



Karol Swartzlander, Executive Director  
Gavin Newsom, Governor

## CCoA and TACC Joint General Meeting MINUTES

November 5, 2025

Hyatt Regency Orange County, Garden Grove, CA

### 1. Welcome

Chair Lindeman and President Smith welcomed attendees.

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

Chair Lindeman called the meeting to order at 10:08 a.m. President Smith led the Pledge of Allegiance.

### 3. Roll Call and Establish Quorum

**CCOA Commissioners present:** Chair David Lindeman, Vice Chair Ben Jauregui, and Members Erika Castile, Alex Davis, Katie Selenski, Michael Costa, Jamie Jensen, Janet Frank, Brendalynn Goodall, Lenore Tate, Lindsey Yourman, Debbie Meador, Marcy Adelman, Debbie Meador, Faisal Qazi, Adriene Davis.

**Virtual Commissioners Present:** Jeannee Parker Martin, Dana Toppel.

Staff Present: Melman, Swartzlander.

**Commissioners absent:** Shelley Lyford, David Campos.

**A quorum was established.**

**TACC Members Present:** President Theodore "Ted" Smith, and Members Bobbie Wartson, Kristi Denton Cohen, Tonya Frost, Rich Corvello, Marleen Bush.

**Virtual Members Present:** Vice President Joyce Gandelman, Tita Bladen, Martha Artiles.

### 4. Introduction to CCoA and TACC

Executive Director Karol Swartzlander introduced CCoA as designated in statute to advise the Governor and Legislature, along with state, federal, and local agencies on programs and services that affect older adults, people with disabilities, and caregivers.

TACC stands for the Triple A (Areas of Aging Advisory) Council. A state-wide organization, its members serve as a bridge between local Area Agency on Aging Advisory Councils and the Commission. TACC provides "grass roots" input to the CCoA.

### 5. CCoA Chair and TACC President Comments

CCoA and TACC were commended for their members' work and commitment. President Smith thanked everyone in attendance and looked forward to increased communication and shared experiences between the CCoA and TACC.



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**6. Approve the CCoA General Meeting Minutes from September 18, 2025**

**APPROVED** with no revisions or additions.

**7. Approval of the TACC General Meeting Minutes from October 9, 2025**

**APPROVED** with no revisions or additions.

**8. Comments from the Public on Issues not on this Agenda**

None.

**9. Staff Report**

- A. Any members of CCoA standing committees or subcommittees should notify Swartzlander by November 12, 2025, if they wish to continue to serve in 2026. All Commissioners should let Swartzlander know which committees they have an interest in serving on, and if they are interested in serving as a Chair.
- B. An update was given on current CCoA staffing and the position of Legislative Director. Jeannie Parker-Martin and Debbie Meador were thanked for their assistance in the interview process.
- C. The Eldera partnership received publicity online in an article, "Social Health Program Uses AI to Pair Older Adults with Youth to Combat Loneliness" on the Ignite Senior Living website.
- D. The Age-Inclusive Management Strategies Cohort Project invitations have been submitted to several state departments. They are invited to partner with CCoA in the six-month learning cohort expected to begin in early 2026.
- E. The Legislative Communications Toolkit, being distributed in January, will assist Commissioners in communicating with state representatives to schedule meetings on February 12.
- F. Upcoming informational and general meetings in January and February were announced. Swartzlander will meet with TACC President Smith to establish the TACC 2026 calendar.



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G. The Cheryl Brown Scholarship has opened applications for fall 2026. Seven applications have already been received. One \$5,000 scholarship was awarded for fall 2025.

## **10. California Department of Aging (CDA) Update**

**Sarah Steenhausen**, Deputy Director of Policy, Research, and Engagement, CDA

Deputy Director Steenhausen gave an update on California's Master Plan on Aging (MPA) and the areas in which it guides work toward system change:

- Navigation: Making system information easy to find.
  - Access: Providing gap analysis for Medical and Non-Medical clients and digital mapping for policy planners with a roadmap for access.
  - Workforce: With a severe shortage of paid direct care workers, it is the goal to drive wage increases and access to training. This includes initiatives to support unpaid family caregivers.
  - Finance: Policy development is in progress. An update will be released by June 2026.
- For updates, visit <http://www.mpaprogress.org/>

In addition, Steenhausen announced the launch of the first Aging and Disability Lived Experience Advisory Board initiative. Resources and policies are being developed for the Behavioral Health Services Act. CDA will release the first statewide study on older adult employment in summer 2026. Advocates are needed to push for a Senior Advisor in Aging in the Governor's office and an advocate at every table in the new state administration. Statistics were shared regarding rural health and an older adult workforce.

## **11. California Association of Area Agencies on Aging (C4A)**

**Christina Mills**, Executive Director, C4A

**Aneliza Del Pinal**, Chief Executive Officer, SOURCEWISE and President, C4A

Director Mills and Chief Officer Pinel reported on C4A's goals, including a focus on nutrition and a possible partnership with Meals on Wheels. C4A is focused on advocacy for affordable and accessible housing, service navigation, and using ADRCs to support those affected by H.R.1 changes.

## **12. Meeting the Moment: H.R.1's Impact on Older Adults and Federal Advocacy Strategies**

**Yasmin Peled**, Director, California Government Affairs, Justice in Aging

Director Peled reported that the populace that will be most impacted by H.R. 1 are low-income families and lawfully present immigrants. H.R.1 results in reductions to Medicaid, Medi-Cal,



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SNAP, and other social programs. The following recommendations were offered to commissioners and the public:

- Engage in your home district.
- Educate policymakers and yourself.
- Share stories and be a part of the process.
- Know your facts, audience, allies, and how to tailor your message.
- Participate at the agency level and provide public comments [www.federalregister.gov](http://www.federalregister.gov).
- Get to know “key staff.”
- Know the rules and jurisdiction and have a goal.
- Use public influencers and lawmakers.
- Make connections with local districts and partners.
- Legislative Representatives have offices in DC and in their home districts.  
<https://afj.org/bolder-advocacy/>
- Be flexible.

### 13. CCoA Committee Reports

#### A. Executive Committee Report

Commissioner Lindeman thanked the presenters and staff. The Executive Committee met on October 23 and approved the CCoA Legislative Strategy. The Committee discussed developing guidance for use of CCoA logo on emails by Commissioners. Staff will provide recommendations at the Nov. 20 Executive Committee meeting.

To keep the full Commission better informed about decisions of the Executive Committee, meeting minutes will be distributed to the full Commission after each meeting. In the interim, all Executive Committee meeting minutes are posted the CCoA website.

#### B. Legislative Advocacy Committee

Commissioners Meador, Goodall, and Adelman reported that SB 470 received the Governor's signature. Two proposals for 2026 CCoA sponsored bill have been received: a state-licensed gerontologist and a statewide office of public guardian. Patrick will be researching and updating. There is still an opportunity to join the committee.

#### C. Research and Policy Development Committee

Commissioner Lindeman announced that he will present CCoA's report, Rebuilding Lives: Disaster Response and Recovery for Older Adults and People with Disabilities in California, at the plenary session of the C4A conference.



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#### **14. Election of Officers**

The nominating committee presented its recommended slate of officers:

- Chair - David Lindeman
- Vice Chair - Ben Jaurequi, Vice Chair
- MEMBERS AT LARGE – Commissioners Alex Davis, Brendalynn Goodall, Erica Castile, Janet Frank, Jeannee Parker-Martin.

#### **VOTE TO APPROVE THE RECOMMENDED SLATE OF OFFICERS.**

(M/S/C) (Davis/Qazi)

**APPROVED.**

#### **15. CCoA 2026 Policy Priorities**

Strategies are being put in place to narrow CCoA's focus. Ideas and suggestions can be shared with Swartzlander in advance of the November 20 Executive Committee.

#### **16. Commissioner and Council Members' Comments**

Calendars for future meetings will be issued soon.

The importance of continuing to share stories was highlighted.

Melman was commended for her work in Communications and Engagement.

Guidelines for using the commissioner logo and engaging with gubernatorial candidates were discussed.

#### **17. Public Comment**

One person requested Commissioners put multi-generational cooperation on their agenda.

Another indicated more support is needed for streamlining applications and form submission processes for state programs.

#### **18. Adjourn at 12:05 pm**



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## **Part II. CCoA Presentation at C4A Conference**

**2:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.**

Location: Hyatt Regency Orange County, Grand Ballroom

### **Presentation: Rebuilding Lives: Disaster Response and Recovery for Older Adults and People with Disabilities in California**

**David Lindeman PhD**, Chair, California Commission on Aging

Executive Director, CITRIS Health, and Director, Center for Technology and Aging, CITRIS and the Banatao Institute, UC Berkeley

Chair Lindeman shared findings and recommendations from the CCoA report, *Rebuilding Lives: Disaster Response and Recovery for Older Adults and Adults with Disabilities in California*. The report draws on testimony from CCoA's May 5 informational hearing, which included experts in aging and disability, medical and government responders to the January 2025 Los Angeles wildfires, and community members who were displaced. Older adults and people with disabilities are regularly disproportionately the victims of natural disasters. The report highlights recurring challenges, barriers to recovery, and how California can better prepare for an aging population likely to face more frequent and increasingly severe natural disasters. Report includes list of recommendations for local and state agencies, and the legislature.