals. The SNA committee has been using Zoom since the pandemic for all meetings. The June 16th, July 21st, September 15th, October 19th, and November 17th meetings of SNA committee continued with Covid-19 updates. SNA committee has helped to inform our CRRC and STC due mainly from their perspective as senior food providers and other County officials who are the regular 13 attendees.

The STC focuses on senior online technology. This committee met every 4th Thursday from June to November. In December with the upcoming holiday STC met on Wednesday, December 20th. The June 22nd, July 27th, August 24th, and October 26th STC meetings had 6 attendees per meeting. The December 20th meeting had Oakland and County officials provide updates on the senior digital divide to wrap up this year's work. (20 attendees)

The STC were also part of actions taken at our May 17th Eden Area Senior Action Group Townhall meeting at the Castro Valley Library, the June 30th USOAC 32nd Annual Convention at St. Columba Catholic Church in Oakland, and the 20th Annual Healthy Living Festival (HLF) on September 28th at the Oakland Zoo. Senior online technology was included in all of these actions. (60 Townhall attendees, 167 Convention attendees, and approximately 3000 HLF attendees)

On December 20th USOAC not only dealt with senior online technology but had Dr. Joan Locke from the County provide an update to the CRRC on affects of Covid-19 on seniors. This culminated the 2023 work of the CRRC. (20 attendees)

The Eden Area Senior Action Group (ESAG) meets every 4th Friday of the month. On May 26th the ESAG reviewed senior online technology. Two ESAG members committed to join the STC. This was significant, because the ESAG is active in senior online classes and Spectrum Community Services online exercise classes. At the ESAG meetings on June 23rd, July 28th, August 25th, and September 22nd there were STC updates and program discussion. (6 or 7 attendees per meeting)

On Monday, May 15th USOAC held an action with Oakland Mayor Sheng Thao to raise various senior concerns, including public safety concerns. The Mayor did address the use of online technology and the need for senior affordable access to WIFI. USOAC was provided with follow up contact information regarding OAK WIFI free internet service to help close the digital divide.

Covid-19 Relief and Senior Online Technology, continued

On Wednesday, May 17th the ESAG Townhall meeting on both Covid-19 and senior online technology was in collaboration with the office of District 4 County Supervisor Nate Miley. The Townhall targeted the needs of older adults 55+ in the unincorporated area. Many agencies, e.g. Alameda County Departments of Adult and Aging, Housing and Community Development, and Public Health, along with the Alameda Alliance for Health and AC Transit, presented on the affect of Covid-19 in the community and its relationship with the senior digital divide on food insecurities, transportation, affordable housing, and the eviction moratorium. There was a question-and-answer session along with resource tables and a healthy lunch was also provided. This Townhall surfaced older adults who were interested in learning more about the STC, CRRC, and possibly joining the ESAG. (60 or more attendees)

On Friday, June 30th the USOAC 32nd Annual Convention and a Walk Club celebration was held with a panel of 6 County officials, presenting on the senior digital divide and the older adult survey. Oakland officials also provided information on senior online technology. Seniors also had the option of receiving the latest Covid-19 booster. The Convention was both the USOAC public report on our 2022 programs, the work to date, and the organization's annual business. The event had more than 25 exhibitors that shared resources. To help address the fear of being a victim of crime that many seniors experience, the Convention spotlighted a very informative presentation on public safety training for older adults by the Alameda County Office of the Sheriff. A continental breakfast and lunch were served as well. (160+ attendees)

On Thursday, September 28th the 20th Annual Healthy Living Festival for Alameda County seniors was held with 96 exhibitors and 3400 eventbrite registrations. Event day had 1168 check ins, 2215 free zoo admissions, and 2750 free nutritious lunches. Seniors received some memorable commemorative giveaways along with a lot of useful information, swag, entertainment, and services as well as mental and physical health demonstrations, including self defense for seniors. Covid-19 and senior digital technology resource information was mailed to more than 5,200 and made available at the HLF. In addition to receiving the latest Covid-19 information, seniors could also get a flu shots.

On Friday, October 27th the ESAG focused on senior online technology by St. Mary's Center with a presentation on the WeConnect program. ESAG members were given a resource guide to assist them in using online senior technology to find affordable housing, local food pantries, social services, hot showers, free laundry services, and in-home supportive services. They could also call upon an advocate and/or ombudsman to help online with issues affecting them and/or their loved ones. (11 attendees)

There were further indications of progress made by USOAC with this grant as follows:

- On Friday, February 17th we had Dr. Nicholas Moss, the County Health Officer, and Dr. Noha Aboelata, Founder and CEO of Roots Community Health Center, meet with us to cover the latest Covid-19 protocols for seniors.
- Our Board/Leaders met constantly during the year to have updates and discuss Covid-19 developments and wellness measures on May 5th, June 2nd, July 7th, August 4th, September 1st, October 6th with Dr. Moss and Dr. Joan Locke, November 3rd, and December 1st. (normally 16 attendees)

Covid-19 Relief and Senior Online Technology, continued

- The Board/Leaders meetings were in addition to our WN4S Walk Club committee, Senior Nutrition Advocacy committee, and Gold Star meeting on Covid-19 and senior online technology as well as the CRRC and STC.

The following were the evaluation measures of success for this work and our indication of achievement:

- Outreach to a minimum of 8,076 - This was only partially achieved with outreach to at least 5,477 (HLF mailer to 5,250, ESAG Townhall of 60, and Annual Convention of 167); there was other outreach during the year but the data was not calculated).
- Assess online technology for at least 75 seniors - This was overwhelmingly achieved with the ESAG Townhall of 60, the Annual Convention of 167, the HLF with 3000+, and the ESAG/St.Mary's Center meeting with 11).
- Form a Senior Technology Committee to meet eight times - This was achieved with the formation of the STC for five meetings (June 22nd, July 27th, August 24th, October 26th, and December 27th, and three actions (ESAG Townhall, the Annual Convention, and the HLF).
- Form a Covid-19 Relief and Recovery Committee to meet 8 times - This was achieved with the formation of CRRC for five meetings and three actions (similar to the STC response in #3 above) plus two Board/Leaders meeting on February 17th and October 6th with Dr. Moss, Dr. Aboelata, and Dr. Locke.
- Identify lessons learned and best practices - This was achieved and is still an ongoing work in progress (see Question #3 below).

In conclusion USOAC feels good about the progress made on the goals and objectives as represented in the two Outcomes and the four Activities. Furthermore, our evaluation measures demonstrate success and are an indication of progress made.

The following will explain the reason we were not able to meet any outcomes/activities and will describe any internal (organizational capacity/Board/staff) and/or external challenges for completing the work.

Covid-19 Relief and Senior Online Technology, continued

1. Outcome/Activities Not Meet

Outcome #1 was only partially met with outreach to 5477 instead of the 8076 that was our measure of success. Otherwise the balance of Outcome #1 and Outcome #2 with all Activities were met and the evaluation measures of success were achieved.

2. Organization Internal and/or External Challenges

Our Board/leadership meetings are hybrid with most of members joining by Zoom. This is both a blessing and a curse. Our leaders are getting more comfortable with virtual participation, which is great; however, we are losing some of that vital face to face interaction that can only take place by attending in person. USOAC needs to be mindful of and prioritize our organizational capacity with leaders becoming too comfortable participating remotely and not fulfilling their role of ambassadors for recruitment and engagement that was normal prior to the Covid-19 pandemic.

There may also be the necessity for USOAC to hire an additional staff to help buttress the capacity of the organization.

The following were the main lessons learned from this work in 2023 and what we would have done differently:

1. Lessons Learned

USOAC now recognizes the circumstances of Covid-19 being around for an indefinite period of time, but not to the extent of a pandemic. Through the efforts of the CRRC, we are learning how to adapt to this new reality of Covid-19 being with us.

Through the STC we have learned that peer to peer is an effective method for computer literacy among seniors. It is necessary to be patient, repetitive, and appeal to the self interest needs of older adults for the use of digital technology. Seniors find social media, games, and the convenience of staying at home as attractive features of online technology. There are available resources to help with older adult digital literacy. The community colleges offer classes. We know that AARP, Center for Elders Independence, and the Downtown Oakland Senior Center have digital technology assistance for aging adults. Finally, the County's Adult & Aging Department has a program, Digital Connections, and St. Mary's Center has another program, WeConnect to help seniors adapt to online technology.

The work of assuring senior digital inclusion, literacy, connectivity as well as addressing the digital divide for senior online technology is still an going work in progress at least for now.

2. Things We Would Do Differently: Nothing to the best of our knowledge

Covid-19 Relief and Senior Online Technology, continued

The following were benefits and/or improvements to USOAC constituency and the community:

Benefits/Improvements and Demographic Data

The grant provided the resources for our organization to have two of our staff concentrate on the Covid-19 relief and recovery needs of aging adults as well as the senior digital divide. USOAC was able to make 5,477 outreach contacts. Additionally, over 3000 participants through the HLF had the opportunity to receive information and assistance. Furthermore, the advocacy of USOAC on these older adult concerns was empowering for our aging population and their quality of life.

The impact of the efforts of USOAC through the CRRC and STC not only raised the internal competence of our organization, but benefited the broader older adult community. USOAC raised these concerns as part of the countywide senior survey with the Department of Adult and Aging. Both officials from Oakland and Alameda County were engaged by USOAC on these 2 major senior issues. The County's aging population of 65 years and older is more than 215,000; clearly this population and those seniors who are under 65 years of age benefit from the work of USOAC on Covid-19 relief and recovery as well as dealing with the need for senior digital inclusion, literacy, and connectivity.

The following outlines the support USOAC has created for this work and to cover operating costs during the year as well as build sustainability:

1. USOAC has financial support for our organization's program from the East Bay Foundation on Aging, the Alameda County Transportation Commission, Alameda County, Eden Health District, Eastmont Town Center, Kaiser Permanente, Oakland Zoo, Miley for Supervisor, and others both from the public and private sector.
2. The revenue for USOAC met the needs of our organization. Fortunately, no program or budget accommodations were necessary. In order to insure future sustainability USOAC has submitted a proposal to the Alameda County Transportation Commission for the next four years to continue travel training for older adult mobility, independence, and their empowerment. In addition, USOAC is hopeful that the East Bay Foundation on Aging will continue to financially support our organization. Sponsorships for the HLF and the Annual Convention are also important components for our organization's financial health. In addition USOAC will continue to seek other grants and funding opportunities. Finally, maintaining a broad base of in-kind support will be critical as well.

We are sincerely grateful to the East Bay Foundation on Aging for funding this work.

Age-Friendly Alameda County

Alameda County Health and Social Services Agencies

The Alameda County Board of Supervisors' mandate to plan comprehensively for an expansion of the older adult population in the county resulted in the creation of the Alameda County Council for Age-Friendly Communities (Age-Friendly Council), which has met monthly since August 2017. During 2023, the Alameda County Social Services Agency (SSA) and Health Care Services Agency (HCSA) continued to work together and with other public and private partners to seek opportunities for collaboration and expand critical programs and services for older adults.

Support for the Age-Friendly Council includes a dedicated full-time Management Analyst (MA) to coordinate and facilitate all activities of the Age-Friendly Council. The position is equally funded by the SSA and HCSA. The MA assigned to the Council since March 2021 was on leave beginning in August 2022, and ultimately separated from SSA in March 2023. The position remains unfilled due to challenges with recruiting qualified candidates in the MA classification. We continue to interview for the MA classification and Management Analyst Assistant (MAA) classification at this time. Despite this staffing challenge, the Age-Friendly Council successfully undertook various actions and achieved these significant accomplishments during the last year:

- Supported State legislation on digital equity, housing security and access to health care for older adults that was chaptered.
 - Supported budget requests for supportive services and COVID mitigation for older adults.
 - Continued supporting older adult access to internet devices through the Connections, Health, Aging, Technology (CHAT) Program and its later transition into the Digital Connections program.
 - Leveraged Health Resources Services Administration (HRSA) funding and partnership with University of California, San Francisco (UCSF) to develop training series for Behavioral Health staff, community-based organizations (CBOs), In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS), and Public Health Nursing.
 - Participated in equity discussions centering on older adults and adults living with disabilities in Alameda County on some of the following topics:
 - Homelessness
 - Climate Change and its Impact on Older Adults
 - Disaster Preparedness
 - Equity Framework
 - Completed the County's Age-Friendly Action Plan for submission to American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) and secured Age-Friendly Designation.
 - Partnered with Alameda County Public Health Department (ACPHD) on the Healthy Brain Initiative (HBI) in a community advisory capacity to complete a needs assessment and develop goals for ongoing workforce development and emergency response for older adults.

Age-Friendly Alameda County, continued

The Age-Friendly Council continues its work plan and projects in alignment with the five bold goals of the Master Plan for Aging (MPA), Board of Supervisors' Vision 10X Goals, and the 2024 County Wide Area Plan to address the current needs of the older adult community post pandemic and to make Alameda County an Age-Friendly County for all. The Council's accomplishments include:

- Legislation and Advocacy Committee: In 2023, Alameda County supported State legislation relevant to older adults. The Council's Legislation & Advocacy Committee worked in partnership to prioritize 10 bills:
 - Two of these bills were chaptered:
 - SB 311 (Eggman) eliminating barriers to Medicare Part A enrollment
 - AB 559 (Boerner Horvath) California Senior Citizen Advocacy Voluntary Tax Contribution Fund to provide continued funding to California Senior Legislature through 2031
 - Two of these bills were enrolled but vetoed:
 - SB 657 (Caballero) requiring coordination between continuums of care and Area Agencies on Aging to assist vulnerable older adults with accessing resources to gain permanent housing solutions.
 - AB 1085 (Maienschein) directing Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) to seek federal approval to make housing support services a covered Medi-Cal benefit.
- Additionally, the Council supported the following bills and budget requests:
 - Health Care Behavioral Services (HCBS) Spending Plan Extension was extended through December 2024 to allow for senior nutrition and other providers to take full advantage of this federal funding.
 - Older Adult Behavioral Health Investment of \$50 million over 3 years passed, and will support MPA efforts to support behavioral health, including continuing the Friendship Line.
 - AB 1313 (Ortega) budget request for case management for older adults did not pass.
 - The Housing Stabilization for Older Adults and People with Disabilities Act, and its companion bill SB 37 (Caballero), is advancing as a two-year bill, scaled down to pilot a targeted rental subsidy program in up to 5 counties to enable older adults to access or keep their housing.
- Digital Inclusion Workgroup: In 2021, The Council's Digital Inclusion Workgroup conducted a countywide Older Adult Digital Needs Assessment Survey on internet access, digital devices, training, and supports. We continued to build on these findings, as the landscape coming out of COVID has changed significantly. New developments among State and Federal agencies have also developed several initiatives around digital inclusion and will include funding opportunities for Alameda County agencies and CBOs.

Age-Friendly Alameda County, continued

- We continued to work with stakeholders and partners across the bay area through the Bay Area Digital Inclusion Coalition and other settings to refine our understanding of current needs, support digital inclusion for older adults, and ensure that local needs for older adults are reflected in State and Federal initiatives. Through our collaboration and work in 2023-2024 we've accomplished the following:
 - Participated in and disseminated the California Department of Technology's State Digital Equity Plan (SDEP) to ensure representation of older adults in Alameda County.
 - Disseminated the Digital Equity Ecosystem Mapping (DEEM) Tool to CBOs to accurately map assets and gaps in services for older adults in Alameda County
 - Disseminated Community Surveys to Alameda County residents to ensure that internet access and gaps are properly reflected in the SDEP.
 - Developed a SDEP Public Comments guide for use by CBOs, BADIC, and Age-Friendly Council members to elevate the needs of older adults in Alameda County and center local advocacy efforts.
 - Developed Digital Inclusion policy priorities around affordability/infrastructure, training, and accessibility, with input from community partners and our Digital Inclusion Workgroup
 - Shared policy priorities with CBO partners, SSA & HCSA policy offices, and United Seniors of Alameda County(USOAC) to support local level advocacy around digital inclusion.
 - Tracked legislation around digital equity in partnership with the Legislation and Advocacy Committee including AB1588 and SB1179, two versions of the Affordable Internet and Net Equality Act of 2024 to ensure the availability of low-cost internet plans in California as the Affordable Connectivity Program sunsets.
 - The Department of Adult & Aging Services (AAS) continued distribution of iPads to older adults and individuals with disabilities through the Connections, Health, Aging, Technology (CHAT) Program, now Digital Connections. After receiving over 300 referrals for this program and distributing over 200 iPads, funding will be sunsetting and all, but 40 iPads have been distributed. Procurement and distribution of hotspots to eligible seniors is in the works.
- Embracing Aging Committee: In 2023 the committee's goals were to:
 - distribute a needs assessment to identify priority training needs across the workforce.
 - develop, promote and provide online training.
 - advance solutions to address the needs of people with Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders (ADRD) and their caregivers.

The Embracing Aging Training Initiative continued to leverage Health Resources Services Administration (HRSA) funding and partnership with UCSF to hold a series of trainings. The purpose of this has been to equip the Alameda County workforce to meet the needs of older adults across varied service delivery settings.

Age-Friendly Alameda County, continued

- In 2023 trainings took place at agencies across Alameda County including:
 - Alameda County Behavioral Health where direct care staff members were able to join a two day conference on a variety of topics related to working with Older Adults with serious mental illness
 - The IHSS Public Authority where IHSS Caregivers were able to participate in a 6-month series of trainings
 - The Department of Adult and Aging Services where they launched a 7-month series of trainings
 - Public Health Nursing which was customized exclusively for Public Health Nurses and included a series of 7 trainings

The Embracing Aging grant through HRSA is sunsetting at the end of June 2024 and staff are in the process of conducting “*Train the Trainer*” sessions in order to bring the knowledge and training abilities in house so they can continue.

The rest of 2024 looks bright for this subcommittee as it will continue to focus and expand on training the workforce of individuals working with older adults across the County. ACPHD was successful in obtaining the Healthy Brain Initiative grant which is intended to advance cognitive health as an integral component of public health. The Embracing Aging subcommittee of the Age Friendly Council will serve as an important partner as the Healthy Brain Initiative’s Community Advisory Coalition. Activities of the grant will include ADRD training for providers and emergency planning and preparedness work throughout the County.

Housing and Homelessness Committee: Over the past year, the Housing Work group was active in elevating the needs of older adults in key forums, including the following:

Case management for Homeless/Unstably House Older Adults (IHSS Pilot):

- Partnered with SSA Policy Department on AB 1313 in 2023: Case Management pilot in Alameda, Marin and Sonoma counties to measure impact of providing case management to low-income older adults who don’t have Medi-Cal.
 - Made it all the way to Assembly Appropriations but no further
- Provided ongoing support and advocacy for the Alameda Point Collaborative through many points of opposition by locals.

Measure W Implementation

- Provided training to the Office of Homeless Care & Coordination (OHCC) Medi-Cal Housing Community Supports providers on aging services and program.
- Provided input to County’s Housing Element in September 2023
- Brought OHCC to full Age-Friendly Council in October 2023

Post Pandemic Focus Project

- Laid the groundwork to engage shelters as thought partners in advancing accessible, age-friendly accommodations.

Age-Friendly Alameda County, continued

Council Plans for 2024-2025:

1. Placing emphasis on housing for older adults that extends beyond immediate crises, acknowledging it as an ongoing necessity.
2. Collaborating with various training institutions or faith-based organizations to enhance training opportunities for older adults.
3. Continue to advocate for legislation that positively impacts older adults, including funding programs that were lost in previous budget cuts that are still needed.
4. Strengthen the Council's equity lens and continued discussions to develop an equity framework for the Council in partnership with a qualified consultant.
5. Track, disseminate and take advantage of future funding opportunities from the California Department of Technology and the National Telecommunications and Information Administration to advance digital equity and our digital equity policy recommendations.
6. Coordinate an annual retreat to update the Council's Work plan, as informed by the Age-Friendly Action Plan, MPA and County Wide Area Plan (CWAP).
7. Update the Alameda County Age-Friendly Action Plan to reflect current needs and priorities.

Senior Services Coalition of Alameda County

Wendy Peterson

The Senior Services Coalition of Alameda County (SSC) works to advance public policy change that increases and availability to the services and supports that can make such a difference for older people in our county. USOAC is a unique and valued coalition member, and we appreciate the partnership of the USOAC Board, staff and members.

This report summarizes some of the progress we have achieved together over the past year.

SSC played a robust role in the effort that advanced Master Plan for Aging initiatives in California's fiscal year 2022/23 budget and legislative session.

SSC informed over a dozen state legislators about existing and emerging issues affecting the health, safety and well-being of older people in Alameda County, as well as the need for increased capacity in community-based organizations to address those issues. We collaborated with other regional and state advocates to share our data and use common messaging. We convened more than a dozen meetings with legislators and their staff, and provided letters and public testimony at key hearings.

As a result, the state's Fiscal Year 2022/23 Budget contained important investments in policy and programs that will make a tremendous difference to the lives of thousands of older Alameda County residents.

The gains include:

- Increased in SSI/SSP grant assistance to very low income seniors and people with disabilities (about a \$39/month increase that kicked in January 1, 2023).
- Funded a Manufactured Housing Revitalization Program within the state Department of Housing and Community Development to preserve and develop affordable mobile home parks (a \$100 million investment).
- Funded an Older Californians Act Modernization initiative to pilot restoring programs that were cut in the Great Recession (a \$186 million investment over 3 years).
- Made permanent a presumptive eligibility rule so hospitals can give patients age 65 and older temporary full Medi-Cal coverage based on a patient's self-attested information.
- Funded grants for counties to launch Alzheimer's Healthy Brain Initiative efforts (which Alameda County recently applied for and won).

Senior Services Coalition of Alameda County, continued

This year we have partnered with Alameda County Social Services Agency to sponsor a new legislative proposal, AB 1313, authored by Assemblymember Liz Ortega. The bill will create a demonstration pilot in Alameda, Marin and Sonoma counties to measure the impacts of providing case management to low-income older adults who may not have Medi-Cal. The demonstration will help the California Department of Aging assess how this service benefits older adults, and how it fits in the systems of care organized by the Master Plan for Aging. This information will pave the way for dedicated state funding. AB 1313 just passed the Assembly, and we will help it advance through the Senate process this Summer.

In addition, we are advocating to protect funding for seniors and services in the state's 2023/24 budget. In a year when the state faces a huge budget deficit, we have joined advocates from across the state to push hard for funding for a stipend program to help low-income seniors pay for housing. At this writing the state budget is being negotiated.

SSC worked to build partnerships between health care entities and community-based organizations that are skilled in working with older adults.

Over the past year we provided training, guidance and technical assistance to a dozen organizations that serve older people, helping these local CBOs to consider opportunities to contract with local Managed Care Plans, and to take their first steps. In doing so, we learned about the systemic and financial roadblocks that make it difficult, if not impossible, for small and medium community-based organizations to contract under CalAIM, the state's Medi-Cal initiative. We have been advocating for practical changes that will eliminate the barriers to contracting so that CBOs can get paid for the good work they do and seniors can benefit from better coordination between their medical care and community supports.

We worked with collaborative partners to advance state legislation, center equity and aging in planning and decisions.

SSC serves on the Alameda County Council for Age-Friendly Communities, which is charged with advancing cross-sector and cross-silo changes that will improve life for older adults throughout the county. The Council's focus over the last year has been housing security, digital inclusion, and training to equip county staff with baseline knowledge about aging so that they are competent to provide sensitive, equitable, and high quality services. In addition, the Council partnered with Alameda County Public Health to win a Healthy Brain Initiative grant that will create a better coordinated, aligned, and equity-focused system of care for those at-risk or living with Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias.

Walkable Neighborhood for Seniors/Walk Club

Sister Ansar El Muhammad

Our Walk Club Committee (WCC) met virtually during 2023, in order to continue practicing safety protocol for Covid-19. Since the covid protocol has been lifted, we are starting the hybrid meetings and increasing in our membership for our walking groups. Nearly every 2nd Friday, the Walkable Neighborhoods for Seniors (WN4S) leadership meet to continued its efforts to improve walking conditions,

USOAC honored the WN4S leaders during the June 30, 2023 Convention by providing the leaders with Certificates of Appreciation and flowers. More than 200 participants attended that convention.

Our leaders have reported that they are on the journey of rebuilding their groups from the after-effect of the pandemic restrictions of 2020. Some groups have not been re-established, while are growing in numbers very well.

During the year, we met with the Oakland Department of Transportation (DOT) on issues that impact the quality of life for seniors. Issues reported to the Oakland DOT were as follows:

- abandoned vehicles,
- cars blocking sidewalks,
- Need for stop signs,
- Better lighting on 89th and Birch Street, and
- Repairing pot holes.

The Oakland DOT was able to address some issues by ticketing and towing cars; however, this is an on-going battle that we face in Oakland. We are still pushing for lighting on 89th and Birch Street and the filling of potholes.

During 2023, we also met with the Oakland Police Department (OPD) Traffic Division. Acting Captain Jeff Thomason and Acting Lieutenant Greg Bellusa worked with us on safety issues and concerns that our leaders had reported about speeding cars and sideshows.

OPD reported to the Walk Club Committee that they have a task force working on the sideshow and that locations identified by WN4S would be targeted and added to their list for enforcement. Walk Club leaders appreciate OPD for working with us and have noticed a change in sideshow activities near Bancroft Senior Homes and Palo Vista Gardens in East Oakland. There have been improvements since reporting these safety issues and concerns; however, this requires continued vigilance.

On August 11, we commenced an effort to improve pedestrian safety for the seniors living at St. Paul's Towers on Bay Street. The street crossing is dangerous for the entire community. Acting

Walkable Neighborhood for Seniors/Walk Club, continued

Captain Thomason committed to conducting a traffic sting to catch and ticket drivers for violating pedestrian safety laws. OPD will also increase patrols in the area. We are continuing our follow-up with DOT and other Oakland officials as well.

Finally, we are very please that the Eden Area seniors continue to be active in WN4S. Furthermore, we have ensured the voice of seniors for pedestrian safety issues through our membership on the Unincorporated Alameda County Bike/Ped Citizens Advisory Committee, with Chonita Chew of the USOAC staff.

CARA



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(*SF Living Wage Coalition*)
Windsor Young (*Old Lesbians Organizing for Change*)

Dear CARA Affiliate,

December 2023

I'm reaching out to request your ongoing membership with the California Alliance for Retired Americans (CARA). CARA remains a leading voice for seniors and individuals with disabilities, garnering support from these communities and organized labor.

This year, CARA celebrated its 20th anniversary, marking two decades of advocating for seniors in California on issues such as Social Security, Medicare, affordable housing, long-term supports and services, disability rights, healthcare, and climate justice. Our journey has included local chapter events, monthly Friday Forums centered on specific topics, Empowered Elder workshops, and our Senior Leadership Academy.

In March, 750 people rallied in Bakersfield to tell Congressman Kevin McCarthy and the GOP to KEEP THEIR HANDS-OFF MEDICARE, MEDICAID, AND SOCIAL SECURITY. Working closely with CARA members across the state, our legislative committee highlighted 10 priority bills, while taking positions on an additional 65. We're pleased to report that six of our priority bills have been enacted into law, and four became two-year bills. Our 20th Annual hybrid Convention attracted several hundred people, culminating in a grand celebration in Oakland this past October.

In 2024, California will be a key battleground state and bellwether for the rest of the nation. With multiple Congressional seats at stake, as well as the CA-US Senate race, important state legislative elections, ballot measures, and local contests, we're prepared for the challenge. Through our SENIOR VOTE PROGRAM, we're focused on equipping senior voters by offering tools such as candidate scorecards and holding forums on critical election issues, as well as our senior-to-senior voter outreach program in target districts.

We urge you to renew your CARA membership and consider an additional donation for our Senior Vote program. If you missed renewing in 2023, we would be grateful if you cover both 2023 and 2024. Your membership offers voting rights on key CARA matters and keeps you connected with our activities.

Please find your membership renewal invoice enclosed. We hope your organization can participate in one of our 18 CARA Action Teams in 2024. Additionally, we'd be honored to attend one of your meetings, be it in person or virtually, to acquaint your members with all that CARA is doing.

Renew today and support CARA's vision for 2024. Thank you for your enduring commitment to our cause.

Sincerely,

Pauline Brooks, CARA President

P.O. Box 23754 Oakland, CA 94623/ 877-223-6107

Senior Public Transportation Training and Education Program

Chonita Chew

For almost 25 years the USOAC Travel Training program has outreached county-wide throughout the older adult communities in Alameda County about the benefits of the USOAC Senior Public Transportation Training and Education Program (Senior PTTEP).

During the 2023 reporting period Travel Trainees were able to take advantage of the ending of the Covid-19 Pandemic with renewed energy and excitement, and as promised in 2022, there were no more Travel Trainings conducted virtually. We were able to engage through in-person outreach and provide a range of Travel Training to a significant number of senior facilities, program staff members, community-based organizations, and service coordinators as well as conduct Travel Training in a multitude of languages.

Also in 2023, our Travel Training program made significant accomplishments; in addition to getting stops restored, more than 75% of the older adults in Oakland and Alameda County that were Travel Trained in the SeniorPTTEP, gave up their cars, and they use public transit, Paratransit, and UBER/Lyft to get around safely.

In 2023 Travel Training program outreached to a total 2,808 people and provided mini-Travel Trainings for more than 164 older adults living in Alameda County. A total of 85 older adults participated in the SeniorPTTEP, with 45 (named later in this report) completing and receiving their certificates this year.

Despite losing a lot of our community resources during the pandemic, and the communities going 'paper-free', our Travel Training team was still able to outreach to more than 2,800 older adults and people with disabilities in Alameda County.

Due to the loss of the Born-to-Age magazine, County of Alameda Senior Housing Guides, and the senior information referral sources, most of the Travel Trainers in and around Alameda County have needed to be proactive and innovative to outreach to their communities.

With the digital divide amongst seniors closing in, USOAC can now build an informational website so many of the community can visit our website.

There will be lots of upgrades and changes starting in July 2024 for instance:

The USOAC Travel Training Program will have a new name, a new face, and lots of new adventures will be on the horizon

The USOAC website www.USOAC.org will be updated regularly with Travel Training information, which will include:

Senior Public Transportation Training and Education Program, continued

- Forms
- Trips
- Actions
- Upcoming Travel Training
- Updated Travel Training Information
- Incorporate disaster preparedness and evacuation trainings
-

2023 Travel Trainees

- | | |
|---|---|
| • Cheryl Buckley – Group (6/01) | • Zondra Kilpatrick Martin – Group (6/01) |
| • Susana Cabrales – Group (8/31) | • Geneva Moore – Group (4/25) |
| • Mei Tho Chu – Group (6/15) | • Luisa Morenilla– Group (3/16) |
| • Susie Chu – Group (11/16) | • Muriel Ong – Group (11/16) |
| • Larry Diamond – Group (6/01) | • M. E. Onglatco – Group (3/16) |
| • Friederike Droegemueller – Group (6/01) | • Jeannette M. O’Sullivan – Group (6/01) |
| • Luwana Evans – Group (4/25) | • Shelley Roberts – Group (6/01) |
| • Sim Kan Tam Fung – Group (6/15) | • Polly Rosenthal – Group (3/30) |
| • Cui Qiong Gao – Group (6/20) | • Karen Smulevitz – Group (4/25) |
| • Chris Gentry – Group (6/01) | • Mao Qiang Tan – Group (6/20) |
| • Clarice Hoy – Group (11/16) | • Araceli Tellez – Group (4/25) |
| • Sandra Hrdlicka– Group (3/16) | • Fung Tsou – Group (11/16) |
| • Dorothea Jenkins – Group (4/25) | • Guo Zhu Wan – Group (6/15) |
| • Sharon Jackson – Group (6/01) | • Rose J. Q. Wei – Group (8/31) |
| • Daqing Jiang – Group (3/30) | • Alberta Woods – Group (6/01) |
| • Bobby Jones – Group (6/01) | • Dean M. Yabuki – Group (6/01) |
| • Carmelita LaRoche – Group (6/01) | • Yu Yuan Xiao – Group (6/20) |
| • Mei Shun Li – Group (6/15) | • Yan Yang – Group (3/16) |
| • Hong Xi Liang – Group (6/20) | • Diana Young – Group (4/25) |
| • Emily Lim – Group (6/20) | • Mei Big Yung– Group (6/15) |
| • Josephine Lu – Group (11/16) | • Rui Xing Zhang – Group (6/20) |
| • Rui Ping Lu – Group (3/30) | • Xianli Zhu – Group (6/20) |
| • LaWanda Malone – One-on-One (11/02) | |

Senior Public Transportation Training and Education Program, continued

Many Thanks to you all who participated in the Travel Training Program

Matthew Miu, North Berkeley Senior Center, Mary Triston, Transportation Service Coordinator for the City of Berkeley, Araceli Tellez, Oakland Housing Authority, Sylvina Flores, Palo Vista Gardens, Jessi Cutter, Larry Diamond, Downtown Oakland Senior Center, Terrance Chan, Harrison Towers, Karen Harris, Casa Ubuntu, AC Transit, and Alameda County Transportation Commission

Justice & Equity for Transit Riders

For 2023 our Travel Training program, in addition to the regular scheduled Travel Trainings, focused on Justice & Equality for older adult transit riders. The USOAC Travel Trainer worked closely with AC Transit on its Realign Project to determine the future of transit service connections in Alameda County.

Our USOAC Travel Trainer along with seniors from North and South Berkeley Senior Centers fought for more than 4 years to get a bus line restored along the Ashby Corridor. The bus line was finally restored in January 2023, not only did it get restored, but AC Transit added a weekend service and extended the route.

USOAC Travel Trainer organized several actions, and also conducted many others with older adults from North and South Berkeley to push AC Transit to restore the bus line back along the Ashby corridor. We were successful in the restoration of 12 bus stops along the Ashby Corridor, including hospitals, grocery stores, book stores, a pharmacy, a church, and other stops that are vital to the community.

USOAC with the support of County Supervisor Nate Miley was able to conduct actions. This was done in collaboration with CBO's and others, e.g. Winters Consulting, AC Transit, City of Berkeley, Golden Girls Walk Club, Berkeley Rides for Seniors, the Oakland ParaTransit Program. As a result rides were provided for aging adults to the Oakland Zoo to attend the Healthy Living Festival as well as other events.

For 2024 the USOAC Travel Training Program will continue to outreach and work along side of the many CBO's and transportation agencies to help define disadvantaged communities:

- Aging & Adult Services Division
- Human Services Department (HSD)
- Senior Services Program Manager
- Assets Senior Employment Program
- Unincorporated Alameda County Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC)
- AC Transit General Manager's Access Committee (GMAC)
- USOAC Leadership Organizing Team

Senior Public Transportation Training and Education Program, continued

- Paratransit Technical Advisory Committee (ParaTAC)
- Senior Injury Prevention Partnership (SIPP)
- USOAC WN4S Walk Club Committee
- Alameda CTC Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion for Marginalized and Justice in Underserved Communities

The Senior Public Transportation Training and Education Program was organized by United Seniors of Oakland and Alameda County (USOAC) and was grant funded by Alameda County Transportation Commission.

For more information about the USOAC Travel Training Program (USOAC TTP), please contact Chonita Chew at 510.729.0851 or Chonita.USOAC@gmail.com.

July 2021 to June 2023

Chonita Chew

Summary of Accomplishments and Outcomes

1. Services and Benefits July 1 thru December 31, 2021 (*focuses on the continuing education and the reinventing of the USOAC Travel Training Program*)

During this period, Covid-19 along with the Delta and the Omicron variants were still on the rise; older adults continued to isolate. This was affecting the community as well as USOAC Travel Training program. During this period, the Travel Trainer did everything she could to communicate with older adults and persons with disabilities; even though senior centers and senior residential facilities were not allowing any programs into their facilities. USOAC Travel Trainer continued to perform wellness checks throughout Oakland and Alameda County by providing information to older adults at food distribution sites and senior centers that were allowing a certain number of visitors per day. Additionally, Zoom was being utilized as much as possible to spread the word about USOAC and the availability of transportation.

USOAC tried to host Zoom meetings for some of the older adults in the community, while not a waste of time, attendance was low. This idea became short-lived, because of the ‘*digital divide*’ many older adults had challenges with the use of computers and other e-devices. Travel Trainer attempted to host Zoom meetings despite low or non-existent attendance by seniors. The use of Zoom was temporarily deemphasized as a mechanism for Travel Training.

At this point in FY21/22, the Travel Trainer had to pivot the USOAC Travel Training program, working to explore various ways to outreach to older adults in Oakland and Alameda County. Due to the fears from Covid-19 it was important for the Travel to try and restore seniors’ comfort from isolation and coming back into the community to use public transit once again.

The various ways of outreach were shrinking for the Travel Trainer. Seniors were not coming out! They were not going anywhere! They were not even coming out of their homes! The seniors were indoors all the time. The Travel Trainer started to think that things would turn around, because seniors were staying inside to learn the computer. They were also learning to use Uber and Lyft.

T-R-U-S-T!! Even after seniors were vaccinated, they were still afraid to venture out; meantime, they were learning how to use the internet and smart phones. The Travel Trainer pivoted to conduct more mini-Travel Trainings on Zoom. This soon fizzled-out due to the seniors dislike for virtual Travel Training.

The Travel Trainer attended as many transit-related outreach events via Zoom as possible. Simultaneously, she would conduct numerous mini-Travel Trainings. It was her practice to engage in 15–20-minute meetings with senior service and activities coordinators via Zoom. We needed each other’s resources, and Zoom was how we maintained contact with one another.

July to June 2023, continued

During this time, we needed new and different ideas to reimagine our various Travel Training programs.

It became apparent to the USOAC Travel Trainer that continuing education classes to receive the certificate of completion as a Travel Training Specialist would enhance her skillset during and post-pandemic. She attended many hours of webinars, virtual classes, in-person CPR hands on training, and completing 6 of 9 modules. In addition, receiving several pedestrian safety certificates of completion from National Aging and Disability Transportation Center (NADTC) and America Walks to further her knowledge with ensuring safe routes to transit.

The Travel Trainer also researched information for grant writing such as Addressing the Transportation Needs and Preferences of Diverse Older Adults and People with Disabilities, Disabilities as well as Addressing the Transportation Needs and Preferences of Older Adults and People with Disabilities to Impact Social Isolation. The Travel Trainer used grant writing research information in her continued education assessments and modules.

The Covid-19 pandemic constrained the ability of the USOAC Travel Trainer to conduct as many Travel Trainings as originally contemplated during this period. However, she continued to keep all Travel Training information, materials and manuals updated on a regular basis with information helpful to the older adult communities in regards to public transit and the Covid-19 impacts. The Travel Trainer would also advocate to address issues that she would hear from the senior community.

Travel Trainer single-handedly fought hard to ensure that the AC Transit 46L would detour into the Oakland Zoo for the drive thru 18th Annual Healthy Living Festival. This would accommodate the needs of older adults countywide, who choose to ride public transit for this drive thru event. AC Transit President Elsa Ortiz, was instrumental in making this happen for the senior community. Future efforts will continue to accommodate older adult zoo attendees riding AC Transit 46L into the Oakland Zoo, to avoid the pedestrian safety concerns using Golf Links Road.

The USOAC Travel Trainer attended a national convening for Travel Trainers and transit advocates for the virtual breakout session of the National Advisory Committee on Transportation Diversity. This was useful for continued education and advocacy.

The Travel Trainer participated in the BPAC (Bike/Ped Advisory Committee) action for the Meekland Corridor Improvement Project. This was done to support both the USOAC's Eden Area Walk Club and Eden Area Senior Action Group.

This corridor has been a major pedestrian safety concern for safe routes to transit for older adult riders.

Quantitative outcomes included 4 One-on-ones to older adult Travel Trainees and summer interns.

July 2021 to June 2023, continued

2. Services and Benefits January 1 thru June 30, 2022 (focuses continued education, actions, training the Trainer, in-person networking, and Zoom Travel Training)

During this period Post Covid-19 Travel Training was born. Travel Trainers were sharing ideas with one another to re-invent our Travel Training programs to encourage and motivate seniors to become active

again. As a result of the Pandemic some transit routes and services had changed and/or been discontinued; this affected the older adult community as a barrier to ending isolation and promoting transit ridership.

All the transit systems had made route cuts and changes – AC Transit, Wheels, BART, Muni, etc. including the SF Bay Ferry. This new transit reality was even problematic and challenging for the USOAC Travel Trainer. It had become necessary for the Travel Trainer to a prefill for every route the seniors requested prior to the field trip portion of Travel Training. This would ensure accuracy, safety, and comfort.

The Travel Trainer was now better equipped to use GPS as a tool as well as communicating with Travel Trainees using online technology. Seniors had become more familiar with the internet, allowing some contacts and trip planning to be conducted electronically.

Due to the transit systems new reality, seniors were confused with having to take multiple buses and unfamiliar routes and schedules. The Travel Trainer found this to be very discouraging and overwhelming for older adult trainees and riders. This was a set-back for senior mobility and the triggering of tendencies for isolation once again. Some seniors informed the Travel Trainer that they would be utilizing the services of Uber and Lyft, because it was easier and faster than dealing with public transit.

As a result of the new transit system reality, the Travel Trainer was able to share experiences nationally with other Travel Trainers. This virtual train-the-trainers was very beneficial during the Post Covid-19 Travel Training. Lessons were learned by all participants as assignments were shared about transferring between multiple transit agencies.

During this entire period, the Travel Trainer worked with NADTC (National Aging and Disability Transportation Center, as a catalyst to complete homework assignments for Easter seals on *Advanced Travel Training Strategies*. This was one of the remaining modules for the *Travel Training Specialist* Certificate. January thru June 2022 there were classroom trainings, webinars, and roundtables; additionally, there was actual hands-on field work assignments in the community and the noting of impacts to transit riders. All homework and modules were completed.

All kinds of Travel Training requests were coming in real fast; starting in March, the Travel Trainer was able to utilize the assistance of the USOAC program assistant and review with her the new Post Covid-19 Travel Training program. The program assistant was instructed to follow up with all Travel Trainees from 2017 to present. She researched routes and conducted

outreach primarily in the Eden Area, which included the distribution of Travel Training materials. Furthermore, her research included stats on older adults driving after the age of 65, as well as the importance of reporting uneven sidewalks. She also attended AccessibleAC Transit (AAC) committee meetings.

July 2021 to June 2023, continued

Quantitative outcomes included 39 trips were taken, 7 older adult Travel Trainees, 52 trip planings for a total of 92 trips.

3. Services and Benefits July 1 thru December 30, 2022 (focuses on Program Assistant and Travel Training)

With most of the Easter seals modules completed, the Travel Trainer continued to work with the USOAC program assistant. More responsibilities and training were provided to her, related to outreach, administration, trip planning, and posting Travel Training information on the USOAC website. In addition, there were various administrative assignments.

Quantitative outcomes included 26 older adults and person with disabilities completed Travel Training, 190 trips were taken, and the Travel Trainer conducted mini- Travel Trainings for 112 older adults, which included trip planings.

4. Services and Benefits January 1 thru June 30, 2023 (focuses on year-end)

During this period the Travel Trainer was very busy. During the end of the pandemic, the seniors were encouraged to use Travel Training to escape isolation.

Quantitative outcomes included 62 Travel Trainees with 46 completing, conducted 10 mini-Travel Trainings for 104 older adults, 7 major trip planings, and 412 trips taken.

5. Services and Benefits July 1, 2021 thru June 30, 2023(focuses on the entire grant)

One of the main goals for the USOAC Travel Training program is the increase in the rate of transit ridership in the senior communities. Each year, more than 80% of older adults who complete Travel Training with USOAC Travel Trainer, Chonita Chew, continue to ride public transportation. The USOAC Travel Training program has:

- Demonstrated more than 92% rate of participants expressing greater awareness of public transportation
- Created the new Travel Training logo with USOAC leader
- Conducted outreach and raise public awareness to nearly 6,000 contacts
- Continued education to pursue Travel Training Specialist certification
- Continued advocacy for older adult public transit consumers e.g., line #80 restored
- Continued to contact state officials on behalf of transit agencies for Vision Zero policies as it relates to climate changes
- Worked with the community to Reimagine Public Safety at bus stops
- Continued actions with local public officials in support of public transit
- Continued to keep the older adult community informed on Covid-19 updates
- Continued face-to-face Travel Trainings instead of AgingZoom Travel Training due to the virtual factors affecting the integrity of the Travel Training and the challenges older adults have with virtual learning
- Demonstrated a rate of 99% mini-Travel Trainings

July 2021 to June 2023, continued

- Demonstrated a rate of 74% comprehensive (group) Travel Trainings
- Continued to serve and participate on
 - AC Transit GMAC – General Manager’s Accessibility Committee formerly, AC Transit AAC – AC Transit Accessible Advisory Committee
 - Alameda CTC PAPCO – Paratransit Advisory & Planning Committee
 - Alameda CTC ParaTac – Paratransit Technical Advisory Committee
 - BPAC –Unincorporated Alameda County Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee
 - SDA East Bay – Senior Disability Action Group
 - MCPD - Mayor’s Commission of Persons with Disabilities in Oakland
 - NADTC – National Aging and Disability Transportation center
 - America Walks

Table 1 - Performance Measures Report

No.	Performance Measure	Target	Cumulative Performance	Performance Measure Target Achieved? <i>If no, provide an explanation.</i>
1	Number of individuals receiving educational outreach information	1,200	5,895	Target achieved
2	Number of older adults provided mini-Travel Trainings	240	238	Target fell short by 2 due to the impact of Covid-19 Pandemic
3 - 6	Number of older adults provided comprehensive Travel Training	110	81	Target fell short by 29 due to the impact of Covid-19 Pandemic
7	Build infrastructure for full-time regional training by establishing annual calendar of events, tracking / assessment tool and completing train the trainer courses	Ongoing	Annual calendar of events completed and ongoing Tracking assessment tool- ongoing using timesheets and maintaining a calendar of all Travel Training events	Target achieved

8	Demonstrate minimum 85% rate of participants expressing greater awareness of public transportation, how to use it and desire to use it after training (pre- / post assessments)	Ongoing	An overall performance rate of 92.25%	Target achieved
9	Demonstrated 80% of participants using public transportation after 30 days	Ongoing	Uncertain due to the inability to contact trainees.	To be determined

January to June, 2023
Chonita Chew

Current Status

- During this reporting period the project was able to take advantage of the ending of the pandemic with renewed energy and excitement. The Travel Trainer was able to engage through outreach and provide a range of Travel Training to a significant number of senior facilities, their program staff and in multiple languages. Additionally, the Travel Trainer worked closely with AC Transit on its Realign Project to determine future transit services

Actions (in this reporting period)

- The Travel Trainer continues to meet with AC Transit Ward 4 Director, Murphy McCalley, to ensure quality AC Transit services in Castro Valley
- The Travel Trainer has continued the fight to restore the discontinued AC Transit Line #80 in Berkeley, which was changed to Line #7. AC transit added a weekend service and the Line #7 has been extended to serve Emeryville Amtrak from El Cerrito del Norte BART via San Pablo Ave, Barrett Ave, Arlington Blvd, Arlington Ave, Shattuck Ave, Durant Ave./Bancroft Way, College Ave, Ashby Ave, and Hollis St. The AC Transit Line #7 buses run every 30 minutes from 6am to 10pm. The route is temporary and needs to be modified, because the original Line #80 served four senior centers, three in Berkeley and one in Albany, and currently it only serves the one in Berkeley
- The Travel Trainer conducted 10 mini-Travel Trainings, 7 trip planning, and 7 group/comprehensive Travel Trainings
- The Travel Trainer reported to over 120 at the USOAC at the USOAC 32nd Annual Convention on June 30, 2023
- Conducted a trip planning for Christian Church Homes Northern California (CCHNC)
- Conducted trip planning for older adults attending the funeral services in San Francisco for Mary Montgomery, a long-time USOAC leader
- Conducted Day One and Day Two of Travel Training for the North Berkeley Senior Center (NBSC) on March 15th, 16th, 29th and 30th
- Worked with Janny Castillo, USOAC board member, on the new St. Mary's Resources Guide, which will provide an online presence for USOAC; Ms. Castillo also created a USOAC Travel Training
- Worked on the AC Transit Realign Project
- Conducted trip planning for attendees to the USOAC 32nd annual convention, using public transit

January to June 2023, continued

- Planned and prepared for the upcoming Pedestrian Safety action to take place at St. Paul's Towers to ensure safe routes to transit
- Outreached to resident coordinators to wish them a Happy New Year and to remind them about the USOAC Travel Training program, so that they schedule a mini- and/or group Travel Training
- Met (virtually) with East Bay Senior Disability Action (EBSDA) for advocate check-ins
- Participated (virtually) in the Transit Equity Day with other transit advocates throughout the East Bay
- Outreach to over 30 AC Transit bus operators during their mandatory annual refresher training at the Hayward AC Transit Training Center
- Conducted One-on-One with Victoria Mendoza, undergrad at Cal Berkeley, who is studying public health and welfare for older Latinx adults
- Attended (virtually) the Senior Disability Action (SDA) meeting, which focused on Pedestrian Safety and building on the Vision Zero task-force to provide safe routes to transit
- Conducted a mini – Travel Training for the Beth Asher seniors in the Dimond District
- Assisted an older adult in trip planning with Uber as an option
- Worked with Araceli Tellez, the Resident Portfolio Administrator for Oakland Housing Authority (OHA) on planning for 7 OHA senior residential facilities mini-Travel Trainings at Campbell Village (5/19), Adel Court (5/16), Oak Groves North & South (5/17), Harrison Towers (5/10), Tassafaranga Village (6/07) and Keller Plaza (5/25)
- Conducted Day One of Travel Training at Beth Asher in the Diamond District
- Conducted a One-on-One with Drennen Shelton, MTC Planner, about representation for Alameda County at MTC Policy Advisory Council
- Conducted a mini-Travel Training at Palo Vista Gardens for English as well as Vietnamese speaking
- Conducted several One-on-Ones with Frank Ponciano from Winter Consulting in regards to the AC Transit Realign Project
- Attended the AC Transit Breakfast Briefing to hear updates on AC Transit's current initiatives, the adaptations of new commute patterns, the future services, and legislative and policy priorities;
- Travel Trainer was able to voice concerns about the impact on seniors of fare increases and discontinued services
- Conducted One-on-One with Larry Diamond, who volunteers for the Downtown Oakland Senior Center (DOSC), to discuss the possibilities of a mini-Travel Training presentation
- Met (virtually) for the *Master Plan for Aging* on the Legislative Panel Questions a portion of which dealt with transportation

January to June 2023, continued

- Attended (virtually) the Eden Area Senior Action Group (EASAG) meeting to discuss the Travel Training program, public transit, and Pedestrian Safety
- Attended (in-person) Older American month event at Oakland City Hall Plaza
- Attended(in-person) the second '*Welcome to AC Transit's Breakfast Briefing*'
- Contacted the Asian communities about the AC Transit Realign Project survey through the mini-Travel Trainings
- Network and represent USOAC at the Center for Elder Independence (CEI) Pace Party
- Conducted a mini-Travel Training at Harrison Towers (OHA)
- Outreached to the Asian seniors from Harrison Street Senior Housing (CCHNC)
- Conducted several One-on-One's with Jian Chen at Oak Groves North #1 and Oak Groves South #2
- Conducted mini-Travel Training at Oak Groves North and South, assisting in the completion of their Clipper card applications
- Conducted One-on-One with Ally Luo from the Harrison Street Senior Housing (CCHNC) and outreached to the Asian seniors living there who have been isolated due to fear for a Travel Training refresher
- Presented the AC Transit Realign Project at DOSC
- Attended the home going memorial celebration for ADA and transit advocate Hale Zukas
- Assisted Harrison Towers (OHA) Chinese seniors in getting senior Clipper Cards
- Outreached to older adults at the Palo Vista Gardens *Summer Fun Health & Wellness Resources Block Party*
- Outreached with considerable networking at the 50th Year Celebration for St. Mary's Center
- Conducted Follow-up with 23 trainees from 2022, to make sure that were coming to the USOAC convention to receive their '*Travel Training Certificates of Completion*'
- Conducted several One-on-One's with Terence Chan, Resident Coordinator, and translator, to prepare for the Day One and Two of Travel Training with the Chinese seniors at Harrison Towers
- Exhibited at the *Juneteenth Summer Celebration of Culture* at Campbell Village in West Oakland
- Exhibited at the Warren Publishing Group Senior Advocacy Alliance 10th Anniversary Party
- Conducted trip planning for the Chinese seniors at Harrison Street Senior Housing(CCHNC) to the local Walmart store
- Attended (virtually) the Regional Travel Training Team meeting
- Attended (virtually) the Paratransit Technical Advisory Committee (ParaTAC) meeting to discuss extended travel for day trips for the 20th Annual Healthy Living Festival and the USOAC 32nd Annual Convention

January to June 2023, continued

- Attended (virtually) the Unincorporated Alameda County Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) meeting to discuss safety improvements for Castro Valley, which includes safe routes to transit
- Attended (virtually) the 2-day Alameda CTC Paratransit Advisory Planning Committee (PAPCO) Program Plan Review subcommittee meeting
- Met (virtually) with Ignatius Bau for the East Bay Foundation on Aging to talk about Travel Training and one of many Vision Zero pedestrian safety plans
- Attended (virtually) AC Transit General Access Manager's Committee (GMAC - formally AAC)
- Attended (in-person) Town Hall meeting at the Castro Valley Library, sponsored by the United Seniors Eden Area Senior Action Group and Alameda County Supervisor Nate Miley, with a focused presentation to more than 55 attendees on the AC Transit Realign project
- Attended (virtually) a community meeting for BART, *'BART Listening Session'*
- Conducted Day One of Travel Training for Palo Vista Gardens to 10 seniors on April 13th
- Participated an action meeting with Oakland Mayor Sheng Thao to discuss her plans to address quality-of-life issue facing Oakland seniors
- Conducted a mini-Travel Training and AC Transit Realign Project survey for the seniors at Adel Court in Diamond District
- Conducted a mini-Travel Training for the seniors at Campbell Village in West Oakland
- Conducted mini-Travel Training at Keller Plaza in Oakland
- Conducted for the mini-Travel Training at Tassforanga
- Listened to the Accessibilities Awareness and Foundations Webinar recording and resource information on Pedestrian Safety and Street crossings in preparation for future safe routes to transit action at St. Paul's Towers
- Attended (virtually) the annual Making a Difference Conference - *'Striving for Equity at the Intersection of Health, Housing, and Aging in the Community'*
- Attended (in-person) AC Transit Ethics Training as required under California Assembly Bill 1234; Travel Trainer serves on the AC Transit Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC), which is subject to this legislation
- Conducted mini-Travel Training and outreach in two languages for the seniors at Beth Asher
- Conduct Day One and Day Two of Travel Training for 12 trainees from the DOSC

January to June 2023, continued

Table 1 - Performance Measures Report				
No.	Performance Measure	Target	Progress/Activity to date	Progress/Activity this Period
1	Number of individuals receiving educational outreach information	300	<u>Every 6 months</u> FY 21/22 – first half July 2021 thru December 2021	3,488
		300	FY 21/22 second half January 2022 thru June 2022	342
		300	FY22/23 – first Half July 2022 thru December 2022	1,135
		300	FY22/23 – second Half January 2023 thru June 2023	930
2	Number of Older Adults Provided mini-Travel Trainings		<u>Every 6 months</u>	
		60	FY 22/23 – first Half July 2022 thru December 2022	20 older adults
		60	FY 22/23 – second Half January 2023 thru December 2023	2 mini-Travel Trainings with a total of 5 older adults and 1 coordinator
		60	FY 22/23 – first Half July 2022 thru December 2022	112 (100 at the USOAC convention and 12 locally)
		60	FY 22/23 – second Half January 2023 thru June 2023	104 older adults / conducted 10 mini-Travel Trainings
3	Number of Older Adults Provided Comprehensive Travel Training	20	FY 21/22 – first half July thru December 2021	2 One-on-One Older Adult Travel Trainings 2 Summer Interns No group Travel Trainings

4	Number of Older Adults Provided Comprehensive Travel Training	30	FY 21/22 – second half January 2022 thru June 2022	7 older adults as follows: 2 One-on-One's 1 re-up 1 group w/ 3 1 incomplete 52 trip planning with 5 senior centers 1 service coordinator for a total of 92 adults
5	Number of older adults provided comprehensive Travel Training	30	FY 22/23 – first half July 2022 thru December 2022	26
6	Number of older adults provided comprehensive Travel Training	30	FY 22/23 – second half January 2023 thru June 2023	62 Travel Trainees with 46 completing
7	Build Infrastructure for full-time Regional Training by establishing Annual Calendar of Events, Tracking / Assessment Tool and completing Train the Trainer courses	Ongoing	Entire grant period	Annual Calendar of Events completed and ongoing Tracking/ Assessment Tool – ongoing using timesheets and maintaining a calendar of all Travel Training events
8	Demonstrate minimum of 85% rate of participants expressing greater awareness of public transportation, how to use it, and desire to use it after training (pre- / post – assessments)	Ongoing	Entire grant period	There were 46 Travel Trainees who completed the course and 2 had greater awareness of how to use public transit for a 92% rate

9	Demonstrated 80% of participants using public transportation after 30 days	Ongoing	Entire grant period	A total of 412 trips were taken this reporting period, involving 62 Travel Trainees and with 104 mini-Travel Trainees and 7 major trip planning. Most are still using public transportation
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1. List all performance measures and targets included in funding agreement for PROJECT.

Outreach Totals

- January 19
- February 112
- March 94
- April 87
- May 271
- June 347

Travel Training Dates Totals

- March 28 – 3 trainees / no trips due to floods Day One only – Beth Asher
- March 15 & 16 – 4 trainees / 4 completed /48 trips – North Berkeley Senior Center
- March 29 & 30 – 3 trainees / 3 completed /14 trips – North Berkeley Senior Center
- April 13 & 26 – 13 trainees / 6 completed / 72 trips – Palo Vista Gardens
- May 31 & June 1 – 12 trainees / 12 completed / 120 trips – Downtown Oakland Senior Center
- June 6 & 20 – 10 trainees / 6 completed / 54 trips – Harrison Towers (group 1)
- June 14 & 15 – 9 trainees / 7 completed / 56 trips – Harrison Towers (group2)
- June 21 & 22 – 8 trainees / 8 completed /48 trips – Harrison Street Senior Housing

****62 Travel Trainees / 46 Completed / 412 trips were taken**

July to December 2023

Chonita Chew

Status Update

- Travel Training was able to take full advantage of being conducted in-person. There were no virtual Travel Trainings. The Travel Trainer continued to engage with the older adult community throughout Alameda County by visiting senior housing facilities, senior centers, and attending outreach events
- Travel Trainer continued to work closely with the AC Transit Realign Project
- The USOAC Travel Training program continued to be in high demand; for example, the City of Berkeley has a wait list from the prior reporting period, January 1st through June 30th. The Travel Trainer plans to work the wait list simultaneously with other trainings and have everyone Travel Trained by the conclusion of the next reporting period on June 30, 2024.
- The USOAC Travel Training program is facing an issue that has negatively affected advertising resources due to the loss of the Born-to-Age magazine, senior housing guides, and senior information referral sources. The Travel Trainer will need to be proactive and innovative outreach to the older adult community, especially since the digital divide among seniors is still impactful and digital communication cannot be a reliable substitute.
- The Travel Trainer continued to advocate for older adult public transit consumers. There was a major success with the restoration of AC Transit Line #80. This bus line runs along the Ashby corridor in Berkeley. Prior to the elimination of AC Transit Line #80, it had only 300 riders a day; presently, this bus line now carries over 4,000 patrons a day
- There was a significant amount of outreach, 1878 contacts, despite the loss of some advertising resources
 - July - 15
 - August - 166
 - September - 1,100
 - October - 300
 - November - 48
 - December - 249
- Travel Trainer supported the transportation needs of older adults who wanted to attend the 20th Annual Health Living Festival (HLF)
- There were 4 Travel Trainings for 20 trainees along with 115 trips taken, and 1 mini travel training for 60 participants
 - August 23rd& 31st – South Berkeley Senior Center 4 trainees with 2 completions for 16 trips
 - October 18th – SIPP mini-Travel Training w/60 attendees
 - November 2nd – One-on-one training with one trainee for two sessions with 8 trips
 - November 15th& 16th – North Berkeley Senior Center 15 trainees with 11 completions for 88 trips

July to December 2023, continued

- August 11th Action at St. Paul's Towers to address the pedestrian safety and safe routes to transit concerns; re: Bay Street & Montecito Avenue, with St. Paul's Towers seniors and staff plus others from the Downtown Oakland Senior Center, as well as St. Paul's Episcopal School
- December 6th Action at St. Mary's Center was successful in saving the AC Transit Line #72R along the San Pablo Corridor for seniors and the West Oakland community

Outreach

- July 2023 – Outreach contacts numbered 15
 - Worked with the senior residence at St. Paul's Towers, the Downtown Oakland Senior Center, and the St. Paul's Episcopal School to address pedestrian safety concerns and safe routes to transit at Bay Street & Montecito Avenue in Oakland. A letter was sent to Mayor Sheng Thao and a flyer, along with an agenda was distributed for an August 11th action meeting at ST. Paul's Towers
 - Worked to complete transit and safety communications for the 20th Annual Healthy Living Festival scheduled for September 28th at the Oakland Zoo
 - Worked with the USOAC Summer Intern to translate the pre- and post- assessment form into Chinese from June 2023 and conducted a one-on-one mini-Travel Training with the intern to improve understanding for senior engagement
- August 2023 – Outreach contacts numbered 166
 - Exhibited for the National Night Out at Tassafaronga Village in East Oakland
 - Emailed seniors and numerous communications to all parties for St. Paul's Towers, Downtown Oakland Senior Center, and St. Paul's Episcopal School action to address pedestrian safety concerns and safe routes to transit at Bay St & Montecito Avenue and attended a virtual planning meeting with seniors, parents, and community friends
 - Made telephone calls, emails, and in-person visits to address damaged bus stops and discontinued bus lines
 - Attended Senior Disability Action virtual roundtable on their Realign plans
 - Spoke in person to Larry Diamond and Jessi Cutter from the Downtown Oakland Senior Center about the issues to be addressed at the upcoming August 11th action and left flyers to be distributed
 - Spoke to St. Paul's Towers residents with updates on the upcoming action including follow-ups, reminders, emails, phone calls, Covid-19 guidelines, and other special concerns
 - Spoke to Ian Griffiths about the MTC Bay Area Plan, survey, and the results
 - Spoke with other advocates to learn about transit in Switzerland and discuss East Bay transit comparisons
 - Conference called with AC Transit reps about detouring bus line #46 into the Oakland Zoo at the lower entrance to accommodate the older adult attendees for the 20th Annual HLF; a flyer was used to distribute in the community for public transit HLF riders
 - Responded to HLF transportation phone call and email questions and/or concerns
 - Called and emailed to help St. Paul's Towers resident, Ann Wigglesworth, with her transportation concern with the building's elevators
 - Worked with South Berkeley Senior Center staff to prepare for the large class size anticipated for Day One of Travel Training
 - Called, text messaged, and emailed to assist and trip plan for older adults outside of Alameda County, who were attending the HLF
 - Attended the Eden Area Senior Action Group (EASAG) meeting to discuss Travel Training, including pedestrian safety and safe routes to transit

July to December 2023, continued

- Spoke broadly to the community about Clipper cards
- September 2023 – Outreach contacts numbered 1,100
 - Spoke to seniors and worked our transit network to get them to the HLF
 - Assisted a senior with her Regional Transit Card in preparation for a One-on-one Travel Training
 - Attended in-person the AC Transit Board of Directors meeting and the Project Realign update and follow-up
 - Continued to respond to the transportation needs of older adults, who want to attend the HLF as well as answer community questions
 - Used 7 different text messages with departure points as a new approach to instructions on how to get to the Oakland Zoo for the HLF
 - Attended via Zoom a follow-up meeting on the pedestrian safety and safe routes to transit action with St. Paul's Towers, Downtown Oakland Senior Center, and St. Paul's Episcopal School
 - Spoke to Ann Wigglesworth as follow up with the elevator in the building that she considered a transportation concern
 - Spoke to Nancy Eichler, a leader and resident at St. Paul's Towers, about the Bay Street & Montecito Avenue pedestrian safety and safe routes to transit follow up
 - Coordinated transportation at the lower entrance for the HLF at the Oakland Zoo with over 1000 older adults arriving there by AC Transit, paratransit, and vehicles; another roughly 2000 arrived at the upper area for the HLF by chartered buses, vans, shuttles, paratransit, and vehicles
- October 2023 – Outreach contacts numbered 300
 - Wrote 'thank you' notes to AC Transit reps for assisting with the detour of bus line #46L for the HLF
 - Responded to calls and questions from concerned seniors in the community about the Clipper card discount
 - Responded to a list of questions regarding dementia and the USOAC Travel Training program
 - Educated Andrea Mok from Oakland Aging and Adult Services on Clipper card for the **Rides for Seniors & Persons with Disabilities (RSPD)** program
 - Assisted Janny Castillo on the St. Mary's Resource Guide with USOAC Travel Training pictures, website, and other general information. This guide is a full-service resource for seniors; the only other transit guide that has a focus on older adults and persons with disabilities is Access Alameda
 - Worked virtually with on several occasions with Laura Fultz and Carol Powers from Alameda County Healthcare Services Agency EMS Division to practice and prepare for a PowerPoint recording on October 18th for the monthly online Senior Injury Prevention Partnership (SIPP) presentations with a 40-minute segment on Travel Training
 - Attended and volunteered to pass out food samples at the Downtown Oakland Senior Center for the Healthy Aging Food Festival
 - Assisted seniors in the community to obtain a Senior Clipper card to maximize their travel and transit discounts
 - Spoke to a couple who had returned to the Oakland Zoo and rode AC Transit but were surprised that the bus did not go into the zoo; referred this to the AC Transit Realign project to accommodate a detour into the Zoo for all transit riders during the summer to avoid crossing Golf Links Road as a safe route to transit
 - Attended virtually the Regional Transportation Measure – discussion re: Revenue options & potential expenditures for person with disabilities and older adults that was focused on senior transit

July to December 2023, continued

- Prepared for and attended the *Coffee & Conversations with Councilmember Treva Reid* as a mini-Travel Training at the East Oakland Senior Center
- Spoke to AC Transit on redistricting of Ward 4
- Attended the MTC *Next Generation Bay Area Freeways* focus group
- November 2023 – Outreach contacts numbered 48
 - Held several meetings with Travel Trainees Lawanda Malone and Cindy Long from Casa Ubuntu; Ms. Malone will help with some hands-on Travel Training
 - Worked with Arcelli Tellez from the Oakland Housing Authority to schedule Travel Trainings in 2024
 - Called to former contacts for senior resource information
 - Spoke to Nancy Eichler to discuss follow up on pedestrian safety and safe routes to transit action for Bay Street & Montecito Avenue
 - Worked with City of Berkeley staff to arrange Travel Training at the North Berkeley Senior Center
 - Assisted older adults at the North Berkeley Senior Center to complete Clipper card applications and explain the transit discount
 - Held a roundtable discussion with Andrea Mok, Lisa Torres (Senior Aide for Oakland Adult & Aging Services), and Priscilla DrawSand (Senior Services Program Manager for Oakland Aging and Adult Services)
 - Held a meeting with Alameda County Public Works Agency regarding a letter of support for Safe Routes to BART and to extend a bike lane on Norbridge Avenue in Castro Valley
 - Attended via Zoom the Draft 1121 Interim Report Public Workshop Confirmation for stakeholder input
- December 2023 – Outreach contacts numbered 249
 - Attended in-person the Grand Reopening of the Kenneth C. Aitken Senior Community Center in Castro Valley and identified the desire to restore the AC Transit Flex Shuttle
 - Worked with St. Mary's Center seniors to plan an action to save the AC Transit Line #72R, that runs along the San Pablo corridor
 - Worked with Lisa Torres, an Oakland Senior Aide, to secure Clipper cards for the seniors who remain actively employed in Alameda County
 - Conducted community engagement workshops along the San Pablo corridor to help save the bus line #72R
 - Attended via Zoom the AC Transit Realign Phase 3 Community Workshop
 - Attended via Zoom the Walkable Neighborhoods 4 Seniors Walk Club meeting to report on the status of the pedestrian safety and safe routes to transit efforts near St Paul's Towers, Downtown Oakland Senior Center, and Paul's Episcopal School
 - Made e-blast and phone call informational alerts about the 2024 USOAC Travel Training program
 - Spoke to Janny Castillo from St. Mary's Center about follow up from the December 6th action
 - Communicated successfully with an elderly couple that had formerly requested trip route information

July to December 2023, continued

- Networked with various agencies and organizations at an in-person event hosted by the Alameda County District Attorney
- Attended via Zoom the USOAC Covid -19 & Senior Online Technology meeting

Continued Education / Webinars / Trainings

- July 2023
 - *Webinar: How You Can Conduct Sidewalk Inventories!*
 - Learned a tool for ADA compliance as it relates to transportation and data equity
 - Learned to develop a practical guide to advocate
 - Learned methods to get the word out and plan for actions
- August 2023
 - *Webinar: Lessons from Switzerland for Bay Area and US Public Transit*
 - Bay Area advocates and transit reps visited Switzerland and provided feedback on their transit system
 - *Training: Eastmont Emergency and Evacuation Training*
 - Emergency training + homework to keep USOAC staff and seniors updated
 - *Webinar: In-person at Alameda CTC office*
NADTC – National Aging and Disability Transportation Center – *National Symposium on Transportation DEI (Diversity Equity and Inclusion)*
- September 2023
 - *Webinar: On-line FEMA disaster preparedness training*
- November 2023
 - *Training (via Zoom) the DxP – Data Exchange Framework* for Senior Service Coalition members

Actions

- August 11th
 - St. Paul's Towers, Downtown Oakland Senior Center, and St. Pauls' Episcopal School with several older adults, their allies, and public officials to discuss pedestrian safety and safe routes to transit concerns at Bay Street & Montecito Avenue
- September 28th
 - 20th Annual HLF with a self-defense focus for older adults from Alameda County Sheriff's Office and many other demonstrations, information, and resources; the self-defense demonstration was extremely helpful to alleviate some of the fear experienced by senior transit riders
- December 6th
 - USOAC through its St. Mary's chapter held a workshop to Shape the Future of AC Transit's bus network and to stop the discontinuation of the AC Transit Line #72R that runs along the San Pablo corridor and for its restoration

Meetings

- July 2023
 - Monthly meeting with USOAC Board of Directors/Leadership Organizing Team to finalize action plans and letter to Mayor Sheng Thao
- August 2023
 - Met to plan action and discuss updates with seniors and others from St. Paul's Towers, Oakland Downtown Senior Center, and St. Paul's Episcopal School on Bay Street & Montecito Avenue about pedestrian safety concerns, safe routes to transit, and street design

July to December 2023, continued

- Site visit to St. Paul's Towers, Bay Street and Montecito Avenue with staff from the senior residential facility, the senior center, and the school to do an assessment, and discuss as well as plan logistics for the upcoming action on August 11th
 - Monthly meeting with USOAC Board of Directors to report on Travel Training
 - Met virtually on Realign Phase 2: Future AC Transit Service
 - Met virtually and onsite with the HLF Steering Committee
- September 2023
 - Monthly meeting with USOAC Board of Directors to update on transit activities for the 20th Annual HLF
 - Onsite visit to the Oakland Zoo for HLF Steering Committee meeting
 - Met virtually for the Paratransit Technical Advisory Committee (ParaTAC) to discuss performance measures and backup trips for seniors
 - Zoom meeting and follow-up on Pedestrian Safety
 - Met online for the Unincorporated Alameda County Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory (BPAC) Committee meeting
- October 2023
 - Attended AC Transit Phase 1 and Phase 3 Redistricting Community Workshop
 - Monthly meeting with the USOAC Board of Directors
 - Attended the AC Transit General Manager's Access Committee (GMAC) meeting
 - Met virtually for the Paratransit Advisory and Planning Committee (PAPCO) meeting
 - Met virtually on the Regional Transportation Measure to discuss revenue options and potential expenditures for disabled persons and older adults
 - Attended the MTC focus group on the Next Generation of Bay Area Freeways
 - Attended AC Transit Redistricting meeting for Ward 4
- November 2023
 - Attended the AC Transit Board of Directors meeting to hear updates on the AC Transit Realign Project
 - Monthly meeting with the USOAC Board of Directors to report on Travel Training
 - Attended via Zoom the monthly GMAC meeting
 - Had a roundtable discussion with the Oakland Area on Aging to discuss transit/transportation
 - Met with Alameda County Public Works on a Safe Routes to BART grant proposal support letter
- December 2023
 - Met virtually for the HLF Steering Committee
 - Met via Zoom with the Walkable Neighborhoods 4 Seniors Walk Club meeting
 - Attended in-person the GMAC monthly meeting
 - Attended the AC Transit Redistricting wrap-up for Ward 7

Travel Training – Mini-Travel Training – Trip Planning

- August 2023
 - Conducted Travel Training for South Berkeley Senior Center
- October 2023
 - Conducted a mini-Travel Training for SIPP, including staff from Alameda County Health Care Services Agency Emergency Medical Services Division
 - Presented Travel Training at the East Oakland Senior Center for Councilperson Treva Reid's '**Coffee and Conversation**'

July to December 2023, continued

- November 2023
 - Conducted a 2 Day One-on-One Travel Training with LaWanda Malone
 - Conducted a special Train the Trainer Travel Training for LaWanda Malone, so that she could assist with Travel Trainings
 - Conducted 2 Day Travel Training with the North Berkeley Senior Center
- December 2023
 - Trip planned for an elderly couple wanting to go to SF and San Mateo
 - Trip planned for a senior going to the South Bay

Pedestrian Safety, Safe Routes to Transit, Trip Planning, Actions and Advocacy

- August 2023
 - AC Transit Realign Project presentations for
 - Senior Disability Action (SDA)
 - In-person at AC Transit Headquarters
 - Other East Bay organizations via Zoom
- September 2023
 - Follow up and next steps with Nancy Eichler at St. Paul's Towers on Bay Street & Montecito Avenue

July to December 2023, continued

- October 2023
 - Work to personalize the Travel Training manual to match SIPP presentation, focusing on falls prevention
 - Conduct a trial run with Laura Fultz, Program Specialist, for input to make sure it was approved
 - Follow up on emails about bus benches at dangerous intersections and crosswalks
 - Sent emails to AC Transit to make the bus line #46L detour into the Oakland Zoo permanent
 - Spoke to AC Transit on Redistricting in Ward 4
- November 2023
 - Continue communication with older adults from St. Paul's Towers
 - Continue advocacy for Street Crossing 101 (i.e. basic street crossing) because seniors need to be reminded about walking against the light, jay-walking, running for buses, etc.
 - Conduct trip planning with LaWanda Malone and the seniors from the North Berkeley Senior Center
- December 2023
 - Provide a letter of support for Safe Routes 2 BART for BPAC

Research

- September 2023
 - Researched alternative routes for AC Transit Line #46L to discuss with their planners
- November 2023
 - Researched last year's expenses to determine expenditures to date to finish all the Travel Trainings through the end of 2023
 - Worked with USOAC Administrative Assistant to review expenses since July to start on the year end reports

July to December 2023, continued

- December 2023
 - Researched senior resource guides throughout Alameda County to place Travel Training information
 - Reviewed the Alameda CTC Project Funding Agreement for past four fiscal years, FY2019 to FY2023, to analyze the Travel Training program records

Table 1 - Performance Measures Report				
No.	Performance Measure	Target	Progress/Activity to date	Progress/Activity this Period
1	Number of individuals receiving educational outreach information	300	FY 23/24 – First Half July 2023 thru December 2023 1,878	1,878
2	Number of Older Adults Provided mini-Travel Training	60	FY 23/24 – First Half July 2023 thru December 2023 60 participants	Conducted a mini-Travel for 60 SIPP members and Alameda County staff
3	Number of Older Adults Provided Comprehensive Travel Training	30	FY 23/24 – First Half July 2023 thru December 2023 20 trainees	<p>South Berkeley Seniors 4 older adults were Travel Trained – 2 completed, and 16 trips were taken</p> <p>2 duplicate One-on-ones Travel Trainings for 8 trips</p> <p>North Berkeley Seniors 15 older adults were Travel Trained with 10 older adults and 1 disabled adult completed, and 88 trips were taken</p>

4	Number of Older Adults Provided Comprehensive Travel Training	30	FY 23/24 – Second Half January 2024 thru June 2024	Not applicable
5	Number of older adults provided comprehensive Travel Training	Grant Ended	Not applicable	Not applicable
6	Number of older adults provided comprehensive Travel Training	Grant Ended	Not applicable	Not applicable
7	Build Infrastructure for full-time regional training by establishing annual calendar of events, tracking/ assessment tool and completing Train the Trainer courses	Ongoing	Entire grant period	Annual calendar of event completed and ongoing Tracking /Assessment tool – ongoing using time sheets and maintaining a calendar of all Travel Training events
8	Demonstrate minimum of 85% rate of participants expressing greater awareness of public transportation, how to use it, and desire to use it after Travel Training (pre- / post-assessments)	Ongoing	Entire grant period	There was a total of 20 Travel Trainees and 14 who the completed the program. 13 show a greater awareness of how to use public transit with only 1 using UBER of the 14 for a 93% rate
9	Demonstrated 80% of participants using public transportation after 30 days	Ongoing	Entire grant period	A total of 107 trips were taken this reporting period, involving 20 Travel Trainees and 60 mini-Travel Training participants. There were 4 trip plannings outside of the comprehensive Travel Training with 1 demonstration on trip planning and only one follow up (she now takes UBER)

Acknowledgements
Our USOAC 2023-24 Board of Directors/Leadership Organizing Team (LOT)

Officers:

President, Nate Miley
First Vice President, Nathaniel Harrison
Second Vice President, Vacant
Treasurer, Sandra Johnson
Secretary - Vacant

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Chonita Chew, Organizer/Travel Trainer
Sister Ansar Muhammad, Organizer/Walk Club Coordinator
Tanya Washington. Program Assistant/Housing, Nutrition, and Eden Area

Acknowledgments
Our Leaders, Friends, Supporters and Allies

Walkable Neighborhoods 4 Seniors (WN4S) Walk Club Committee

Healthy Living Festival (HLF) Steering Committee

Senior Action Team (SAT)

Eden Area Senior Action Group (EASAG)

Senior Nutrition Advocacy Committee (SNAC)

Senior Service Coalition (SSC)

Senior Injury Prevention Partnership (SIPP)

Gold Star Shared Housing, Inc (GSSH)

California Alliance of Retired Americans (CARA)

Covid-19 Relief & Recovery Committee (CRRC)

Senior Technology Committee (STC)

33rd Annual Convention Sponsorship Recognition

Miley for Supervisor

Alameda County Transportation Commission

Alameda County Auditor-Controller/Clerk-Recorder Melissa Welk

Service Employee International Union/SEIU Local 1021

AC Transit

Alameda County Supervisor David Haubert

Acknowledgments

Our Generous 2023 Financial Contributors

Eden Health District

East Bay Foundation on Aging

Alameda County Transportation Commission

Toni Alexander

Terpene Belt. Inc

Nate Miley

Alameda Health System

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Bay Area Air Quality Management District

Oakland Zoo

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Acknowledgments

Our 2024 Convention Exhibitors

AC Transit

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JANUARY 2023

Master Plan **FOR AGING**

MPA ANNUAL REPORT



California's Master Plan

FOR AGING

2023-24 INITIATIVES

*Delivering Results for
Older Adults, People with
Disabilities, and Caregivers*



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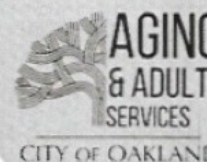
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- ☒ Taxi scrip and wheelchair accessible van vouchers
- ☒ Discounts on Uber/Lyft using GoGo Grandparent
- ☒ Discounted group trips for senior centers and senior housing

Oakland Paratransit for the Elderly and Disabled

150 Frank Ogawa Plaza, Ste. 4353

Phone: 510-283-3036

senior.rides@oaklandca.gov www.oaklandca.gov/topics/paratransit-services





**CONGRATULATION
FOR ANOTHER
SUCCESSFUL YEAR,
and here's to many
more!**

**Yours in service,
Cecilia Cunningham**



East Bay Network

Rebuilding Together East Bay Network congratulates Supervisor Nate Miley, United Seniors of Oakland, and Alameda County for 38 years of fighting for Older Adults Quality of Life. Rebuilding Together is proud to be a part of USOAC 34th Annual Convention and support to continue the extraordinary advocacy for our Older Adults in Oakland and Alameda County.



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In collaboration with the United Seniors of Oakland
CaBRE: #00697655 • NMILS: #01728745

Program funded by grant from:
East Bay Community Foundation



**CONGRATULATIONS USOAC on your 33rd
Annual Convention for outstanding
Community Services to OLDER ADULTS!**

Golden Age Senior Center
7200 Bancroft Avenue, Suite 209
Oakland, CA 94605 510 382-1474

Sandra J. Johnson, President
James Calhoun, 1st Vice President
Marjorie Baker, 2nd Vice President
Lisa Jordan, Secretary - Jason Hughes, Treasurer
and other Board Members

On behalf of our Membership
at Golden Age Senior Center, we thank you
for your support and services! May you
continuously have success empowering
seniors, and enhancing communities in
Oakland and Alameda County.

**Congratulations on
Another Successful Year
of Empowering Seniors!**



**Here's to us, fellow members of USOAC!
Congratulations on 38 Years of
Advocating for Seniors.**



**Your fellow senior,
Toni Alexander**



Congratulations

**to all the members of USOAC for 38 years of collectively organizing
around issues that impact the quality of life for older adults,
from the 2024 Board of Directors/Leadership Organizing Team!**

(Missing from photos: Lillian Black)

Marie A. Fisher

WHEREAS, Marie A. Fisher, born on July 27th, 1928, and departed from this world on December 26, 2023, has left an indelible mark on the lives of those who had the privilege of knowing her; and

WHEREAS, friends and family will gather at St. Benedict Church in Oakland on January 20th to celebrate the life of Marie, a woman whose warmth, dedication, and compassion touched the hearts of many; and

WHEREAS, Marie A. Fisher was a founding member of the non-profit organization United Seniors of Oakland and Alameda County, demonstrating her commitment to the well-being and welfare of the elderly in our community; and

WHEREAS, she was also a founding member of Friends of Father Augustus Tolton, showcasing her dedication to religious and community service; and

WHEREAS, Marie was an esteemed member of St. Benedict Court 336, domiciled at St. Benedict Church, contributing her time and talents to the betterment of the community; and

WHEREAS, on February 8, 1975, **Marie A. Fisher** was initiated into the Knights of Peter Claver Ladies Auxiliary, embodying the principles of unity, charity, and fraternity; and

WHEREAS, she served the Knights of Peter Claver Ladies Auxiliary with unwavering commitment, holding various roles such as Junior Daughter Counselor, Secretary, and Grand Lady of St. Bernards Court 212; and

WHEREAS, Marie A. Fisher also took on significant responsibilities, including Faithful Navigator of Rose L. Casanave Chapter 15, President of the Northern California Inter Councils and Courts, and Area Deputy; and

WHEREAS, her dedication extended to chairing the committee that brought the Knights of Peter Claver, Inc. and Ladies Auxiliary National Convention to the Western States District for the first time in Oakland, California; and

WHEREAS, Marie transferred her membership to St. Benedict Court 336, continuing her active involvement and serving as Junior Daughter Counselor once again; and

WHEREAS, Marie A. Fisher passionately believed in the future of the Order resting in the hands of the youth, leaving a lasting legacy of encouragement and support for generations to come; and

WHEREAS, Marie A. Fisher was preceded in death by her beloved husband J. H. Fisher, youngest daughter Lori Fisher, and son Damon Fisher;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that we, the friends, family, and community members, join together in honoring and remembering the extraordinary life of **Marie A. Fisher**. May her legacy of service, compassion, and dedication inspire us all to live with purpose and make a positive impact on the lives of others.



Nate Miley

Nate Miley, President

United Seniors of Oakland and Alameda County
January 20, 2024

Remembering Mary



Mary Kathryn Montgomery was born March 27, 1947 in Hattiesburg Mississippi, one of 8 children of the late Hiram Montgomery Sr. and Katie Mae Tibbs Montgomery.

Mary accepted Jesus Christ as her lord and savior at the age of 11 years old at the True Light Baptist Church under the J.F. Ratliff and was taught and trained by that loving Christian congregation of Missionary Workers.

Mary left the segregated south at the age of 16 in 1963. She stated that she came to California hoping for greater opportunity to do different things and to meet different people.

Mary worked various jobs and eventually moved into the residence widely known as "The Pink Palace" with her two daughters Tina Eskridge, born in 1967 and Trina Morgan, born in 1969. In 1971 Mary started doing White Crane Gung Fu with Master George Long and

eventually became the first Black woman in California to reach her rank in the White Crane system. When asked what made her become interested in doing Martial Arts, she stated that she was interested in learning and that George Long seemed like a nice man when she entered his studio and expressed an interest in learning. She eventually became close friends and training colleagues with Sifu Ron Dong, arguably one of the most respected White Crane specialists in the system.

In 1973, Mary met her lifelong partner Robert Lee "Bob" Brown and two years later their daughter, Tracy Brown was born of their union. Mary and her daughters moved to the Sunset District that year and she and Bob remained united for the next 50 years.

Mary was actively involved in her community and valued learning about and teaching her daughter about the contributions made by people of African descent. She, her sisters and her daughters attended Emmanuel Baptist Church in San Francisco where she was known for sharing her powerful singing voice. She would often play the piano while singing both the lead and the backup parts of songs. She was especially fond of "Old Negro Spirituals" like *Blessed Assurance*. Mary was also actively involved in the coordination of the San Francisco Juneteenth, the second oldest Juneteenth celebration in the country. For a number of years she could be seen marching in custom made or customized attire with her three daughters. Mary was also heartily involved in the Wajumbe Community where she exposed her daughters to Pan African Cultural Arts and, just as importantly, surrounded them with artist and scholars who directly contributed to the richness of Black Arts landscape here in the Bay Area. Mary also continued training in and practicing her beloved Martial Arts with organizations like Ron Dong's School of White Crane Gung Fu, Coscos Martial Arts Academy and Pitt's Martial Arts Academy.

Mary was dedicated to Social Justice and participated in community based organizations like The Western Addition Project Area Committee (WAPAC), The San Francisco Juneteenth and later The United Seniors of Oakland and Alameda County Supervisor Nate Miley's office.

Mary leaves to cherish her memory her partner of 50 years, Robert Lee Brown, three daughters: Tina Eskridge & Tracy Brown of Oakland, CA, and Trina Morgan of San Leandro, CA, Two brothers: Matthew Montgomery of Vacaville CA & Charles Montgomery of Las Vegas, CA, One Sister: Katie Ruth Whitmore of San Francisco, CA, Three Sisters-in law: Miriam Montgomery, Millie Montgomery & Beverly Montgomery as well as a host of nieces, nephews, extended relatives and friends.

She will forever be known for her exuberant energy, big laugh, bright smile, frequently friendly ways, unique style and soul stirring singing voice. She is definitely one of the most unforgettable people you will ever have met and will be truly missed by many.

God Bless You

The family of Mary Montgomery wishes to extend our appreciation for each prayer, act of kindness, and encouraging word during our time of bereavement.

An extra special thanks to the Directors Green and the team at the AAACC for hosting the memorial and all that they did to make this memorial possible.



Our Mother



Our Sister & Friend



My Life Partner

*So we fix our eyes **not** on what is seen, but on what is unseen since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.*

2 Corinthians 4:18





Save the Date
Thursday, September 26, 2024
for the 21st Annual

Healthy Living Festival

At the Oakland Zoo
9777 Golf Links Rd. Oakland, CA 94605
9:00 AM - 2:00 PM

This **FREE** event is reserved for Alameda County
older adults (60+) and their guests.

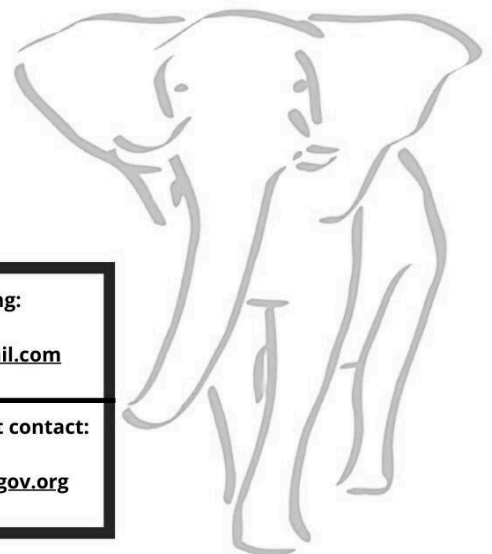
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Mary.USOAC@gmail.com

For Travel Training:
(510) 729-0851
Chonita.USOAC@gmail.com

For Bus Reservations at large sites
contact:
(510) 272-3691
Erin.Armstrong@acgov.org

For Registration support contact:
(510) 670-5964
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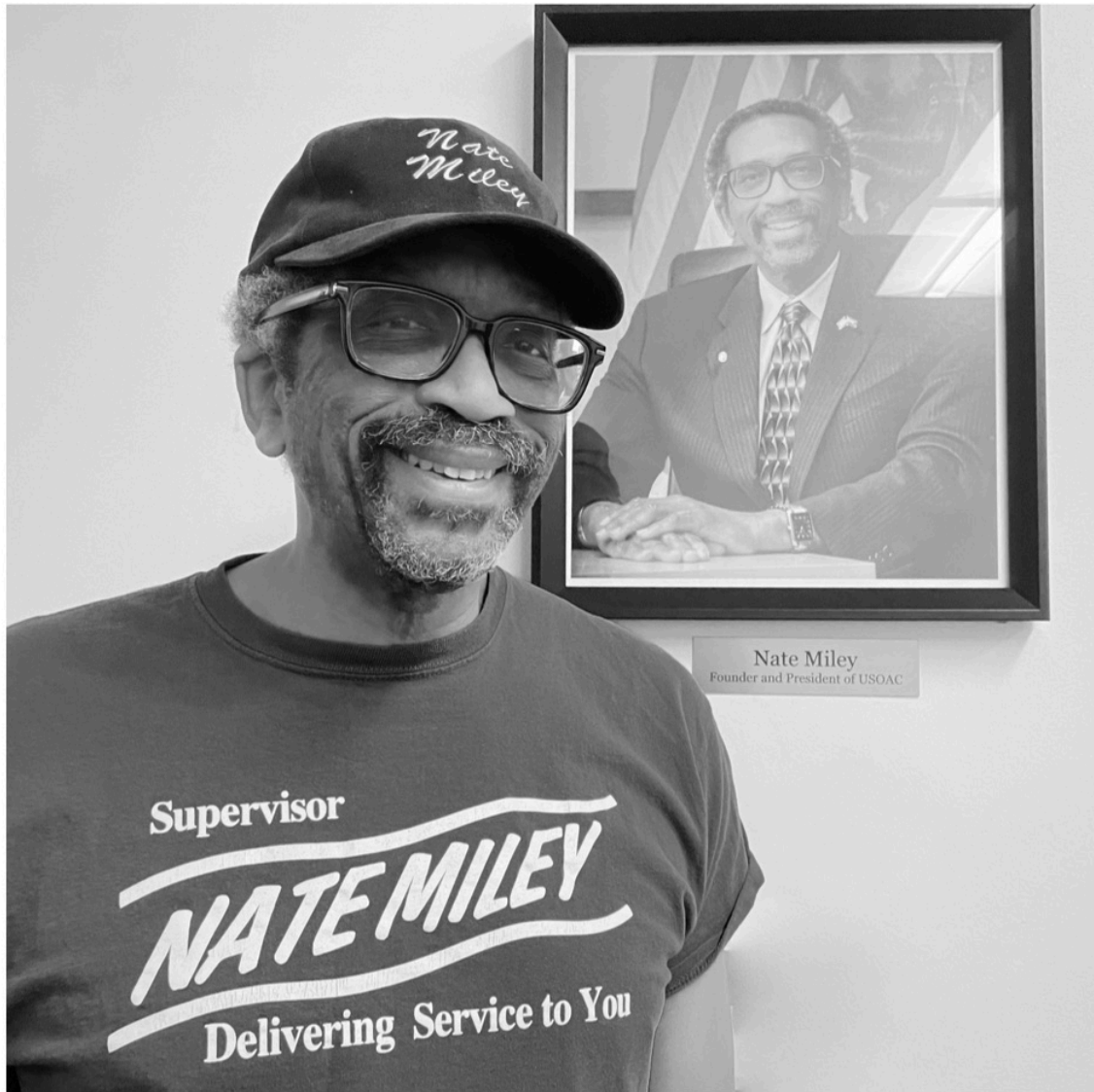
Or

Donate online via Zelle to: usoacstaff@gmail.com

For more information, contact Tanya Washington at 510-729-0852 or twashington2013@gmail.com

**Thanks in advance for your support
and your tax deductible contribution!**

*Congratulations to the Members of USOAC
on 38 Highly Successful Years!*



I'm humbled and proud to serve as your president.

Nate Miley



Accessible Transportation in Alameda County

Programs and services in Alameda County for older adults and people with disabilities are **funded and supported by Alameda CTC**, such as:

- Travel Training
- East Bay Paratransit
- Nonprofit transportation, including
 - Alzheimer's Services of the East Bay (ASEB) and
 - Bay Area Outreach & Recreation Program (BORP)
- Subsidized same-day transportation programs

USOAC – 38 Years and Going Strong!

Alameda CTC thanks you for your hard work and continued provision of services to older adults and people with disabilities in Alameda County.

For Paratransit Program information:

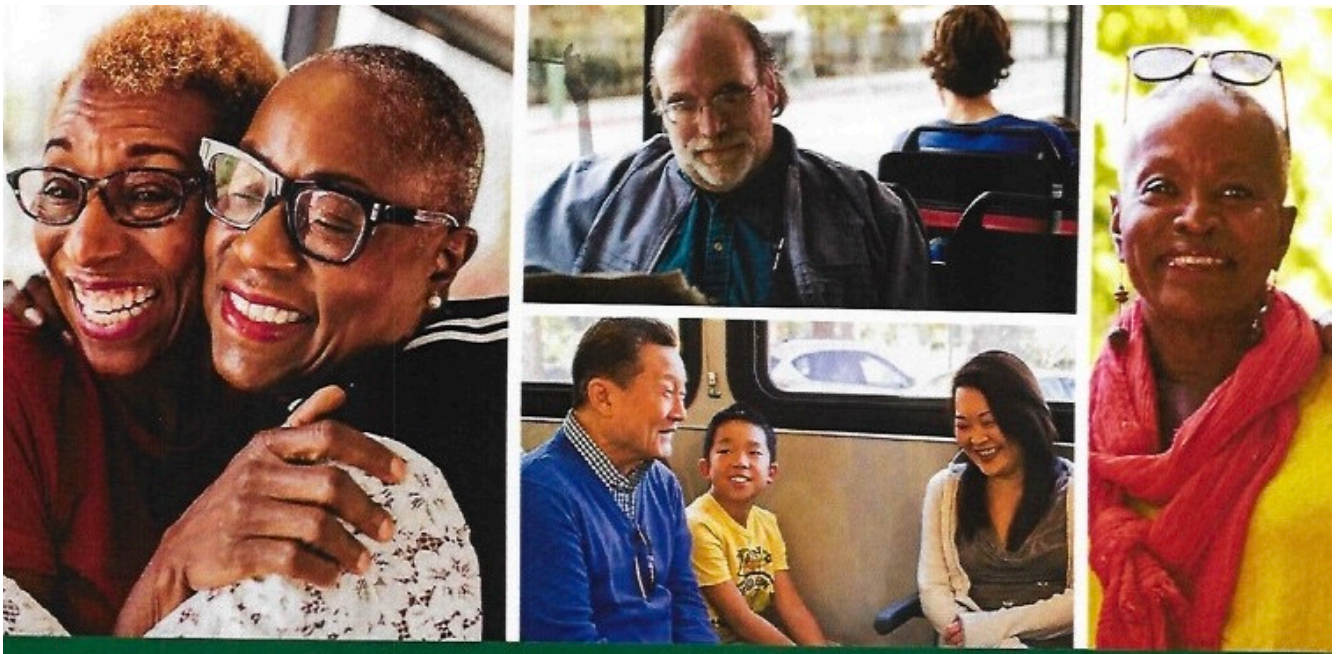
Krystle Pasco, Program Manager

E | kpasco@AlamedaCTC.org, or

E | contact@AlamedaCTC.org



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Our seniors are the strength of our community.

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