

# California Commission on Aging

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GAVIN NEWSOM, Governor

Executive Director  
Karol Swartzlander

## GENERAL HYBRID MEETING MINUTES

November 9-10, 2022

In-person (San Diego) and Virtual (Zoom)

### WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2022

#### Commission Meeting 3:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. – Facility Tours Only

- St. Paul's Program of All Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) Roving Clinic
- Trinity Place PACE Supportive Housing Program
- Jewish Family Service [Safe Parking Program](#)

### THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2022

#### 1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Schmeding called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. Chair Schmeding led the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### 2. Roll Call and Establish Quorum

**Commissioners Present (In-Person):** Joaquin Anguera, Cheryl Brown, Erika Castile, Janet Frank, Brendalynn Goodall, Meea Kang, David Lindeman, Shelley Lyford, Debbie Meador, Ellen Schmeding, Dana Toppel

**Commissioners Present (Virtually):** Anni Chung, Joe Cislowski, Faisal Qazi, Rita Saenz

**Commissioners Absent:** Marcy Adelman, Kimberly Carr, Sedalia Sanders

**Staff:** Karol Swartzlander, Leza Coleman, Patrick Smith, Marcella Villanueva

**Guests:** Anya Delacruz, Michael Gavigan, Kim McCoy Wade, Susan DeMarois, Ruben Robles (In-person), Glenda Jackson (In-person), Krystle Rowe (In-person), Erika Smith, Stephanie Welch, Tita Bladen, Cary Rogers

A quorum was established.

#### 3. Approve Agenda

M/S/C (Kang/Lindeman)

**TO APPROVE THE NOVEMBER 10, 2022, CCOA GENERAL MEETING AGENDA.  
APPROVED.**

Abstentions: None

**4. Approve the CCoA General Meeting Minutes from September 19, 2022**

M/S/C (Kang/Lyford)

**TO APPROVE THE CCOA GENERAL MEETING MINUTES FROM SEPTEMBER 19, 2022.  
APPROVED.**

Abstentions: None

**5. Public Comment**

None

**6. Chair's Comments**

**a. Executive Committee Report**

Chair Schmeding shared the Executive Committee met on October 11<sup>th</sup> to ratify the Nominating Committee's advance of the annual election of officers.

**b. 2023 CCoA Proposed Meeting Schedule**

Chair Schmeding discussed the proposed 2023 CCoA meeting schedule:

- January - Virtual meeting with capitol legislative staff
- March - In-person meeting for a legislative breakfast
- May - In-person meeting to coincide with the C4A annual meeting
- September - In-person meeting in San Francisco
- November - Virtual meeting

CCoA staff will send out a doodle poll to identify the best dates for the meetings.

- **Discussion**

None

- **Public Comment**

None

**7. Master Plan for Aging (MPA) Stakeholder Advisory Committee and Workgroup Reports**

**a. Elder and Disability Justice Coordinating Council**

Chair Schmeding shared, the Council's continued priorities: fully fund all Adult Protective Services to improve the delivery and coordination of services and Public Guardian and Public Conservators programs, create a state unit responsible for oversight, and publicize and fund legal aid services across the state.

**b. Disability and Aging Community Living Advisory Committee**

Commissioner Castile shared the committees continuing priority to push workforce development, transportation, and affordable housing.

**c. Equity in Aging Advisory Group**

There was no meeting so there was no report.

**d. Data Exchange Framework Stakeholder Advisory Group Meeting**

Commissioner Lindeman reported the Committee has moved beyond data exchange and now has created a special advisory group, the Aging and Disability Research Program Partnership.

**e. Aging and Disability Resource Connection Advisory Committee**

Swartzlander reported the Aging and Disability Resource advisory committee has not met.

**f. California 2030**

Swartzlander and Commissioner Saenz reported the California 2023 committee has not met.

- **Discussion**

None

- **Public Comment**

None

**8. CCoA Master Plan for Aging (MPA) Priorities**

Commissioner Frank presented CCoA's MPA priorities.

**a. Debrief CA for All Ages and Abilities**

Commissioner Frank shared that the event was very well attended and received very enthusiastic response from state leadership in attendance.

**b. Summary of CCoA MPA Priorities**

The Commission's three priorities: workforce development, including increased workforce opportunities for older adults, behavioral health, and homelessness and housing.

- **Discussion**

None

- **Public Comment**

None

**9. Presentation #1: Homeshare Program and Housing Services**

**Anya Delacruz, Associate Executive Director, ELDERHELP and Robin Strickland, Housing Services Manager, ELDERHELP**

Homeshare is designed to facilitate matches between people that need housing with people that have room available. Matches may consist of individuals renting a room for a fee, providing care or non-care services in lieu of paying rent, or a combination of money and service exchange. The average match lasts for six years. Eighty-nine percent of participants indicated their lives were better due to participation in the program.

- **Discussion**

There is a homeshare program in the Sacramento Area, American River HomeShare.

- **Public Comment**

None

**10. Presentation #2: County of Los Angeles Aging and Disabilities (AD) Area Agency on Aging (AAA) Title V - Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP)**

**Michael Gavigan, Human Services Administrator I, Area Agency on Aging Division, County of Los Angeles**

The Title V SCSEP has existed since 1965. SCEP provides hands-on job training for both subsidized and unsubsidized community service positions for individuals 55+ who have limited financial resources. Participants receive training part-time, positions at host agencies (non-profits and public agencies), then transition out to public employment. Additional services include job referrals, job counseling, case management, and referrals for social services, as needed. Participants must be unemployed at the time they are applying to the program. There is a family income limit of 125% of federal poverty guidelines and participants must reside in the county of Los Angeles. SCSEP monitors training, safety, pay and offers annual physical exams, unemployment insurance, and workers compensation. The AAA provides the service through a contracted service provider.

- **Discussion**

Question on the impact of COVID. There was a pause in new enrollments. There is

an asset requirement for family income, not just individual; savings and property are not considered. Comment that we need much more to counter ageism in employment; we need a formal commitment to change the views of society, so we don't see rampant discrimination of older workers. Efforts are underway to increase funding and expand the program through the California Department of Aging (CDA).

- **Public Comment**  
None

**11. Administration Updates: Master Plan for Aging (MPA), Embedding Equity [Executive Order N-16-22](#), and California Department of Aging**  
**Kim McCoy Wade, Senior Advisor for Aging, Disability, and Alzheimer's, Office of Governor Gavin Newsom**  
**Susan DeMarois, Director, CDA**

**Kim McCoy Wade** discussed the governor's executive orders:

Governor's executive order is to embed equity in every part of state government. All agencies are directed to update or produce strategic plans and ensure the plans are driven by public engagement and data. For example, the California Labor and Workforce Agency's strategic plan will include the California Workforce Development Board's recommendations on older workers. The California Department of Health Care Services is addressing older adults within current behavioral health programs. CoA could become engaged, utilizing local connections in the community, to ensure older adult needs are included and prioritized in strategic plans across state government.

- Data innovation: The Administration wants to collect data in a way that supports equity. Data for age is captured, but the age breakdown is not (65+ captures all older adults). Current data collection also does not show sectionality: age and race.
- The executive order also established the first ever Racial Equity Commission, housed in the Governor's Office (GO). The GO is looking for seven racial justice equity experts, to study diversity and intersectionality and how they together.
  - In January, the annual report of MPA will be released with a roadmap for the next two years focused on delivery, increased services, investment and coordination.
  - Stretch goals include planning for big things in a four-year timeframe. The MPA will relaunch in January 2023.

## **Susan DeMarois**

- Will be presenting a proposal next week on a funding opportunity in the \$15–20 million range specifically for adult behavioral health. The proposal seeks to replicate evidence-based and emerging model programs, and collect data to support development of a business case for Medicare and Medi-Cal funding.
- Workforce/Cal Grows: CDA launched the first of two phases. Applications for the \$55 million Innovation Fund are due in December. In January, CDA will announce smaller awards to provide training and stipends.
- MPA:CDA is in the process of wrapping up draft initiatives for 2023-2024, which including feedback from the September 20<sup>th</sup> conference, other reports, meetings, and public comments throughout the year. CDA expects to announce about 70 initiatives for the next two years in January, after the Governor’s proposed 2023-2024 budget is released on January 10.
- CDA will convene a Family Caregiving webinar on November 17, 2023. Fay Gordon with the federal Administration for Community Living will present.
- **Discussion**  
Question about which departments and agencies have gaps and reach of service. Aim to map central groups including community groups and leaders, not just state groups, to connect resources. There is a need for skills building at the state in the area of engagement.
- **Public Comment**  
None

## **12. Presentation # 3: How San Bernardino County is addressing behavioral health needs of older adults: The Age Wise Program**

**Glenda Jackson, Interim Assistant Director/Chief Deputy Public Guardian, Department of Aging and Adult Services-Public Guardian (DAAS-PG)**

**Dr. Krystle Rowe, Mental Health Program Manager II, DAAS-PG Public Guardian and Ruben Robles, Mental Health Program Manager I, DAAS-PG**

**Dr. Krystle Rowe:** Age Wise is a full-service partnership (SFP) and provides behavioral health in the home, intensive case management, and assistance with forms and applications, locating and connecting to resources using the ‘no wrong door’ approach, and addresses the stigma of participating in behavioral health and wellness programs. The Program ensures individuals are linked with and receive the services that they need, including coordinating vaccinations. The Age Wise program coordinates with Home Key, Adult Protective Services,

Mental Health Services Act housing complexes, Medi-Cal, and 24-7 toll free clinical therapists, and leverages grant funding to provide additional support. t

**Ruben Robles:** Robles presented statistics on participants served by fiscal year. Age Wise serves individuals with depressive disorders, bipolar disorder, psychosis, and trauma. Robles reviewed goals and trends of the Program, and disparities between the racial and ethnic populations they. Data demonstrates a reduced frequency of emergency room visits and unnecessary hospitalizations.

**Glenda Jackson:** Jackson shared the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SMHSA) service locator website. On the SMHSA website, zip codes can be entered to view facilities in that area and payment options. DAAS-PG is considering language in the Age Wise Program from behavioral health to wellness services.

- **Discussion** Are there issues limiting sustainability and scaling? Approximately 25-35% of referrals are individuals with cognitive issue, and thus ineligible for services. Age Wise is looking for funding opportunities and considering how to meet the needs of individual with cognitive decline and dementia, noting the need to look at preventative care and wellness as a whole.
- **Public Comment**  
None

### **13. Presentation #4: Behavioral Health Crisis Care Continuum and Older Adults Behavioral Health**

#### **Stephanie Walsh, Deputy Secretary of Behavioral Health, California Health and Human Services Agency (CalHHS)**

Developing a robust and adaptive Crisis Care Continuum is one of CalHHS's strategic priorities. Increases in substance abuse and the fact that the 85+ age group has the highest rates of suicide compared to any other age group demonstrate the need for behavioral health services for older Californians IN addition, emergency room doctors need to be able to distinguish between psychiatric and cognitive issues. Crisis care implementation activities include: expanding behavioral health mobile crisis and non-crisis services, increasing call center capacity, seeking a Medi-Cal benefit to fund mobile crisis services, additional funding for the California Office of Emergency Services and developing a Crisis Continuum Plan to support connections between prevention efforts like hotlines and peer support services, 9-8-8 mental health crisis call centers, and mobile crisis response at the local level.. .

- **Discussion**

Is there specific funding for older adult behavioral health? While there is considerable behavioral health infrastructure program and workforce investments, there is no specific investment dedicated to older adults. CCoA is encouraged to provide helpful, timely information and representation on the CalHHS Behavioral Health Taskforce.

- **Public Comment**

None

**BREAK (12:00 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.)**

12:00 p.m.-12:30 p.m.

**WORKING LUNCH (12:30 p.m.-1:00 p.m.)**

- **Meet and Greet with our St. Paul's Chief Executive Officer Michael McHale**  
Michael McHale thanked the Commission for their work around merging issues and needs impacting older adults.
- **Staff reviewed Commissioner roles and responsibilities and the travel claim process.**

**14. Nominating Committee Report**

Commissioner Goodall provided the Nominating Committee report.

M/S/C (Frank/Lindeman)

**TO ACCEPT THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT.**

**APPROVED.**

Abstentions: None

**15. Election of Officers**

The following members of the Executive Committee were elected by the membership:

- Chair, Cheryl Brown
- Vice Chair, David Lindeman
- Members-at-large, Marcy Adelman, Joe Cislowski, Debbie Meador, Sedalia Sanders

**16. Incoming Chair's Remarks**

Commissioner Brown made incoming remarks.



## 17. Workforce Development Recommendations

### a. Workforce Development Workgroup Report

Commissioner Schmeding provided the workforce report.

- Focus on older adult workforce and increasing interest in training in geriatric gerontology
- Need to share our recommendations to the administration
- Identify and promote CCoA participation/representation on workforce development stakeholder groups
- Incentivize businesses to provide accommodations for older adults and individuals with disabilities through legislation, stakeholder engagement, and working with agencies.
- Engaging Community Colleges to expand training in geriatric care; engage with the Chancellor around issues focused on workforce development
- Support statewide expansion of Geriatric Emergency Departments (GEDs)
- **Discussion**  
Suggestion to also include addressing negative ageist beliefs, ageism.
- **Public Comment**  
None
- **Vote: Approve Recommendations**

M/S/C (Frank/Lyford)

**TO APPROVE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT RECOMMENDATIONS.**

**APPROVED.**

Abstentions: None

## 18. CCoA Legislative Committee Updates

Commissioners Meador and Brown, and Coleman

### a. State Legislative Advocacy Committee Report

- Commissioners Meador and Brown, and Coleman provided an overview of proposed CCoA State Legislative and Federal Advocacy strategies, e.g., establishing CCoA as trusted resource for all issues impacting older adults; continuing prioritize Residential Care Facilities for the Elderly (RCFE)

expansion; proposing legislation to extend current flexibilities for hybrid and virtual meetings update the Bagley-Keene Open Meetings Act to; gaging with partner stakeholders, and legislators and legislative staff and continue collaboration with CDA and other state departments and agencies.

M/S/C (Frank/Brown)

**TO MOVE FORWARD WITH STRATEGIES ABOVE TO ENGAGE WITH STAKEHOLDERS AND PARTNER WITH THE LEGISLATURE AND THEIR STAFF.**

**APPROVED**

Abstentions: None

**b. Federal Advocacy Committee Report - Commissioner Brown**

- To direct staff to research and identify other states that have published MPA's (5) with two more coming online (NY and VT) and commissions.
- Solicit recommendations of known and trusted partners within the Commissions network and email commissioners seeking names and contact information.
- Strategies to promote the federal work that we do. We will track federal legislation and promote CCoA's 3 key priorities: behavioral health, workforce development, and housing while remaining responsive to federal issues as they arise.
- Engage with CA congressional delegation to establish us as trusted partners and stakeholders. Provide input on key legislation that affects older adults and enhance exposure of the CCoA on the federal level.
- Identify names of guest speakers for CCoA meetings to educate Commissioners on Federal activities.

M/S/C (Frank/Lyford)

**TO DIRECT STAFF TO RESEARCH AND IDENTIFY OTHER STATES THAT HAVE MPA'S AND COMMISSIONS ON AGING AND TO SEEK TO ENGAGE AND PROMOTE OUR FEDERAL PRIORITIES.**

**APPROVED.**

Abstentions: None

**c. Review and Refine Action Steps and Strategies**

- **Discussion**

None

- **Public Comment**

None

## **19. Staff Report**

### **a. Administrative and Personnel Updates**

Swartzlander thanked Commissioner Ellen Schmeding for her service as CCoA chair. Swartzlander provided an update on staff recruitment and reported the California Foundation on Aging has been updating bylaws and is recruiting new members. CCoA student intern, Beverly Townsel, will convene a Combating Ageism Forum in partnership with CCoA and the Sacramento State University Department of Gerontology. Commissioner Cheryl Brown will serve as keynote speaker.

### **b. January 2023 CCoA General Meeting Preview**

CCoA will conduct legislative outreach by inviting legislators, legislative staff, subject matter experts and stakeholders to participate in a virtual event, “Aging and Disability Issues: What Legislative Staff Need to Know for 2023”, on January 11, 2023, 10:00-11:30 am. A CCoA business meeting will be held from 11:30 am – 12:00 pm.

### **c. Operational Plan Progress Report/Work Plan Update**

Swartzlander reported a stronger focus on raising the Commission’s profile in front of the legislature and expanding coalition activities focused on CCoA policy priorities for 2023.

- **Discussion**

Commissions and staff discussed tweaking the three-year Operational Plan as needed.

- **Public Comment**

None

## **20. Commissioner Updates/Comments**

Commissioners thanked Commissioner Schmeding for her service.

**21. Wrap Up and Review of Next Steps**

Commissioner Schmeding and Swartzlander shared parting remarks.

**22. Adjourn**

Meeting adjourned at 3:01 p.m.