

February 10, 2023

DRAFT

Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
City of Long Beach
411 W. Ocean Boulevard, 11th Floor
Long Beach, CA 90802

RE: Older Adult Needs Assessment and Strategic Planning

Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council:

The Board of Health & Human Services recently received a presentation on the needs of older adults in Long Beach including gaps in resources. During this meeting, there was a particular focus on issues that intersect housing, poverty, and access to basic needs and services as experienced among aging communities. Based on the concerns raised during this meeting, including experiences shared during public comment, the board makes the following recommendations:

1. The Board recommends the Office of Aging undergo a vision and mission development process, relying on input from older adult community members, the aging service network, and other key community stake holders.
2. The Board recommends completion of an updated strategic plan for older adults. The most recent strategic plan was completed in 2005 and may not accurately reflect current health and social needs (particularly related to housing, technology access, and other critical basic services). A focal point of this analysis may include the development of strategies for increased coordination between the Office of Aging housed within the Department of Health and Human Services and the Department of Parks and Recreation, which houses the City's Senior Centers.

Our aging community is rapidly growing and experiencing unique challenges in health and human services needs. As we continue to learn about critical gaps in resources, we feel the City should recognize and implement strategies to ensure older adult health is a priority issue.

Sincerely,

Sabrina K. Sanders
Chair
Board of Health & Human Services