



### SDA 2019 Advocacy Agenda

Members, staff, and board members of Senior and Disability Action determined the following two advocacy priorities for the year. These are issues that are of primary concern to our communities and SDA has a role to play in effectively addressing them. We invite all SDA members and partners to join efforts on these priority issues, and we will provide updates at General Meetings, in newsletters, and at program meetings. SDA will continue to work on a variety of other issues as well.

- **Secure deeply affordable housing.**

San Francisco's Area Median Income is now above \$90,000, and "affordable" housing is often for people at \$50,000/year or more. But half of San Francisco's seniors and people with disabilities have an income below \$30,000/year, and those on SSI live with under \$11,000/month. Housing that is *deeply* affordable must be available for our communities.

- **Improve mental health services.**

SDA members experience a lack of appropriate mental health services available in the community. SDA plays a leadership role in the Voluntary Services First Coalition, seeking to improve voluntary community services.

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**Support at Home has been extended through June 2020 and Financial Assistance is still available!**

**Please refer yourself or someone else today!**

Call 415.750.4111 or submit a referral at [www.ioaging.org](http://www.ioaging.org).

Funded by the Department of Aging and Adult Services (DAAS) and administered by the Institute on Aging (IOA), this program is the first of its kind and provides financial aid to those who need help in the home or even managing daily activities such as errands. Whether the home care is needed for recovering from a surgery, injury or illness, disability, or limitations common over age 60 – Support at Home was created to provide support and relief.

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**SDA will be closed Wednesday**

**May 1st for**

**International Workers Day**

## **The Status of Vision Zero: The City's Road Safety Program**

### **Before we get into the status of Vision Zero, let's visit the past.**

In the Spring of 2014, 3 years after then-Mayor Newsom issued the Pedestrian Safety Mandate and after 4 years of increasing pedestrian injuries and fatalities, the Bicycle Coalition and Walk SF took the lead to address this matter. Through community pressure, they forced the City to change its approach to road safety and adopt Sweden's approach, called Vision Zero.

**For Sweden**, a successful road traffic safety program must have a core principle of "Life and health matters more than other benefits." Their program involved all government stakeholders in employing and coordinating the three E's of traffic safety, Enforcement, Education and Engineering. In San Francisco, the SF Police Department is involved with the Education and Enforcement elements; the Department of Public Health, Education; the SF Municipal Transportation Agency, Engineering and Enforcement; the Department of Public Works, Engineering; and the Mayor's Office on Disability, Education and Engineering. The program must have a goal, For San Francisco, its primary vision is to reduce traffic fatalities to zero by 2024.

### **It has been 5 years since Vision Zero was adopted. How is it going?**

Between the years of 2014 and 2017 the annual fatality numbers decreased from 32 to 20. In 2018, fatalities increased to 23. Annual traffic injuries (non-fatal) have been fluctuating between 500 and 570, with a gradual annual increase in the last two years. For the early months of 2019, the city has already experienced nine traffic fatalities, three of them in one week. The current 2019 totals lead to a projected annual total of over 30 .

Based on these numbers, and with past City's pedestrian safety programs, it appears it is slipping into a familiar historic pattern. Since the early 1990's, the City has experienced several cycles of raising annual totals of pedestrian fatalities and injuries, then a rash of pedestrian fatalities in a short period of time, creation of a new "comprehensive" traffic safety plan, a drop in deaths and injuries, and then after three to four years a steady rise in fatalities and injuries.

### **What is needed to break out of this cycle?**

Let's start with what the City is doing right. What gives us hope that this pedestrian safety program might work (compared to the past programs) is that the City has:

- A set goal, strategy plan, and ongoing review process,
- A city coordinating committee (Vision Zero Task Force) composed of all city stake holding agencies,
- Implemented and plans to implement a number of capital pedestrian / traffic safety projects,
- Created a Vision Zero Safe Streets for Seniors program to encourage community leaders to address local pedestrian issues, and
- Lowered the annual pedestrian fatalities rate. It has been under 30 for the last three years.

(continued on page 3)

## City Budget

The San Francisco city budget reflects the values of our city. Where we choose to spend money shows what is considered important. It is imperative that we make sure the 2019-20 budget includes funding for deeply affordable housing, mental health services, pedestrian safety improvements, and so many other community priorities. Supervisor Sandra Lee Fewer chairs the Budget Committee this year and is strongly committed to hearing from community members. The main public budget hearing will be on a Saturday this year to allow more people to attend and speak! And the Board of Supervisors will hold four hearings to discuss key priorities; each of these will include public comment. SDA plays an active role in the Budget Justice Coalition, collaborating with other community groups to put forward a vision of a community-led and community-focused budget, one in which all people have our needs met. SDA members and Budget Justice Coalition members have an opportunity to have our voices heard this spring! To get involved, please contact Ligia at [ligia@sdaction.org](mailto:ligia@sdaction.org) or (415) 546-1333.

### Key Dates:

Wednesday, April 10, 1 pm, City Hall: Budget Hearing on Policy Priority #1

Thursday, April 11, 10-12, Unitarian Church: SDA General Meeting, with a presentation on the city budget process by Chelsea Boilard from Supervisor Fewer's Office

Wednesday, April 17, 1 pm, City Hall: Budget Hearing on Policy Priority #2

Wednesday, April 24, 1 pm, City Hall: Budget Hearing on Policy Priority #3

Wednesday, May 8, 1 pm, City Hall: Budget Hearing on Other Policy Priorities

**Saturday, June 22, all day, City Hall: Public Hearing on Budget**

### (Vision Zero continued from page 2)

**What the City needs to do better** is to acknowledge and incorporate community expertise as equals in making their community safer. The city is well known for determining community needs with little to no community input. But how can this be accomplished, when the City has a long history of top-down decision making based primarily on statistical data? Ah now, the real point of this article.....

Senior and Disability Action has a long history of getting the community as equals to the table. With the guidance and work of its Transit Justice group and the funding of the Department of Public Health's Safe Streets for Seniors program, SDA is starting another community advocacy training in the Excelsior district. Similar to our Give Us Enough Time to Cross the Street Safely campaign, we will train community residents of the Excelsior on pedestrian safety, community outreach, organizing tools, data collection and how to run a campaign. Graduates will then create a campaign.

**Two 4-day classes will be held in April at Excelsior Works, 5000 Mission Street. We will have interpretation (Spanish and Chinese), refreshments and more.**

SDA is collaborating with Walk SF and the Senior and Disability Pedestrian Safety Workgroup to ensure that protected bike lanes maintain accessibility and to increase the number of Accessible (chirping) Pedestrian Signals at intersections throughout the city. For further information regarding this article and or the upcoming classes, please contact Pi Ra at [srira@sdaction.org](mailto:srira@sdaction.org) or (415) 546-2096.

## Housing

Our April SDA General Meeting was focused on housing, one of our two major advocacy agenda items for 2019.

An SDA member and staff presented the reality of what income is required in order to access "Affordable and Low-Income Housing Opportunities for Seniors and Adults with Disabilities". One example is a studio, priced at \$1036/month with the requirement of a minimum income of \$28,219/year in order to qualify. This is unaffordable to most seniors in San Francisco. Recent city data states that in San Francisco the median income for a single senior is \$1,825 a month.

At our meeting, we conducted a one-page survey with 33 of our members. Nearly 2/3 marked their monthly incomes as being at or below \$1,825 a month. Our members come from every city district and their ages range from 58-90. So when we talk about what is truly affordable housing we need to re-phrase this as "deeply affordable" housing. If we follow HUD guidelines that housing should be no more than 30% of income, let's make sure that the housing that is getting built fits the reality of our incomes. We need to tell our stories, to gather others' stories and be sure to let Mayor Breed know that when she is slicing up the pie for the \$300 Million Housing Bond she needs to include us. Stay tuned for next steps and contact Tony or Theresa to get involved in the fight for DEEPLY AFFORDABLE housing. Please join us for the Housing Collaborative meeting on the third Wednesday of every month at the SDA office.

P.S. If you missed the Op-Ed in The Examiner, co-authored by SDA Board President Betty Traynor and Community Tenants Association President Leong, please see the link below. By the way, this article was trending #2 for three days straight.

> <http://www.sfexaminer.com/citys-unaffordable-affordable-senior-housing-system-must-change/>

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## Disability and Aging Capitol Action Day Thursday May 23rd

Disability Action Coalition and the California Alliance for Retired Americans (CARA) will co-host the first Disability and Aging Capitol Action Day on May 23, 2019.

**Disability and Aging Capitol Action Day** will be a day-long event mobilizing California's aging and disability communities in Sacramento, California. The day will be filled with opportunities to build community, learn about and share resources, educate our policy makers and elevate the collective power of older adults and people with disabilities.



SDA at Disability Capitol Action Day 2018

SDA has a big fun contingent every year. Please join us! Call (415) 546-1333 and talk to any staff to learn more and to sign up. See you in Sacramento!

## Long Term Services and Supports

(From Justice in Aging, with slight edits)

In his State of the State Address, Governor Newsom [called for a master plan](#) for aging to address the needs of California's aging population. He declared that the plan must be person-centered and address social isolation, transportation, workforce shortages, and the growing need for personal care services and long-term care to help people age at home and in the community.



We are grateful to Governor Newsom for his leadership on this important issue. We stand ready to work with him and his Administration to ensure that California's master plan addresses systemic inequities and includes a comprehensive strategy for addressing the economic insecurity facing many of California's older adults.

As the Governor noted, California's population is graying, with the population of adults 65 and over set to double over the next 25 years. He didn't mention that as California's older population is growing, the economic security of older adults across the state is diminishing. California has the highest rate of senior poverty in the country. High housing and health care costs, rising inequality, and cuts to critical safety net programs have left far too many older Californians without enough income to meet their basic needs. Consequently, growing numbers of older adults are experiencing homelessness in many of the state's urban areas.

The 2019/20 budget presents the perfect opportunity for the Governor and Legislature to demonstrate their commitment to older Californians. There are proposals the Governor and Legislature can act on this year to improve the health and economic security of older adults, including investments to make health care more affordable for all older adults; expansion of long-term care programs that allow individuals to remain living in their homes and communities; improvements in the delivery of health and long-term care benefits through the Coordinated Care Initiative; and the restoration of the State Supplemental Benefit (SSB) to the SSI program for older Californians and people with disabilities with the lowest incomes.

### **Telling the Story: California's Need for Affordable Care & Services**

The California Aging and Disability Alliance\* is exploring what alternatives can be possible to help Californians pay for homecare and other long-term supports and services (LTSS) as well as create hundreds of great homecare jobs.

**Do you have a story to share? We are here to listen and honor your stories!**

We're looking for:

- Stories that speak to individuals and families who are struggling to coordinate, sustain, or afford ongoing long term services and support and
- Stories that speak to great caregiving relationships (between family members, friends, paid and unpaid attendants and their employers),

We'd love to hear from you! Please email [lindsay@domesticemployers.org](mailto:lindsay@domesticemployers.org) and [allie@cflic.org](mailto:allie@cflic.org) or call us at 510-590-8253.

*\*The California Aging and Disability Alliance (CADA) is comprised of 20 diverse organizations sharing a common commitment to creating affordable financing solutions to strengthen the long-term services and supports (LTSS) system today and prepare California for tomorrow.*

## The Fight for Voluntary Services

SDA and the Voluntary Services First Coalition continue the fight against implementation of SB 1045, which would set up a process for a person to be detained eight times by police in a 5150 hold, then be conserved and therefore lose all civil rights. While the coalition has not taken a position against conservatorship in general, we believe that services must be offered FIRST on a voluntary basis in the community.

Community members in a training on conservatorship in SOMA in January 2019



On February 21, we held a public forum on Conservatorship, Mental Health, and Homelessness. SDA member Fred Green writes:

“The training was heart-breaking as we heard from one woman who had been conserved. She did not know what or who ran her life, she talked of losing her pets, not being able to give money to her kids, getting a small amount of money each month and not knowing where her money was, how she would rather live on the street than in a halfway house in Sacramento (where she was put) because she knew no one there.

The training informed us about who wrote the bill and who it would affect, and we shared how we felt about it. We talked about how to let the disability and mental health communities know what this is about. We thought about better ways to help the people this bill would affect. Taking direct services to the people would be more helpful! Get them off the streets into supportive housing, detox, life skills programs. Maybe open a true 24-hour drop-in style center, with mental and physical health care, dental care, beds, laundry, signing up for GA and SSI, case managers, lots of social events and outings. The idea that police could put someone away by writing someone up eight times is sick. It’s better to have a mental health team with an office assisting. We finished the forum with the feeling that we had learned something, and we need to fight to keep this from going forward in its present form.”

Please join the Voluntary Services First Coalition for a rally **on Saturday, April 6, 10:00 am**, at UC Hastings, corner of Hyde & McAllister. We will call on Senator Wiener to drop SB 40, a bill that would remove protections from SB 1045 and make it even more harmful.

For more information about SB 1045 and the Voluntary Services First Coalition, please go to [http://bit.ly/SDA\\_SB1045](http://bit.ly/SDA_SB1045) for Frequently Asked Questions, city and state legislation, news articles, and more.

# **Community Calendar: April/May 2019**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>ACTIVITY</b>	<b>TIME &amp; PLACE</b>	<b>MORE INFO?</b>
Mon-Fri	Computer Open Lab and Beginning Computer Classes	Mon-Fri 9:00 AM-4:00 PM 1360 Mission Street Suite 400 <b>Classes Tues/Weds. 9:30-2</b>	Pi Ra 415-546-2096
1st Thursday April 4th May 2nd	IHSS Task Force Meeting	10:30 AM 1360 Mission St. #400	Jessica Lehman 415-546-1333 x301
<b>1st Thursday April 4th May 2nd</b>	SDA Board Meeting	3:00-5:00 PM 1360 Mission St. #400	Jessica Lehman 415-546-1333 x301
<b>2nd Thursday April 11th May 9th</b>	<b>SDA General Meeting</b>	<b>10:00 AM 1187 Franklin Street</b>	<b>SDA 415-546-1333</b>
<b>2nd Thursday April 11th May 9th</b>	<b>CARA meeting</b>	<b>1 PM 1187 Franklin Street</b>	<b>Jodi Reid 550-0828</b>
2nd Tuesday April 9th May 14th	HealthCare Action Team (HAT)	11 AM ILRC 825 Howard	Ligia Montano 415-546-1333 x302
3rd Wednesday April 17th May 15th	SDA Housing Collaborative	1-3 PM 1360 Mission Street, #400	Tony Robles 415-546-1333 x305
3rd Friday April 19th May 17th	Mayor's Disability Council	1-4 PM City Hall Room 400	Mayor's Office on Disability 415-554-6789

## **Senior and Disability Survival School in the Bayview!**

Learn about resources available in the community and how to get involved in making changes in our lives!

**Tuesdays 1-4 PM Armstrong Place 5600 3rd Street**

**April 16th, April 23rd, April 30th, May 7th**

Contact Raia to sign up (415) 546-1333 ext. 308

SDA's office and all meeting and event locations are wheelchair-accessible. We are scent-free, so please remember not to wear perfumes, scented lotions or detergents, etc. If you need ASL interpretation or any other accommodation, please contact us as soon as possible.

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## ***Senior and Disability Action News and Views***

Senior and Disability Action News is produced by SDA Staff and volunteers.

We would like to hear from you! Send information and commentary to [info@sdaction.org](mailto:info@sdaction.org) or call (415) 546-1333.

**Reminder: Membership renewals for all SDA members are due at the beginning of each year. Please send in or bring in as soon as possible!**

### **Become a Member of Senior and Disability Action!!**

Dues are \$20/year *OR* according to your means. Pay more or less as you are able.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Home Work

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Home Work

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Interests: Housing Healthcare Long-term care & supports

Community education Computer training Pedestrian safety & transit Other:

How would you like to receive newsletters & postcards? Email Postal mail

**Please send dues to: SDA, 1360 Mission St. #400, San Francisco CA 94103**