



Annual Internal Review

This report covers the time period of 7/1/2020 to 6/30/2021

Commission on Seniors

The Board/Commission mission statement (per the City Code) **is:**

The Commission on Seniors shall serve as an advisory board to the council concerning the quality of life for senior citizens in the Austin area and to help ensure older adults are productive, independent, and healthy.

The commission shall:

- (1) advise the council on issues related to the senior population in the Austin area;
- (2) evaluate and recommend programs, policies, and practices that create a positive impact and reduce the burden on seniors;
- (3) determine the needs of seniors in the Austin community, and advise council regarding these needs; and
- (4) promote the contributions of seniors to the cultural, economic, and historical value of Austin.

The council encourages the commission to hold periodic joint meetings with the Mayor's Committee for People with Disabilities.

Source: Ord. 20130926-081; Ord. No. 20141211-204, Pts. 17, 18, 7-1-15.

- 1. Describe the board's actions supporting their mission during the previous calendar year. Address all elements of the board's mission statement as provided in the relevant sections of the City Code.**

This annual report for July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021, highlights the accomplishments of the Commission on Seniors based on the responsibilities outlined in the mission

statement of the Commission, the implementation of the Age Friendly Action Plan, Council's Strategic Direction, and other important issues facing seniors.

Advise the Council on issues related to the senior population:

[Recommendation Number 20201112-03B](#): Transparency of Reporting COVID-19 in Nursing Homes and Long-Term Care Facilities

[Recommendation Number 20200921-03D](#): Reallocation of Austin Public Library funds serving older adults

[Recommendation 20210113-03B](#): Seating in Parks, Greenbelts, Trails, and other Open Spaces

[Recommendation Number 20210210-03B](#): Support for Austin's Legislative Agenda

[Recommendation Number 20210310-04A](#): Prioritizing COVID Vaccine appointments to People Aged 70 and Older

[Recommendation Number 20210310-04B](#): Establishing an Emergency Preparedness and Response Working Group

The Commission made the following budget recommendations:

[Recommendation Number 20210326-04Ai](#): FY 2022 Budget Recommendation for Planning and Increased Support to Serve the Needs of Older Adults Experiencing Homelessness

[Recommendation Number 20210326-04Aii](#): FY 2022 Budget Recommendation and Related Recommendations on Expanding Access to Online Connectivity for Older Adults

[Recommendation Number 20210326-04Aiii](#): FY 2022 Budget Recommendations Education and Outreach on Senior Homestead Tax Exemption

Evaluate and recommend programs, policies, and practices that create a positive impact and reduce the burden on seniors:

In addition to the actions above, the Commission has adopted the model of working groups to study, analyze and evaluate major strategies identified in the larger strategic Age Friendly Action Plan. Working groups allow the Commission to involve interested community representatives and City of Austin and Travis County staff to help drive the implementation of the Age Friendly Action Plan.

The Commission established four working groups aligning with the eight Domains of the Age Friendly Action Plan and the Council's Strategic Direction 2023. Annually each Working Group reports on its work and established goals for the coming year. Below is the report of the Working Groups established on July 8, 2020.

Age Friendly Action Plan Working Groups:

Age Friendly Action Plan Implementation and Communications Working Group:

The Age Friendly Action Plan Implementation and Communications Working Group also serves as the Commission's executive committee and budget committee. The working group met regularly with Age Friendly Action Plan Coordinator Tabitha Taylor regarding implementation of the plan and development of metrics. The working group also:

- Discussed and prioritized budget recommendations from other working groups.
- Engaged with Ms. Taylor to plan the community engagement forum on the budget.
- On May 18th, 2021, Ms. Taylor, AFAP Coordinator along with Ms. Patricia Bordie, Director, Area Agency on Aging, provided a script with information related to Older Americans Month and COVID-19 resources to be shared on KAZI Radio Station, 88.7 FM, and Health Talk Show.
- Ms. Taylor provided monthly Emergency Operations Center- Senior TF updates to highlight outreach and community engagement opportunities for older adults.
- Provided feedback to Ms. Taylor during the development of the Age Friendly Austin logo.
- Reviewed and finalized the required City of Austin Age-Friendly Action Plan Update report, submitted to AARP on July 1st, 2021.
- Supported the advancement of communication for the Age-Friendly Action Plan by encouraging a communication plan—currently underway

Housing, Transportation and Open Spaces Working Group:

The Housing, Transportation and Open Spaces Working Group activity included:

- Presentation from Dave Couch, a lead project coordinator for the Project Connect regarding the plans and design of the transportation improvements approved by voters.
- Presentation from Emi Johnson from the Austin Public Library on the Nature Smart Library program which seeks to encourage reading and library utilization in more natural or outdoor settings.
- Presentation from David Crabb with PARD who outlined recent online programs designed to reduce social isolation during the COVID-19 pandemic quarantine.

- Presentation from Rebecca Giello and Mandy DeMayo from Housing and Planning Department who provided a status report on the City's efforts to enhance home repair and architectural barrier removal programs, and efforts to provide housing in city-owned motels for people experiencing homelessness.
- Presentation from Pard's Steve Linnet and Ricardo Soliz who outlined the department's plans for park asset acquisition and development. This resulted in our recommendation, and the Commission's passage of a resolution on providing more benches at park trails and facilities to enhance senior utilization.
- Discussion with Mandy DeMayo and Nefertiti Jackmon from Housing and Planning regarding gentrification and resulting displacement of seniors within the core areas of town. They outlined the tenant rent stabilization and their work with the municipal court on potential evictions.
- Updated the metrics required for the Age Friendly Action Plan report
- Recommended items for the Commission's budget discussion
- Met with John Eastman and Justin Novell with the City's public works department on sidewalks, traffic signals, and other maintenance programs affecting mobility for older adults.
- Met with citizen Barbara Epstein who outlined her concerns over how Capital Metro route changes have negatively impacted senior mobility in the central city. Follow-up discussions clarified some of her concerns and discussions will continue.
- Presentation from Jeff DeCoux, Ted Lehr, and Charles Purma on the Autonomy Institute (working with UT) on the future of Older Adult Transport.

Social Participation, Respect and Social Inclusion, Civic Participation and Employment:

The workgroup primarily addressed issues within Domains 4-6 that were affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. While those challenges crossed all Domains, this workgroup focused its attention on the following:

Engaging older adults in activities, programs, and volunteer services

- Parks and Recreation Department (PARD), Austin Public Library (APL), Coming of Age, Austin LGBTQIA2+ Elder Task Force, and other agency partners shared information on older adult engagement and services available during COVID-19.

- APL became “Nature Smart,” which means making use of outdoor spaces for programming.
- Claire Irwin with the Texas Health and Human Services announced their virtual “Texercise” program and worked on a guide for intergenerational connections at nursing facilities.
- Richard Bondi, Austin LGBTQIA2+ Elder Task Force, announced their virtual yoga classes, monthly “Campfire Queer Storytime” and other virtual socialization events.
- Listened to presentation by Art Spark Texas regarding their Mobile Art program. During this time, the program has shifted their in-person art activities for seniors with disabilities to a virtual platform.

Social isolation

- Agency partners supported outreach to older adults in skilled nursing and assisted living facilities through the COVID -19 Austin/Travis County Emergency Operation Center- Senior Taskforce’s We Care outreach initiative

Communication and outreach

- Dashboard information for the Age-Friendly Plan continues to be worked on
- Locally produced virtual events (PARD events, AustinUP Aging & Innovation Summit, Austin LGBTQIA2+ Elder Task Force events) are connecting Austin to national and international age-friendly events and people via archived event recordings on YouTube.
- A social work intern from the School of Social Work’s Grace Program and LBJ School of Public Affairs was brought on to assist Tabitha Taylor, the Austin Age-Friendly Plan Coordinator, to help with age-friendly promotion/communication work.
- Supported outreach for the Latinx, Asian-American, Black, and LGBTQIA communities. This included document translation and event support/promotion.

Digital inclusion

- Listened to a presentation by Jennifer Emerick-Cayton about the activities of the Social Isolation Task Force to improve digital inclusion for older adults. Workgroup support included adding questions about technology access in the upcoming LGBTQ quality of life study, participation on the task force, and coordination of efforts with APL.
- The Commission on Seniors approved a resolution that supported APL reallocating \$11K to go toward technology tools and training for older adults.
- APL is offering technology services (tablets, hotspots) at specific library locations and for home-bound residents. The services have literacy components to train people on the devices, e.g., through APL's "book a librarian" services.
- Richard Bondi, with the Austin LGBTQIA2+ Elder Task Force, updated and shared a list of domains/areas with the workgroup that were covered in the LGBTQIA Quality of Survey. They included physical health, emotional health, personal safety, housing, transportation, environment, economic opportunity and access, and more.

Learning opportunities

- Technology training for older adults was provided by APL.
- PARD, APL, Coming of Age, AustinUP, Texas Health and Human Services, Area Agency on Aging, and AGE of Central Texas training opportunities were shared for distribution to older adult customers.

Diversity, equity, and inclusion

- PARD, APL, Austin Public Health, Capital City Village, Texas Health and Human Services, AustinUp, and Coming of Age shared strategies on promoting and supporting Black Lives Matter movement.
- Capital City Village partnered with SAIVA to share information about diversity/equity issues in our community.
- Participated in AARP interview on inclusivity.
- Austin LGBTQIA2+ Elder Task Force and Austin LGBT Coalition on Aging, along with Austin Black Pride, allgo, AGLIFF, Austin Justice Coalition, Chronically Queer, Gender and Sexuality Center, Keep GLSEN

Weird, Project Transitions, QueerBomb, Queer Riot Fest, QWELL, TENT, Thee Gay Agenda all partnered with Embrace Austin to build bridges between and advance issues of the LGBTQIA2+ community.

Job coaching and job searching

- AustinUp hosted virtual 50+ job fair and online programs to teach job search skills.
- Lance Gentles and Jace Furches, from APL, gave a presentation about the Austin Public Library Job Portal. The portal was created during the pandemic as a way for library staff to offer help to the Austin community through a challenging and uncertain job market. It includes a section for older adults, as well as one-on-one job coaching.

Community and Health Services Working Group:

During this past year the Community Health Services Working group participated in the following activities:

Began discussions around Emergency Preparedness, assessing existing structures, resources related to older adults and potential goals for working group. City staff joined these group meetings to provide current structure. Group also received regular updates on the Austin/Travis County EMS electronic referral coordination project. Plans include using shared software platform (Apricot) between 22 social service agencies to better coordinate referrals and follow up for older adults identified by Austin/Travis County EMS.

Members of the African American Resource Advisory Group and Hispanic/Latino Quality of Life Advisory Group attended the Domain 8 working group meeting to provide insight into their Advisory Group goals, objectives related to issues health and other social determinants of health.

Regularly followed up on the Foundation Communities' Care Team project funded by Austin Public Health. This working group has received updates on the project's status/ findings and grant deliverables. Working group also provided input to Foundation Communities following a project status update.

Domain 8 received regular updates on Aging Services Council activities including a general overview of outcomes from Community Needs Assessment survey. Results were to be reported in May 2020 but have been delayed due to the pandemic.

Group discussed LGBTQ Quality of Life Advisory Commission's recommendation for potential provider work group to better coordinate communication and access to services between HIV/AIDS providers and aging network service providers.

Presentations provided included, 1) Updates on Resolution 41 project from Commissioner Angel, 2) Overview of mental health services provided by Integral Care from Phyllis Wolf, MA, LPC, and 3) Overview of Health Communities Grant project from Stephanie Helfman from APH) and 4) Overview of University of Texas Design Institute Nursing Home System Study.

The working group also discussed recommendations for full Commission consideration on next year's budget items. The main topic of discussion was outreach and options for better coordination, messaging and focus on underserved and hard-to-reach communities.

In-person working group meetings were impacted by COVID-19 crises in April and May. The group did reconvene in June 2020 to discuss the Social Services branch of the Emergency Operations Center and their work on behalf of older adults. Group member also made recommendations on any unmet needs.

Emergency Preparedness and Response Work Group:

On March 10, 2021, the Commission passed Resolution Number: 20210310-04B to establish an Emergency Preparedness and Response Working Group (EPRWG). The purpose of the working group is to make recommendations to improve preparation, communication and response to extreme weather, disasters, and other emergencies.

EPRWG members include Commissioners Van Sickle, Nicola, Temperley and Bordie, as well as representatives of AARP, Family Eldercare, Meals on Wheels Central Texas, Travis Co. Health & Human Services, Age-Friendly Austin and APH Emergency Preparedness.

The EPRWG began meeting monthly in March to develop and draft a resolution for the Commission. In addition, members are participating in the Aging Services Council's Emergency Preparedness committee and the COA Winter Storm Review Task Force.

Commissioner Van Sickle has attended 2 of the 3 community listening sessions held to date, as well 3 of 4 work group meetings held to date. Community input has centered around key issues of basic needs, communication, education, and planning. A draft resolution is in process. A final resolution will be presented to the Commission for approval at their July meeting.

Other Activities Implementing the Age Friendly Action Plan:

Age Friendly Forums

AustinUP is hosting a series of free online sessions in 2021 that will focus on community progress as a result of the Age-friendly Austin Plan. Each half-day forum disseminates local information to older adults about each of the Domains of Livability, e.g., housing, transportation, civic participation / employment, etc. and discussing achievements in the global age-friendly movement. Speakers and panels will showcase existing services in our community in addition to “horizon” ideas and plans. The audience will include older adults and caregivers as well as representatives from private and nonprofit sectors. Age Friendly Coordinate Tabitha Taylor and several members of the Commission have participated in the forums and moderators and panelists.

Determine the needs of seniors in the Austin community, and advise council regarding these needs:

Community Engagement on FY 21 Budget:

The Commission on Seniors conducted extensive community outreach to inform our budget recommendations. The Commission developed an Age Friendly Austin Community Feedback Survey in 2020 that was updated in 2021 to include questions related to COVID-19 and digital inclusion. The survey was distributed through partner groups such as AARP, AustinUP, the Aging Services Council and others. In addition, the Commission participated in the virtual budget forums organized by the Joint Inclusion Committee and the Equity Office. Chair Briesemeister participated in a tele-townhall on the city budget that was hosted by AARP. Members of the Commission also met with community organizations and providers (including Drive-a-Senior, Family Eldercare and Aging Services Council) regard the budget.

COVID-19 Response:

Commissioners received regular updates from Age Friendly Action Plan Coordinator Tabitha Taylor regarding the Emergency Operations Center response re: Covid-19 and older adults. Individual commissioners volunteered in various capacities in Covid-19 response, including making wellness calls to older adults, and responding to requests for information and comments from council offices and the mayor’s office.

Intergenerational Day Center Feasibility Study

Commissioner Angel serves as Chair of Intergenerational Day Center Advisory Group. The role of the IDC Advisory Group is to review the possibilities of an IDC pilot project and to support City of Austin as they carry out Resolution #41 (10/18/18 for Adult Day Care. Tele-behavioral health, Care Navigation, Child Care and intergenerational

programming); <https://www.aarp.org/livable-communities/network-age-friendly-communities/info-2020/age-friendly-austin-texas-and-equity.html>

In collaboration with Commissioner Angel and the full Commission's recommendation, Austin Public Health funded a \$50,000 feasibility study to assess the need for an Adult Day Center, completion of feasibility study is due to be completed, July 2021.

Invited and requested presentations on issues of interest to the Commission:

July 8, 2020: Presentation: City of Austin COVID-19 Response, Long-Term Care Taskforce, Stephanie Helfman, Austin Public Health **Presentation: Building an Intergenerational Metropolis: An Assessment of an Intergenerational Day Center**, LBJ School of Public Affairs

August 12, 2020: Presentation: Community Climate Plan 2020 Revision, Celine Rendon, Community Engagement Specialist, Office of Sustainability, City of Austin

September 21, 2020: Presentation: 2019 State and Federal Legislative Update, Brie L. Franco, Intergovernmental Relations Officer, City of Austin. **Presentation: Austin Social Isolation Taskforce Overview**, Jennifer Emerick, Co-Founder, Heart and Soul Taskforce **Presentation: Seniors and Law Enforcement Together committee (SALT)**, Veronica Saldate, Office of Community Liaison, Austin Police Department.

October 14, 2020: Presentation: Austin's Digital Inclusion Strategy, Colleen Billiot, Public Information Specialist Senior, TARA **Presentation: PARD Programs for Older Adults**, David Crabb, City of Austin Parks and Recreation **Update: Homeless and Aging Initiative**, Commissioner Amy Temperly

November 18, 2020: Presentation Austin is My Home and Senior Homestead Tax Exemption, City of Austin Interdepartmental Presentation. **Update: Website for Senior Activities**, Commissioner Temperly and Jen Emerick-Cayton.

December 9, 2020: Presentation Reimagining Public Safety, Brion Oaks, Chief Equity Officer

January 13, 2021: Presentation: Update on Proposition B and Bond Funded Sidewalk Improvements, Eric Bailey, City of Austin, Public Works Department.

February 10, 2021: Briefing: Project Connect and Austin Transit Partnership, Jackie Nirenberg, Capital Metro.

April 14, 2021: Presentation: FY 21-22 Action Plan Community Needs Assessment, Rebecca Giello and Katie Horstman, Housing and Planning.

May 12, 2021: Presentation: Food Insecurity and Older Adults, Edwin Marty, Food Policy Manager, Office of Sustainability

June 9, 2021: Presentation: Age-Friendly Action Plan Metrics, Tabitha Taylor, Age-Friendly Coordinator, Stepha Dragoon, UT's GRACE Program Intern, Teresa Ferguson, AustinUP.

Promote the contributions of seniors to the cultural, economic, and historical value of Austin:

The Commission promotes the contributions of seniors through engagement with the community, our participation in community events and committees, presentations to other planning and community bodies, and meetings with City staff.

- The Commission on Seniors is represented on the Joint Inclusion Committee and served as chair.
- The Commission on Seniors is represented on the Equity Office's Equity Action Team
- Members of the Commission regularly attended the budget meetings held by the Equity Office
- Commissioner Van Sickle participated in an AARP Facebook Live event promoting the Commission's engagement activities around the budget (February 4)
- Chair Briesemeister participated in an AARP Facebook Live event discussing the Commission's budget recommendations (April 21)
- Members of the Commission on Seniors participate on the Aging Services Council
- Chair Briesemeister reviewed "Mini Grant" proposals submitted to the Equity Office.
- Chair Briesemeister spoke to the Parks and Recreation Board seeking support for Recommendation 20210113-03B: Seating in Parks, Greenbelts, Trails, and other Open Spaces.
- Commission members attended the Aging and Longevity Summit "The Age of Resilience Meets the Resilience of Age, sponsored by AustinUp October 20-21, 2020.
- Commissioner Angel discussed The Changing Face of the Latino Caregiver <https://states.aarp.org/texas/the-changing-face-of-the-latino-caregiver> 10/12/2020- AARP
- Vice-chair Varteressian participated in panel interviews for the Civil Rights Officer.
- Tabitha Taylor, Age-Friendly Program Coordinator, and Commissioners Bordie, Angel and Garcia-Pittman were interviewed for Fall 2020- AARP Age-Friendly Austin, Texas, and Equity on Quality of Life Commissions, LGBTQI+ community and Joint Inclusion, Public-Private partnerships, e.g., Resolution #41

(10/18/18 for Adult Day Care. Tele-behavioral health, Care Navigation, Child Care, and intergenerational programming); <https://www.aarp.org/livable-communities/network-age-friendly-communities/info-2020/age-friendly-austin-texas-and-equity.html>

- Additional activities postponed due to Covid-19 Stay Home Stay Safe orders

2. Determine if the board's actions throughout the year comply with the mission statement.

The Commission on Seniors has acted to fulfill the scope and the responsibilities as outlined in the mission statement as identified in Ord. 20130926-081.

3. List the board's goals and objectives for the new calendar year.

Concurrently with approval of the Annual Review the Commission establishes the following Working Groups and the Commission's goals and objectives for the coming year.

1. Age Friendly Action Plan Working Group:
 - a. The Age Friendly Action Plan Working Group will oversee implementation of the Age Friendly Action plan and coordinate with other working groups on items related to the Action Plan. It will include the Communications and Information Domain.
 - b. Strategic Direction 2023: Government that Works
 - c. Commissioners: Van Sickle (Chair), Varteressian, Briesemeister, Lugo, Bordie, Garcia-Pittman
 - d. Community members: Shubhada Saxena, SAIVA/AAQL; Jessica Lemann, AARP; Teresa Ferguson, AustinUP;
 - e. Other invited members: Representatives of Hispanic Latino Quality of Life Commission; African American Quality of Life Commission; LGBTQ Quality of Life Commission; Mayor's Committee on People with Disabilities; Planning and Zoning/Imagine Austin staff; other staff as requested.
 - f. Goals and Objectives for 2021-2022:
 - i. Continued implementation of Age Friendly Action Plan across the city;
 - ii. Support the Age Friendly Action Plan Coordinator in updating the Age Friendly Action Plan metrics
 - iii. Serve as the Commission's Budget Committee, including developing budget recommendations and monitoring implementation of the Commission's budget recommendations.
 - iv. Support AFA Program Coordinator in development of an Age Friendly Action Plan communications plan

2. Transportation, Housing, and Open Spaces:
 - a. The Working Group will review and make recommendations on city budget, city programs and policies and other policies (such as from Cap Metro) related to the Age Friendly Action Plan Domains 1 (Outdoor spaces and buildings), 2 (Transportation), and 3 (Housing).
 - b. Strategic Direction 2023: All
 - c. Commissioners: Varteressian (chair), Kareithi, Briesemeister,
 - d. Community Members: Tommi Ferguson, Capitol City Village, Diana Deaton, Aging 2.0; Shubhada Saxena, SAIVA/AAQL; Teresa Ferguson, AustinUP; Charles Curry, Austin LGBT Coalition on Aging and LGBTQ Quality of Life Commission; Carla Penny, AARP Volunteer; Jessica Lemann, AARP
 - e. Staff from Austin Transportation Department, Neighborhood Housing and Community Development, Parks and Recreation and other departments as requested.
 - f. Goals and Objectives for 2021-2022:
 - i. equitable transportation options for older adults regardless of where they live
 - ii. increased community engagement to help older adults reduce their property taxes and age in place more affordably; and
 - iii. strategies to prevent homelessness among older adults as outlined in the Commission on Seniors' March 2021 Budget Recommendation 20210326-04Ai.

3. Social Participation, Respect and Social Inclusion, Civic Participation and Employment.
 - a. The Working Group will review and make recommendations on city budget, city programs and policies and other policies related to the Age Friendly Action Plan Domains 4 (Social participation), 5 (Respect and social inclusion) and 6 (Civic participation and employment)
 - b. Strategic Direction 2023: Culture and Lifelong Learning; Economic Opportunity and Affordability
 - c. Commissioners: Lugo (Chair), Van Sickle
 - d. Community Members: Claire Irwin, Texas Health and Human Services Commission; Richard Bondi, Austin LGBT Elder Task Force; Teresa Ferguson, AustinUP.
 - e. Rebecca Rich-Wulfmeyer, Austin Public Library; Kelly Maltsberger, Parks and Recreation Department; Preston Stewart Economic Development; and staff from other departments as requested.
 - f. Goals and Objectives for 2021-2022:
 - i. Update the asset map to include all domains.
 - ii. Pursue creating task forces composed of citizens to work on projects, complete them, and then disband.

- iii. Identify opportunities to expand and/or enhance programs for senior employment:
 - iv. Provide opportunities for senior employment.
 1. Advertise employment opportunities for older adults
 2. Pursue creating a City internship program for people 55+.
 3. Consider either having an AmeriCorps Vista set up an internship program, bring on a fellow from the Leadership Austin Fellow's Project, or modeling it after the city's Municipal Veteran's Internship Program.
 - v. Expanding programs for Older Adults
 1. LGBTQIA2+ programming. Pursue certification of local SAGE affiliate through partnership with Family Eldercare, bringing SAGE programs and services to Austin, which include intergenerational activities.
 2. Intergenerational programming. Pursue collaboration with SAGE affiliate/Family Eldercare.
 3. Civic and volunteer engagement. Pursue service-oriented programs through PARD, e.g., a day of service (9/11 or MLK Day), in partnership with other departments and senior service providers.
 4. Cultural and lifelong learning. Expand hybrid models developed during the pandemic for video and in-person classes.
4. Community and Health Services
- a. The Working Group will review and make recommendations on city budget, city programs and policies and other policies related to the Age Friendly Action Plan Domain 8 (Community support and health services).
 - b. Strategic Direction 2023: Health and Environment; Safety
 - c. Commissioners: Bordie and Garcia-Pittman (co-chairs), Angel, Cagle, Nicola, Hauser
 - d. Community Members: Mary Teeters - Gerontology Consultant - Meals on Wheels of Central Texas; Barry Waller, LGBT Coalition on Aging; Korey Darling, LMSW, Research and Planning Division at Travis County Health and Human Services; Teresa Ferguson, AustinUP.
 - e. Austin Public Health staff (including the Office of Emergency Management), the Travis County Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, and other city and county staff as requested.
 - f. Goals and Objectives for 2020-2021
 - 8.1.2: Create focus groups of city and community representatives with the charge of developing a strategic plan to integrate aging, mental health and wellness programs.

- Expand on work completed during 2019 – 2020
- Increase work on mental health wellness
 - Extend invitation to join the working group
- 8.1.4: Expand opportunities for affordable and accessible health care services not covered by Medicare, e.g., dental, hearing and vision.
 - Prioritize dental services by coordinating with community agencies (St. David's Foundation, People's Clinic, Manos de Christo, Texas Mobile Dentist, and others not yet identified) to understand current resources with goal to expand resources
 - Continue to communicate with Foundation Communities for updates on the Community Health worker project and ways to expand in the future.
 - Consider scheduling a dental week where all agencies could be available to the community
 - Consider a meeting to invite community partners and build strategic plan.
 - Focus on transportation to assist with accessibility to health services
- 8.3.3: Provide emergency response, preparedness strategies on the COA website specific to the needs of the senior population.
 - Continue to assess existing systems and discuss potential outreach needs and opportunities. Complete this item with the assistance of the COA Vulnerability Planner
 - Address community needs and response related to COVID-19. Receive regular update, support requests for information, assistance with outreach from Social Services branch at Emergency Operations Center. Receive regular reports from Aging Services Council and network providers regarding available services and coordinated response activities.

- 8.2.1: Expand community outreach and public awareness around caregiver support and in-home support programs, including respite care, palliative care, and other homebased services.
 - Expand on work completed during 2019 – 2020
 - Participate in community engagement and provide information and recommendations related to older adults and caregivers to other Commissions implementing Quality of Life surveys (LGBTQ Quality of Life Advisory Commission and Mayor’s Task Force on Disabilities) or other Commissions’ community engagement activities.