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## California Commission on Aging OPERATIONAL PLANNING FRAMEWORK Updated July 2024

The California Commission on Aging (CCoA) Operational Planning Framework incorporates the CCoA mandate to serve as the principal body advocating on behalf of older Californians and three primary responsibilities to Advocate, Advise and Educate in support of the California Master Plan on Aging (MPA) priorities and initiatives.

### VISION

Californians can age with dignity and respect in the setting of their choice.

### MISSION

To serve as the principal advocacy body for older Californians and a catalyst for change that supports and celebrates Californians as they age.

### VALUES

- Equity and Inclusion
  - Services will be linguistically and culturally responsive and the workforce will reflect the strength of California's diverse communities.
- Autonomy, Choice and Access
  - Financing and public policy will intentionally support the statewide infrastructure needed to foster quality options in all communities while reducing reliance on institutional placement.
- Respect and Integrity
  - The needs, values and preferences of individuals and their caregivers will be honored by the system and its providers.
- Collaboration and Partnership
  - Collaboration and partnerships will be fostered and supported to form a unified voice in support of California's aging population.

### ADVOCATE

**GOAL I: Advocate on issues affecting older adults, individuals with disabilities and caregivers.**

**Inputs:** research, analysis of legislation and initiatives, presentations from subject matter experts and site visits across the state

1. Serve as subject matter experts advising the Governor, state departments and the Legislature.
2. Initiate, analyze, advance, promote and sponsor California state legislation to improve and increase policies and programs for all older Californians and reduce disparities in the health and well-being of older adults from underserved communities, e.g., Black, Indigenous, and People of Color, LGBTQ+, rural and older adults with disabilities.

3. Engage in federal policy development and advocacy to ensure the voices of California's older adults, individuals with disabilities and caregivers are considered at the federal level, as resources allow.
4. Advance research, data collection, programs and policies to address poverty (such as food security/nutrition, Supplemental Security Income/State Supplementary Payment [SSI/SSP]), gender inequities and definition of needs; elder justice (including access to justice, victim services, Adult Protective Services and Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program); healthcare (including Medicare, Medi-Cal/Denti-Cal and behavioral health), dementia services, long-term supports and services and community living (such as housing, transportation, caregiving, respite care, age-, disability- and dementia-friendly communities and senior/community centers), geriatrics and gerontology workforce development and the importance of an age-diverse workforce. Geriatrics is a medical specialty that focuses on the clinical care of older adults provided by specially trained providers such as geriatricians and geriatric nurse practitioners. Gerontology is a wide-lens study that focuses on the bio-psych-social aspects of aging and considers societal implications and public policies. Gerontologists develop and apply knowledge and skills to improve the quality of life and promote the wellbeing of persons as they age, within their families, communities and society (GSA/AGHE, 2020).
5. Advise stakeholders on impact of emerging legislation, policies, and regulations.

**Outputs/Progress Indicators:** Sponsored legislation, meetings with legislators and staff, CCoA committee and workgroup assignments, external stakeholder advisory committee and workgroup assignments, reports and recommendations, articles, position letters, partnership/coalition letters, committee meetings, briefings, participation in hearings and presentations by subject matter experts and group representatives.

**GOAL II: Advance issues that affect older adults and their families (and families of choice) with an inclusive and equitable perspective on aging.**

**Inputs:** subject matter experts including California Department of Aging (CDA) director and/or designees, representatives of local, state, and federal government agencies, nonprofits, universities, service providers, and group representatives (e.g., older adults, individuals with disabilities, caregivers) to address topical issues at Commission meetings or priority issue areas.

1. Promote issues that affect older adults and their families, including but not limited to, economic security, age-, disability- and dementia-friendly communities, caregiver supports, workforce development, gerontology/geriatric education, affordable long-term supports and services, Alzheimer's disease research, healthcare and behavioral health, social connectivity, and intergenerational engagement.
2. Champion emerging issues and opportunities consistent with the Commission's mandate, priorities, and available resources.
3. Contribute to effectiveness of local, regional, state, and federal advocacy networks.
4. Partner and network with Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) and key stakeholders throughout California to research program innovations and address issues of concern at both federal and state levels.
5. Build coalitions and partnerships with leaders in nonprofit, local, state, and federal government

and the private sector, media and entertainment to address issues of mutual interest.

**Outputs/Progress Indicators:** participation in advocacy networks, partnership activities with AAAs and other key stakeholders, participation in California Association of AAA (C4A) sponsored events, distribution of AgeWatch, position letters, visibility of Commission efforts and participation in priority and emerging areas, agreement on planned activities/efforts.

## ADVISE

**GOAL III: Advise the Governor, state legislators, government officials and stakeholders on policies and programs that affect older Californians, individuals with disabilities, and caregivers.**

**Inputs:** expertise/work and affiliations of Commissioners and CCoA staff, staff analytical work, participation in educational webinars and stakeholder meetings convened by the State to track progress and provide input on development and implementation of initiatives, and the MPA data dashboard.

1. Support and monitor implementation of the MPA in alignment with CCoA priorities.
2. Keep the Administration, state legislators and applicable committees apprised of pertinent issues.
3. Provide expertise on aging issues in professional forums regarding government, healthcare, behavioral health, housing, long-term services and supports, business, education, industry, technology, entertainment, culture, diversity, equity, underserved communities, and other relevant topics.

**Outputs/Progress Indicators:** leveraged expertise/work and affiliations of Commissioners and CCoA staff, research and analysis of proposals, participation in educational webinars and stakeholder meetings, biannual legislative reception, participation in coalition meetings and networks, participation in CCoA meetings, information collected from Commissioners on activities and shared with full Commission, regular meetings with CDA staff.

**GOAL IV: Ensure that the State Plan on Aging reflects emerging and critical issues affecting older adults, individuals with disabilities and their caregivers.**

**Inputs:** expertise/work of Commissioners and CCoA staff, stakeholder input

## Strategies

1. Conduct public hearings on the State Plan on Aging in partnership with the CDA.
2. Inform CDA staff of key Commission priorities for consideration.
3. Support the evaluation of California's aging services structure—including the Planning and Service Area (PSA) boundaries (currently 33), the Intrastate Funding Formula, and the designation process for the Area Agency on Aging in each PSA—to assess how to best meet the needs of California's diverse communities, e.g., racial, ethnic, gender, gender identity and sexual orientation, needs of the broader older population, and the changing landscape of

aging and disability service.

4. Participate in any CDA Rulemaking Process to provide input on the development of regulations.
5. Request regular updates from CDA regarding efforts to comply with federal regulations to modernize the Older Americans Act to assure continuation of core services to older adults and to develop performance measures that provide data on service provision, equity and quality throughout the state aging services system

**Outputs/Progress Indicators:** State Plan hearings co-chaired by Commission Chair and CDA director, Commission input on draft State Plan, progress reports from CDA, serving on advisory committees to inform development of core services, performance measures, etc., to modernize the aging services, participation in development of regulations.

## CONDUCT OUTREACH AND EDUCATION

### GOAL V: Advance a positive, stigma-free, bold vision of aging across the lifespan.

**Inputs:** Commissioner and CCoA staff participation in events and policy discussions, expertise of California Foundation on Aging board members, input and technical support of subject matter experts and consultants.

1. Raise the visibility, as resources allow, of the Commission and priority initiatives.
2. Champion a universal bold and inclusive vision of aging across the lifespan and reflect a strong, positive image of aging.

**Outputs/Progress Indicators:** presentations by Commissioners and CCoA staff, participation in events, presentations from communications experts, communication toolkits (as resources allow), distribution of information and materials via AgeWatch and social media.

### GOAL VI: Educate older adults, the public, policymakers and key stakeholders.

**Inputs:** expertise/work of Commissioners, CCoA staff and research consultants, analytical work, staff administrative support, networking and seeking partnerships,

1. Expand distribution of *AgeWatch* newsletter and elevate events and publications that focus on underserved communities and health equity issues.
2. Seek opportunities to sponsor or join statewide and local public education initiatives and events, public hearings/presentations, workshops and listening sessions.
3. Provide administrative support to Triple-A Council of California (TACC) to promote communication and collaboration among local AAA advisory councils and key state partners.
4. Produce and distribute position papers, surveys, and special reports; draft letters to the editor and/or opinion pieces, when appropriate and as resources allow.
5. Educate stakeholders about emerging legislation, policies, and regulations.

**Outputs/Progress Indicators:** increased AgeWatch subscriptions, TACC meetings, participation

of TACC representatives, position papers, surveys or special reports (as resources allow), engagement in education initiatives and/or workshops.

**GOAL VII: Promote increased program support and student engagement in geriatrics and gerontology education programs in higher education to assure well-trained personnel for caring/supporting older adults; encourage increased workforce diversity and cultural competency by recruitment of students from ethnic and racial minorities and special populations (e.g. LGBTQ+), first-to-college; raise awareness of education programs in Gerontology and Geriatrics and related fields, promote older adult workers by educating employers about the benefits of an age-diverse workforce and normalize lifespan aging in curricula for primary, secondary and higher education institutions.**

**Inputs:** expertise/work and affiliations of Commissioners and CCoA staff, staff analytical work, technical support from California Foundation on Aging board members, consultants, and subject matter experts

**Strategies:**

1. Provide internship opportunities for diverse undergraduate students who either major or minor in Gerontology.
2. Develop a K-14 Lifespan Education curriculum to raise awareness about planning for a longer life, promote a positive image of aging, promote intergenerational relationships and combat ageism.
3. Promote diversity-focused pipeline programs beginning with community colleges that lead into aging services, gerontology, geriatrics, and health and social professions.
4. Increase legislative efforts and Administration awareness of geriatric/gerontology workforce deficits and gaps and issues around building a representative workforce (increase diversity of workforce).
5. Promote continuing education in geriatrics and gerontology and diversity of older adults for health, behavioral health and social service providers.
6. Educate employers, state and local governments about the benefits of an age diverse workforce.
7. Develop grants and/or raise funds to support increased gerontology and geriatrics workforce and diversity of workforce.

**Outputs/Progress Indicators:** weekly check-in meetings with intern and final project presentation, meetings scheduled with legislators and/or staff; meetings on topic with Administration leadership, collaborative relationship with other state departments and agencies, ongoing relationship with leadership at the Chancellor's offices of community college and California state university systems and state agencies such as the Labor and Workforce Development Agency and Department of Education, grant proposals and fundraising, participation on multi-state collaborative efforts.