

Orange County Older Adults Advisory Commission 2024 Report

Executive Summary

The Orange County Older Adult Advisory Commission (OAAC) made great strides in 2024. An energetic and committed group of Commissioners prioritized the creation of the [2024-2025 Goals and Objectives](#) (see attachment) which outline recommendations to advocate for County of Orange to focus on a life span approach to all services. Our primary request was for the County to plan and fund an outreach campaign so that all citizens can know where to turn for help, for themselves or for caregiver support.

Commission Overview

OAAC advises the Orange County Board of Supervisors and the OC Office on Aging on matters affecting older adults in Orange County. The Commission consists of up to forty volunteer citizens, including local elected officials, representatives of health care and supportive service provider organizations, persons with leadership experience, and the public. The Commission also has an Executive Committee.

Key Activities and Accomplishments

OAAC voted to adopt our [2024-2025 Goals and Objectives](#) on “Creating an Age-Friendly Orange County” with these three focus areas:

- Information Access: Promote and identify older adult and caregiver services within the community with an emphasis on the No Wrong Door System.
- Aging in Place: Promote services and programs that support older adults to remain safer in their home or desired place of residence.
- Transportation Access Programs: Bring awareness to transportation resources and accessing services.

OAAC was pleased to meet with each Board office during the year.

Stakeholder Engagement

OAAC convened 10 general meetings and 9 executive committee meetings in 2024. Meetings were aligned with our 2024-2025 goals and objectives, including guest speakers from community agencies on

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Member-at- Large

Orange County Older Adults Advisory Commission

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Information Access, Aging in Place and Transportation Access. During our last meeting of the year, we had a presentation from Dr. Laura Trejo, Director of the Los Angeles Aging and Disability Department. Los Angeles County has repositioned their Aging Services in the two years to maximize impact, and Dr. Trejo recommended to OAAC that we ask County of Orange to consider the same advocacy to better position the Office on Aging to maximize its ability to be a strategic leader and convener.

Commissioners are liaisons to each senior center in Orange County, providing updates on information and resources, and also receiving feedback from senior center staff and participants on successes and needs. We actively disseminate information through various channels, including in-person and electronic means. Thanks to our advocacy efforts, the Office on Aging now provides us with monthly newsletters that highlight valuable resources, programs, and services. Additionally, an info blast is shared to recap presentations from various aging organizations and partners conducted during our general meeting.

OAAC has begun to develop a partnership with CalOptima Health in order to bring information on Medi-Cal funded community supports via Office on Aging marketing awareness efforts.

Challenges and Opportunities

The OAAC Chair and Vice Chair attended the 2024 California Association of Area Agencies on Aging (C4A) conference and learned that our surrounding Southern California counties are much further along in their strategic planning and current innovation for aging friendly initiatives and infrastructure. Orange County has the opportunity to pivot now in becoming an Age Friendly County by applying to the [AARP Age-Friendly Communities Program](#).

OAAC has been challenged with waiting for the Office on Aging to produce updated marketing materials for Commissioners to use during senior center outreach.

Although the local Master Plan for Aging has been delayed, it's results due to be published next year will be a wonderful opportunity for OAAC to partner with the Board of Supervisors and the Office on Aging on implementation.

OAAC is eager to learn the results of Chairman Wagner's November directive to County staff to create and implement a public service campaign plan to substantially increase our citizens' awareness of the Office on Aging Information and Assistance Call Center, and online resources such as the OC Navigator and the OC Senior Resources mobile app.

Recommendation for 2025

Looking forward to 2025, we ask the Board of Supervisors to restructure the organizational position of the Office on Aging in Orange County, so that a new department, which encompasses all County aging

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services, will have the power and authority to convene and lead us to become an Age-Friendly County for current and future generations.

Conclusion

OAAC is looking forward to continuing to be a trusted advisory commission to the Board of Supervisors and Office on Aging in 2025.

The commission's significant value and impact are demonstrated by the 4,273 volunteer hours contributed by our commissioners

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Creating an Age-Friendly Orange County

2024-2025 Goals and Objectives

1. Information Access: Promote and identify older adult and caregiver services within the community with an emphasis on the No Wrong Door System.

- a. Collaborate with the OoA to assist with identifying marketing materials that support bringing awareness to older adult services and programs to senior centers.
 - i. Provide marketing materials to each senior center.
 - ii. Provide marketing materials to each City Hall.
 - iii. Provide marketing materials to County Supervisor.
 - iv. Provide marketing materials to State elected officials.
- b. Promote Office on Aging's Monthly Newsletter.
- c. Expand outreach opportunities to older adult residents through senior center collaborations.
 - i. Develop a two-way communication between the commission and the senior center and its participants through OAAC's liaisons.
 - ii. Conducting in-person presentations on aging services and programs via Office on Aging marketing materials.

2. Aging in Place: Promote services and programs that support older adults to remain safer in their home or desired place of residence.

- a. Identify resources for financial assistance.
- b. Identify resources to assist caregivers caring for older adults.
- c. Participate in aging services RFP evaluation panels to provide input on aging services contracted through the Office on Aging.
- d. Recommend and support the County to consider applying for the Age-Friendly Network.

3. Transportation Access Programs: Bring awareness to transportation resources and accessing services.

Desirable Resources:

1. Office on Aging
 - a. Revise revamp information access brochure
 - b. Create a PowerPoint presentation to use in senior centers.
 - c. Identify databases with older adults that can be used to expand current distribution lists.
2. Board of Supervisors
 - a. Public Service Campaign

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