



Karol Swartzlander, Executive Director
Gavin Newsom, Governor

INFORMATIONAL HEARING

Recovering Together: Rebuilding Life After the Fires

An informational hearing on the challenges faced by older adults and people with disabilities in the aftermath of wildfires.

Thursday, May 22, 2025

10:00 am – 2:30 pm

Location: Braille Institute, 741 North Vermont Avenue Los Angeles, CA 90029

(Park at: [744 N. New Hampshire Ave, Los Angeles, CA 90004](#))

Remote participants can join via Zoom.

[Please register in advance for this webinar.](#)

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting and a private link.

PROGRAM

David Lindeman, Chair

All listed items are approximate and are subject to change. Program items are scheduled for consideration by the Commission, which may or may not choose to act. Breaks may be called at the discretion of the Chair.

1. Call to Order, Roll Call, and Pledge of Allegiance

Dr. David Lindeman, Chair, California Commission on Aging

2. Approve Minutes from the March 11 General Meeting

Dr. David Lindeman, Chair

3. Welcome

Jim Kales, Chief Executive Officer, Braille Institute

4. Opening Statement

Dr. David Lindeman, Chair



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5. PANEL 1: Addressing Urgent Needs (10:15 am)

The Commission will hear witness testimony on the ongoing needs of older adults and people with disabilities impacted by recent Los Angeles fires. Questions from the commissioners will follow testimony.

Sharron Woods, Caregiver

Dr. Laura Trejo, Director, Los Angeles County Aging & Disabilities Department

Rachel Tate, Vice President, Ombudsman Services, Wise & Healthy Aging

TJ Hill, Executive Director, Disability Community Resource Center

6. PANEL 2: Rebuilding After Disaster (11:15 am)

The Commission will hear witness testimony on the challenges older adults and people with disabilities face in trying to restore their lives after a disaster. This panel will focus on the complications with finding housing or continuing long-term care and will also examine difficulties in navigating insurance and mitigating fraud targeting vulnerable populations, and rebuilding. Questions from commissioners will follow testimony.

Sue Kujawa, Altadena resident

Tracie Mann, Chief of Programs, Los Angeles County Development Authority

Bertha Sanchez Hayden, Associate Vice President of Justice for Seniors and Dependent Adults, Bet Tzedek

Tierre Thornton, Executive Director, Ivy Park at Culver City, Los Angeles

BREAK (30 minutes)



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7. PANEL 3: Planning for the Future (12:45 pm)

The Commission will hear witness testimony on the steps state and local governments can take to plan for the near future and the next natural disaster. This panel will look at previous disasters in the state to understand strategies that can be implemented to help in the recovery process. Additionally, panelists will discuss how local governments can ensure older adults and people with disabilities are included in disaster planning and are better prepared for the next disaster. Questions from commissioners will follow testimony.

Joe Cobery, Executive Director, Passages Area Agency on Aging

Laura Mosqueda, M.D., Professor of Family Medicine, Geriatrics, and Gerontology, Keck School of Medicine and Leonard Davis School of Gerontology, University of Southern California

John Burke, Corporate Safety Officer, Human Good

Katie Brandon, Director, Pasadena Village

8. Public Comment (1:45 pm)

The Committee may not discuss or act on any item raised during this public comment section, except to decide whether to place the matter on the agenda of a future meeting.

In the interest of time, the Committee requests that speakers limit their comments to no more than 2 minutes.

9. Adjourn

Commission meetings are open to the public and are held via Americans with Disabilities Act-compliant technology. If disability-related accommodation is required for your attendance or you need materials in alternate formats, please contact the Commission office at ccoa@ccoa.ca.gov at least five days before the meeting date.