Master Plan for Aging Town Hall
Chat Transcript Highlights*
November 10, 2021

* Note: Chat transcript has been redacted to remove entries related to technical support and/or Zoom logistics.

Jared Giarusso ALZ Association: Fantastic investments into Alzheimer’s issues – access to timely diagnosis, caregiving supports, research, public awareness. Thank you Assemblymember!

Ash Kalra: Yes, there is still plenty of room for more investments in both infrastructure and services for those suffering from Alzheimer’s

Lilian Koenig: In real time where can I and other seniors get assistance with moving up on the wait lists for affordable senior housing in Santa Clara County? There is always a hurdle/difficulty getting into this units. I’m going through my savings while I wait. Thank you Lk

Kathleen Kelly: How about increasing social work workforce

Jared Giarusso ALZ Association: Dementia Aware is an absolute game changer. Thank you Amanda!

Aileen Ya: Looks like “Age in Place” is the current trend after pandemic. Do we have any support for senior choose to “Age in Place”? E.g. transportation, meals on wheels....etc.

Paula Wolfson, LCSW, MANAGER, Avenidas Care Partners: Salute and standing ovation to all of the front line workers, elder care providers who created a network of safety and support for our local communities. It has been an honor working with all of you during the pandemic. And Bravo to the San
Jose Mercury News for the spotlight on elder care issues. And to those of you Master Planners: this is an evolving process.

**Tylor Taylor:** +1 Paula!

**Paula Wolfson, LCSW, MANAGER, Avenidas Care Partners:** A suggestion to all: write your local newspapers and encourage them to have sections on health care, elder care issues: why just have sections on art, business...health care issues need objective reporting and in depth articles representing your voices. Media coverage helps promote change: and SCC is a leader in all of these critical changes.

**Paula Wolfson, LCSW, MANAGER, Avenidas Care Partners:** We need highly trained IHSS workers who can also provide diabetes care, medication monitoring. So many of those in need of IHSS receiving limited kinds of care.

**Paula Wolfson, LCSW, MANAGER, Avenidas Care Partners:** To have a stable workforce means they need decent wages and benefits: many did not show for work during the pandemic...as it was all so confusing and scary for everyone....I had so many calls from clients whose workers did not show...I hope this is being addressed.

**Tylor Taylor:** Partnering with local community colleges has a lot of promise for career tracking and establishing a path to higher wages and benefits.

**Gianna Spina:** I agree Paula. The workforce is greatly impacted when livable wages based on the cost of living don’t mirror one another. The need is high for trained providers, but without the wages to live off of, we won’t see those providers work for such programs.

**Paula Wolfson, LCSW, MANAGER, Avenidas Care Partners:** Thanks for the great dialogue taking place on these complicated issues.
Aneliza Del Pinal: Great info, Leora! Looking forward to being part of the listening sessions to support the success and sustainability of this initiative!

Marsha Fong: Is the IHSS Career Pathways training being planned for online, in person and/or a hybrid?

Paula Wolfson, LCSW, MANAGER, Avenidas Care Partners: Thank you Leora. Your work is so critical.

Carmen Brammer: This asset increase limit is a winner!

Paula Wolfson, LCSW, MANAGER, Avenidas Care Partners: Do we create a whole new system of caregiving and limit the cost of care created by the for profit corporate providers.

Kathryn Hedges: The asset limit was ridiculously low—you couldn’t have more than one month’s rent in the bank, let alone “first, last deposit” to move.

Paula Wolfson, LCSW, MANAGER, Avenidas Care Partners: Yes...that is a great idea...however when you put people on MediCal...will that force them to have to change their primary care providers?

Kathryn Hedges: What do people do if they “fall between the cracks” and don’t qualify for any of the community agencies? For example, if a Disabled person is over the cutoff for “youth” services but under 65, not homeless, doesn’t have HIV or a SMI, etc.?

Carmen Brammer: Great information Tiffany!

Paula Wolfson, LCSW, MANAGER, Avenidas Care Partners: Thank you Tiffany for the work that you do!! I think many of us work with those who fall “between the cracks” of all of these entitlement programs.
Paula Wolfson, LCSW, MANAGER, Avenidas Care Partners: We need to be developing course content in the junior high and high schools on aging and caregiving in the home.

Carmen Brammer: ++Paula

Paula Wolfson, LCSW, MANAGER, Avenidas Care Partners: Need an office on Solo Aging?

Paula Wolfson, LCSW, MANAGER, Avenidas Care Partners: Let us celebrate and honor our interdependence. I live within an intergenerational intentional community. It can work well for many people: and you can create your own.

Paula Wolfson, LCSW, MANAGER, Avenidas Care Partners: Exactly: 8 months to 80...we are all..aging in place..no matter...where we are.

Kathryn Hedges: @Paula & @Tiffany, I was referring to serices provided under the new enhanced plan by “community partners”. Would there be funding for services to people who fall between the cracks? For example, people disabled in adulthood who aren’t seniors, or Autistic people diagnosed after age 18.