



LOS ANGELES COUNTY COMMISSION FOR OLDER ADULTS

2015-2016 ANNUAL REPORT

"I've elected to Age gracefully..."

Alana Stewart



Picture compliments of Lorenza C Sánchez

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Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors

The Los Angeles County Commission for Older Adults (LACCOA) would like to thank the Board of Supervisors for their ongoing support in advocating for issues that are confronting the older adult population in Los Angeles County. The older adult population is the fastest growing age group in the country. The older adult population in Los Angeles County is expected to double from 9.7% in 2000 to 18.2% in 2030.¹ The Commission looks forward to its continued collaboration with the Board of Supervisors to ensure that the health, well-being, and overall quality of life of older adults in Los Angeles County continues to thrive.



Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich (far left), 5th District; Supervisor Don Knabe, 4th District; Supervisor Hilda L. Solis, Chair, 1st District; Supervisor Sheila Kuehl, 3rd District; and Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas, 2nd District

Board Deputies

James Blunt, 1st District; **Dorinne Jordan**, 2nd District; **Genethia Hudley-Hayes**, 3rd District; **Nick Ippolito**, 4th District; **Michelle Vega**, 5th District

¹ USC Sol Price School of Public Policy, 2013, The Generational Future of Los Angeles: Projections to 2030 and Comparisons to Recent Decades, https://www.usc.edu/schools/price/research/popdynamics/futures/2013_Myers-Pitkin_LA-Projections.pdf

Message from the President



My year as President of the Los Angeles County Commission for Older Adults (LACCOA) has been exciting, challenging, mixed with happy, joyous occasions, and sad moments.

In order for LACCOA to fulfill its mission and to be more effective in its role, the Commission itself must be healthy and well-functioning. This was a challenging, but important, issue I felt needed to be addressed during my term in office. My personal mission included making meetings more efficient, effective, and enjoyable; ensuring that Commissioners contribute and feel valued; focusing more on work completed in committees and within Supervisorial Districts; and making LACCOA more visible. With the help of a great Executive Board, encouraging Commissioners, and a supportive staff, we were able to accomplish much this year.

Efforts to make the meetings more efficient, effective, and enjoyable were met with enthusiasm from the Commissioners and staff. The Committee Chairs and District Leads regularly reported activities and accomplishments happening in their areas. Making LACCOA more visible was accomplished by the publication of the Spring 2016 LINK Newsletter and by presentations throughout the county from our Speakers Bureau. In addition, Commissioner bios and photos were assembled and are currently being updated in order for people to know who the Commissioners are and the strengths and experience they bring.

I was honored and excited to represent LACCOA at several conferences this year, including the California Association of Area Agencies on Aging (C4A) Annual Meeting and Allied Conference; the “Aging in America 2016” American Society on Aging (ASA) Conference in Washington, D.C.; the 7th Annual Los Angeles Aging Advocacy Coalition (LAAAC) Summit on Aging, “Aging in the Community;” and the “Aging, Women, and Poverty in California” Forum.

Happy and joyous occasions included the three Older American Recognition Day (OARD) luncheons honoring the contributions of 124 older adults. A sad moment was hearing about the passing of Commissioner Natalie Ambrose, a long-time Commissioner and champion of older adult causes.

As my term comes to a close, it was an honor and privilege to serve as LACCOA President. I am so proud of my fellow Commissioners and everything we accomplished this year. I look forward to next year, as we have great things in store for LACCOA and the work we will do to assist with the Los Angeles County Purposeful Aging Initiative.

Linda Yamauchi

Linda Yamauchi

2015-2016 LACCOA President

Message from Cynthia D. Banks, CSS Director



As the Director of the Los Angeles County Department of Community and Senior Services (CSS), it is an honor to share with you the hard work that the Los Angeles County Commission for Older Adults (LACCOA) is doing on behalf of the older adult population in Los Angeles County. The accomplishments stated in this Annual Report are a testament of the hard work of LACCOA Commissioners.

LACCOA continues to fulfill its mission to advocate for older adult services and promote the well-being of the senior population living in Los Angeles County.

LACCOA should be applauded for its coordination of the Annual Older Americans Recognition Day (OARD) events in May 2016. The 51st Annual OARD events honored 124 seniors for their immeasurable contributions to the communities they live and work in. LACCOA, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, CSS, local elected officials from 88 cities, and senior citizens' organizations recognized each honoree for their unwavering effort to "Blaze a Trail."

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate LACCOA on its accomplishments during the 2015-2016 fiscal year, and thank each Commissioner for their dedication, hard work, and commitment to enhancing the lives of older adults in Los Angeles County. I am excited to see what LACCOA accomplishes in the future, as we push to make Los Angeles County an age-friendly community through the Purposeful Aging Initiative.

Cynthia D. Banks

Cynthia D. Banks, Director
Community and Senior Services

LACCOA Mission and Goals

MISSION

The mission of LACCOA is to advocate, advise, and make recommendations regarding the needs and welfare of Los Angeles County older adults age 60 and older to the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, departments of County government, and other entities that provide services to older adults regarding their needs, health, well-being, and rights.

To accomplish this mission, LACCOA:

- Assists Los Angeles County in preparing for expected growth within the older adult population.
- Networks and collaborates with other partners who are interested in and concerned about issues affecting older adults.
- Develops methods of communications which enhance and provide outreach and education to older adults in Los Angeles County.
- Advocates for the needs and well-being of older adults in Los Angeles County.

GOALS

- **Advises** the Board of Supervisors regarding needs of the older population in Los Angeles County.
- **Recognizes** outstanding voluntary efforts and community service by older adults living in Los Angeles County.
- **Enhances** the distribution of LACCOA information and findings to the community at large and to appropriate Los Angeles County Departments.
- **Maintains** efforts to assist the older population with information regarding transportation.

COMPOSITION

The Commission includes individuals and representatives of community organizations. The Commission shall be made up of:

- More than 50 percent older individuals, including minority individuals who are participants or who are eligible to participate in Area Agency on Aging (AAA) programs;
- Representatives of older adults;
- Representatives of health care provider organizations;
- Representatives of supportive services provider organizations;
- Persons with leadership experience in the private and voluntary sectors;
- Local elected officials; and
- The general public.

LACCOA Executive Board

Ethnic distribution should be representative of the population served, and LACCOA members must be residents of Los Angeles County.

The Commission is comprised of 50 members: 25 appointed by the Board of Supervisors and 25 selected by LACCOA. Each vacancy will be filled accordingly.

The LACCOA General Meetings are held every first Monday of each month from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. The Executive Board Meetings are held every third Monday of each month from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. If there is a holiday on Monday, the meetings are held on Tuesday.

The Commission structure includes an Executive Board and six standing committees: Area Plan; Communications; Health, Nutrition, and Long-Term Care; Housing and Transportation; Legislative and Advocacy; and Membership.



CSS Director Cynthia D. Banks (far left) with 2015-2016 LACCOA Executive Board; Linda Yamauchi, President; Olga Sarabia, 1st Vice President; Charles Treviño, 2nd Vice President; Vicente Zapata, Secretary; Charles Mitchell, Fiscal Officer; and 5th District Deputy Michelle Vega

LACCOA Strategic Plan July 2016 – June 2020



VISION: Los Angeles County will be one of the best communities for older adults in the nation.

MISSION: The mission of Los Angeles County Commission for Older Adults (LACCOA) shall be to advocate, advise, and make recommendations regarding the needs and welfare of Los Angeles County older adults over the age of 60, to the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, departments of County government, and other entities that provide services to seniors regarding their needs, health, well-being, and rights.

LACCOA developed the following Strategies and Objectives to guide its efforts in realizing its vision and mission in the period July 2016 – June 2020.

STRATEGY 1: Standing committees will continue to address immediate and long-term issues affecting the health, safety, and security of older adults in Los Angeles County and to facilitate the operation of LACCOA.

Objective 1:

By August of each year (2016-2020), standing committees will be formed, chairpersons selected, and goals developed for the coming year. Committees will meet monthly as necessary.

Objective 2:

Additional committees may be formed, as needed, to address immediate issues, pressing issues, or long-term needs.

STRATEGY 2: Advise Area Agency on Aging (AAA) staff on all matters relating to the needs and welfare of Los Angeles County older adults, including the planning process for Public Hearings on the Area Plan Updates each year (2016-2020).

Objective 1:

By July of each year (2016-2020), the Area Plan Committee will be formed to assist AAA staff at Public Hearings for input into the Area Plan Update.

Objective 2:

By January of each year (2017-2020), participate in Public Hearings for the Area Plan Update by encouraging attendance and community participation in the Public Hearings, attending and observing the hearings, and serving as Hearing Officers at the hearings as needed.

Objective 3:

Review the Area Plan Update each year (2017-2020).

STRATEGY 3: Advocate and increase awareness in the community regarding programs and services affecting older adults.

Objective 1:

The Speakers Bureau, composed of trained LACCOA Commissioners, will conduct presentations throughout Los Angeles County to increase the awareness of programs and services available to the older adult and disable population.

Objective 2:

Develop a LACCOA video and make it available to the Speakers Bureau for use at their speaking engagements.

Objective 3:

Update the LACCOA Outreach Scorecard on a continuous basis, demonstrating the community activity of LACCOA members.

Objective 4:

The Speakers Bureau will participate in speaking engagements that will cover all five (5) Supervisorial Districts.

Objective 5:

Develop a flyer that provides information regarding the Speakers Bureau for distribution throughout Los Angeles County.

STRATEGY 4: Celebrate and acknowledge the contributions that older adults make in their respective communities.

Objective 1:

Work with the Board of Supervisors and Community and Senior Services to host annual events to celebrate and acknowledge the contributions that older adults make in their communities.

Meet the Commissioners

First Supervisorial District



Ruth Gonzales



Angelina Juaregui



Robert Jimenez



Denise Menchaca



Samuel Park



Helen Romero-Shaw



Elvia Torres



Charles Treviño



Vicente Zapata

Second Supervisorial District



Estella Beaver-Thomas



Frank Calderon

PHOTO
UNAVAILABLE

Marva Cooper Bell



Alice Craft



Ron Jackson



Charles Mitchell



Lonnie McNamee



Elizabeth Payne



Arvis Spriggs



Richard Wolfe

Third Supervisorial District



Robert Boller



Oleeta Igar



Paul Jhin



Barbara Meltzer



Peter Mezza



Anna Swett



Bernard Weintraub



Elizabeth Wilson

Fourth Supervisorial District



Gloria Duran



Ralph Flores



Jerry Gaines



Irene Griffith



William Ha



Julia Rosenberg



Patricia Stanyo



Tanya Witt



Candace Yee

Fifth Supervisorial District



Margaret Belton



Nneenah Frazier



Diana Love



Peter McGrath



Gayle McKinney



Arlene Okamoto



Olga Sarabia



Dancingwater
Taylor



Linda Yamauchi



LACCOA Committees in Action

Area Plan Committee

The **Area Plan Committee** worked with Community and Senior Services (CSS) staff to review the 2015-2016 Area Plan Update and prepared it for Public Hearings. Commissioners attended the hearings and served as Hearing Officers.

Issues addressed and brought to General Membership:

- Fraud and Elder Abuse;
- Veteran Affairs;
- Employment among seniors;
- Increased funding for persons with Alzheimer and Dementia;
- Affordable senior housing; and
- Caregiver programs.

Committee Chair: Paul Jhin

Committee Members: Robert Boller, Denise Menchaca, Arlene Okamoto, Elvia Torres, and Candace Yee

Communications Committee

The **Communications Committee** updated the LACCOA brochure and published the Spring 2016 LINK Newsletter. The publications were distributed to over 200 senior and community centers, the Board of Supervisors, and the Mayors and City Managers of 88 cities in Los Angeles County. Both publications are used to educate the public on the work LACCOA does throughout Los Angeles County.

Committee Chair: Barbara Meltzer

Committee Members: Angelina Jauregui, Diana Love, Linda Yamauchi, and Vicente Zapata

Health, Nutrition, and Long-Term Care Committee

The **Health, Nutrition, and Long-Term Care Committee** studied and discussed the lack of health resources for seniors and the scarcity of adequate mental health services. Researched the current Department of Motor Vehicle testing and licensing programs for seniors, and brought the results back to the General Board. The committee urged Commissioners to visit senior centers with nutrition programs.

Committee Chair: Irene Griffith

Committee Members: Gloria Duran, Ralph Flores, Ruth Gonzales, William Ha, Oleeta Igar, and Julia Rosenberg

Housing and Transportation Committee

The **Housing and Transportation Committee** studied and discussed the rising homeless count in Los Angeles County, bringing awareness to the need for more affordable housing for seniors. The committee continued to encourage seniors throughout Los Angeles County to purchase a Transit Access Pass (TAP) card and get involved with the Los Angeles Metro “On the Move Riders Club.”

Committee Chair: Anna Swett

Committee Members: Nneenah Frazier, Robert Jimenez, Gayle McKinney, and Samuel Park

Legislative and Advocacy Committee

The **Legislative and Advocacy Committee** examined both state and federal legislature that affected older Americans. The committee was influential in informing senior centers of the proposed Drug Take Back Bill. They regularly met with representatives from each Supervisorial District to stay informed on issues and actions being taken to increase the well-being of older Americans living in Los Angeles County.

Committee Chair: Patricia Stanyo

Committee Members: Jerry Gaines, Helen Romero-Shaw, Dancingwater Taylor, and Richard Wolfe

Membership Committee

The **Membership Committee** welcomed seven (7) new Commissioners in 2015-2016: Angelina Jauregui, Arvis Spriggs, Dancingwater Taylor, Lonnie McNamee, Peter McGrath, Robert Boller, and Zelda Hutcherson. The committee continued working to update the LACCOA membership application. They also reviewed the attendance records of all members to ensure they met the attendance requirements as stated in the LACCOA Bylaws.

Committee Chair: Margaret Belton

Committee Members: Peter McGrath, Lonnie McNamee, Charles Mitchell, and Bernard Weintraub

Commissioners in Action

CONFERENCES

Commissioners attended the following conferences:

- Aging, Women, and Poverty in California Forum in Los Angeles, California in June 2016
- 7th Annual Los Angeles Aging Advocacy Coalition (LAAAC) Summit on Aging at the University of Southern California (USC) in Los Angeles, California in May 2016.
- 17th Annual Housing Rights Summit in Los Angeles, California in April 2016.
- Annual Conference of the American Society on Aging (ASA) in Washington, D.C. in March 2016.
- California Association of Area Agencies on Aging (C4A) Annual Meeting and Allied Conference in Los Angeles, California in November 2015.

LACCOA Says Goodbye to a Friend



If we ever went off track of our reason for being a LACCOA Commissioner, Natalie Ambrose was there to get us right back to where we needed to be. Having spent many years on the former Area Agency on Aging (AAA) Advisory Council, serving a term as President of the AAA Advisory Council, she then served on the newly formed LACCOA. Natalie was a dedicated member of LACCOA, serving on every committee at some point during her membership.

Natalie Ambrose, Immaculate House of Mary, was a member of the Immaculate Heart Community for 63 years. A lover of mathematics and an outstanding teacher, she was also a long-time Math Department Chair. Her support for the elderly was demonstrated in her involvement with many groups, framing public policy, and advocating for their rights and welfare. Natalie's commitment to improving the welfare and well-being of the elderly, the needy, and especially the poor, led to her leadership role as Director of Planning and Aging for the United Way in the Antelope Valley.

Natalie was a dear friend to many and will truly be missed.

51st Annual Older Americans Recognition Day (OARD)

Every year, May is recognized as Older Americans Recognition Month and encourages all Americans to acknowledge, honor, and celebrate older adults who have made a positive impact in their cities and communities. The Los Angeles County Commission for Older Adults (LACCOA), along with the Board of Supervisors, and Community and Senior Services (CSS), hosted the 51st Annual Older Americans Recognition Day (OARD) events on May 5, 2016, May 12, 2016, and May 25, 2016, to honor 124 Older Americans in Los Angeles County.

The 2016 theme was ***“Blaze A Trail.”***



LACCOA President Linda Yamauchi; 1st District Board Deputy Taylor Dudley; Elaine Y. Chiu, 1st District Honoree; and CSS Director Cynthia D. Banks



51st Annual Older Americans Recognition Day (OARD)

LACCOA President Linda Yamauchi; 2nd District Honoree Dolores Caldwell;
and CSS Director Cynthia D. Banks



LACCOA President Linda Yamauchi; 3rd District Board Deputy Genethia Hudley-Hayes;
3rd District Honoree Sheldon Mende; and CSS Director Cynthia D. Banks

51st Annual Older Americans Recognition Day (OARD)

Supervisor Don Knabe, 4th District; 4th District Honoree Hsiang Yin Lo; LACCOA President Linda Yamauchi; and CSS Director Cynthia D. Banks



5th District Board Deputy Kathryn Barger; LACCOA President Linda Yamauchi; 5th District Honoree Carlos Rodriguez; Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich, 5th District; and CSS Director Cynthia D. Banks

Installation of Officers for 2016-2017



2016-2017 LACCOA Officers Linda Yamauchi, President; Olga Sarabia, 1st Vice President; Charles Mitchell, 2nd Vice President; Diana Love, Fiscal Officer; and Arlene Okamoto, Secretary.

LACCOA also said farewell to eleven (11) of our colleagues who reached their term limits: Commissioners Frank Calderon, Gloria Duran, Ralph Flores, Nneenah Frazier, Irene Griffith, William Ha, Barbara Meltzer, Samuel Park, Elizabeth Wilson, Bernard Weintraub, and Vicente Zapata. Their work and dedication are to be commended. Their many years of volunteer service, as prior members of the Area Agency on Aging Advisory Council or the former Los Angeles County Commission on Aging, are recognized and appreciated. Their service was very invaluable to LACCOA and the older adults within Los Angeles County.

Credits

Board of Supervisors.....	Hilda L. Solis, First District Mark Ridley-Thomas, Second District Sheila Kuehl, Third District Don Knabe, Fourth District Michael D. Antonovich, Fifth District, Mayor
Community and Senior Services Executive Management.....	Cynthia D. Banks, Director Otto Solórzano, Chief Deputy
Contributions.....	Barbara Meltzer, Commissioner
Editors/Layout/Design.....	Lorenza C. Sánchez, Assistant Director, Aging and Adult Services Branch Anna Avdalyan, Program Manager, Area Agency on Aging Corneitha Kirk, Human Services Administrator II Guillermo Medina, Human Services Administrator I Josephine Arriaga, Management Secretary III Barbara Thomas, Senior Secretary III Johnson Wang, Executive Assistant Monique Norman, Staff Assistant I Anna Musaderyan, Secretary II Nilda Anthony, Clerical Support
Photos.....	Benjie Uy, CSS Photographer



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