

COMMISSION ON SENIORS

Work Plan 2014



**THE COMMISSION ON SENIORS
CITY OF AUSTIN
WORK PLAN 2014 - 2015**

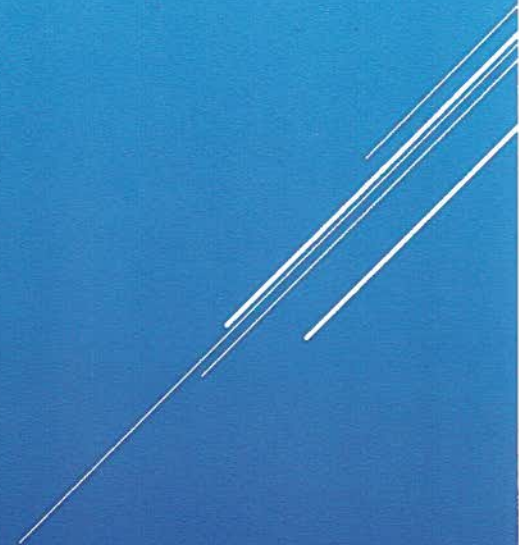


Mayor's Task Force on Aging Recommended 3 Priority Areas

Age inclusive policies

Affordable housing

Integrating seniors into civic life



Priority Areas: Focus on three goals identified by the Mayor's Task Force on Aging; age inclusive policies, affordable housing and Integrating seniors into civic life.



Goal 1: Incorporate age inclusive policies as a criterion for City of Austin decision making.

Strategy 1.1: Integrate age inclusive policies with regard to ordinances, regulations, and policies related to four specific focus areas; or work areas; transportation, affordable housing, land development and affordable utilities and taxes.

Action Steps	Lead Person/Organization	Begin date/Board Report(s)	Outcome (Results)	Timeline
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Request and review policies that impact older adults; how are policies age inclusive? Positive or negative impact? 	Commissioners suggested Austin Energy, Capital Metro, Neighborhood Housing and Community Development (NHCD), and Parks and Recreation Departments.	4/25/2014-special meeting called by Chair Ann Kitchen		
Draft a letter to selective City Departments requesting policy information related to age inclusivity and planning	Chair Ann Kitchen		Chair Ann Kitchen construct a letter requesting copy of policies; how used in decision making; budget.	Submitted 5/2014

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Strategy 1.1: Integrate age inclusive policies with regard to ordinances, regulations, and policies related to four specific focus areas; or work group areas; transportation, affordable housing, land development and affordable utilities and taxes.

Action Steps	Lead Person/Organization	Begin date/Board Report(s)	Outcome (Results)	Timeline
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recommendation by the Boards and Commission Transition Task Force to merge the Commission on Seniors and the Austin Mayors Committee on People with Disabilities. 	<p>Ann Kitchen, Joyce Lauck, Dan Pruett and Cecilia Crossley attended and expressed concerns at Taskforce meeting on 4/21/2014</p>	<p>4/25/2014 Commissioner Kareithi made a motion to oppose the idea of a merger of the two distinct groups</p>	<p>Motion passed 6-0-0</p> <p>Board reviewed recommendation submitted on May 13, 2014 to City Council from Boards and Commissions Transition Workgroup; language was reviewed and amended.</p> <p>Amended resolution: The Commission on Seniors understands and supports the value of collaborating with the AMCPD and recommends scheduling a joint meeting every six months with alternating meeting schedule between the Commission on Seniors and the Austin Mayor's Committee for People with Disabilities.</p>	<p>April 25, 2014</p> <p>May 14, 2014</p> <p>July 9, 2014</p> <p>Motion passed 9-0-0</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presentation on overall budget, cost drivers, critical priorities, performance gaps, and horizon issues. 	<p>Presentation by Kymberley Maddox on June 11, 2014</p>			

GOAL 1: AFFORDABLE HOUSING

WORK GROUP: AFFORDABLE UTILITIES AND TAXES



Strategy 2.1: Research and analyze the impact of property tax deferrals/caps and utility cost subsidies on seniors and make recommended appropriate action

Action Steps	Lead Person/ Organization	Begin date/Board Report(s)	Outcome (Results)	Timeline	
<p>Collect data on number of households receiving tax exemptions/tax deferrals</p> <p>Determine eligibility, qualifications, approved and denied</p>	<p>Chair Ann Kitchen volunteered to work with Jacqueline Angel to research need for broader range of property tax options; and to what other communities have in place</p>	<p>Jacqueline L. Angel Presentation 5/14/2014 – “Austin Property Tax Options for Seniors.”</p>		<p>Joint Presentation by Commissioner’s Angel and Kitchen on August 2014</p>	
<p>Choice of options</p> <p>#1 – Change state law; freeze property taxes on residential homesteads owner age 65 or older when appraised value is at or below; median value in Texas County</p>	<p>Jacqueline Angel and Chair Ann Kitchen</p>	<p>Report entitled: Senior Property Tax Exemption and Abatements Benavides, Martin. People’s Property Tax Education Group. State of Texas, Travis County MartiBen@sbcglobal.net</p>		<p>Presentation on August 2014</p>	

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<p>Option # 2</p> <p>Benefit Program</p> <p>Sliding scale option reduces tax assessments by up to 50% based on sliding scale up to \$44,000 income.</p>	Jacqueline Angel and Chair Ann Kitchen	<p>Report entitled: Senior Property Tax Exemption and Abatements</p> <p>The New York State Department of Taxation and Finance, 2014. Property Taxes and Assessments. Senior Citizens Exemption. http://www.tax.ny.gov/pit/property/exemption/seniorexempt.htm</p>		Presentation in August 2014	
<p>Option # 3</p> <p>Reverse Mortgage</p> <p>Encourage Seniors to apply through an approved FHA lender</p>	Jacqueline Angel and Chair Ann Kitchen	<p>Report entitled: Senior Property Tax Exemption and Abatements</p>		Presentation in August 2014	
Presentation on Customer	Dennie Mendez	April 9, 2014	Create a work group to investigate training	Presentation to Board	

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<p><i>Presentation on Customer Assistance Program; discounts, financial support, medically vulnerable</i></p>	<p>Ronnie Mendoza Austin Energy</p>	<p><i>April 9, 2014</i> <i>August 13, 2014</i></p>	<p><i>Create a work group to investigate training information that should be included in customer assistance training program. Questions to consider:</i></p> <p><i>% of Seniors in CAP Program?</i></p> <p><i>What components do seniors use/need?</i></p> <p><i>What % need to transition to the arrearage management program?</i></p> <p><i>How to reduce the #'s with guidance from Commission? For seniors in the arrearage management program, how can we provide guidance and additional assistance?</i></p> <p><i>Age distribution breakdown available?</i></p>	<p><i>Presentation to Board with training recommendations</i></p> <p><i>November 2014</i></p> <p><i>A. E. does not currently capture this information</i></p>	

GOAL 1: AGE INCLUSIVE POLICIES – AFFORDABLE HOUSING

WORK GROUP: AFFORDABLE HOUSING



Strategy 1.1: Integrate age inclusive policies with regard to ordinances, regulations, and policies related to four specific focus areas; transportation, affordable housing, land development and affordable utilities and taxes.

Action Steps	Lead Person/ Organization	Begin date/Board Report(s)	Outcome (Results)	Timeline
Focus Area: Senior Housing Presentation Housing Authority of Austin Presentation of Community Needs Assessment FY: 2014-2019 Consolidated Plan FY: 2014-15 Action Plan	Michael Roth Housing Authority of Austin (HACA)	5/2014 Invited to present	The panelist responded to the questions that were submitted earlier by the Commission No action taken	Presented on June 11, 2014
	Jonathan Tomko with Neighborhood Housing and Community Development (NHCD)	5/2014 Invited to present Community Needs Assessment		Presented on June 11, 2014
Presentation on RBJ Center Project and renovations	Helen Varty	October 8, 2014	No action taken	