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**Executive Director**  
Karol Swartzlander

## GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

### Via Zoom

**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2021**

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

Commissioner Schmeding called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### 2. Roll Call and Establish Quorum

**Commissioners Present:** Ellen Schmeding, Marcy Adelman, Cheryl Brown, Anni Chung, Joe Cislowski, Janet Frank, Brendalynn Goodall, Meea Kang, David Lindeman, Shelley Lyford, Debbie Meador, Faisal Qazi, Rita Saenz, Sedalia Sanders, Dana Toppel

**Commissioners Absent:** Kim Carr, Erika Castile

**Staff:** Karol Swartzlander, Carol Sewell, Marcella Villanueva

**Guests:** Wendy Pangilinan, Laura Trejo, Sharon Wolff, Michael Reiser, Carol Hubbard, Brenda Schmitthenner, Heather Harrison

A quorum was established.

#### 3. Approve Agenda

M/S/C (Adelman/Kang)

**TO APPROVE THE NOVEMBER 12, 2021, CCOA GENERAL MEETING AGENDA.**

**APPROVED**

Abstentions: None

#### 4. Approve Minutes from October 1, 2021, meeting

M/S/C (Lyford/Adelman)

**TO APPROVE THE OCTOBER 1, 2021, CCOA MEETING MINUTES.**

**APPROVED.**

Abstentions: Commissioner Saenz abstained.

#### 5. Public Comments

None

**6. Chair's Comments (Commissioner Schmeding)**

**a. Feature Commissioner Meea Kang**

Chair Schmeding highlighted Commissioner Kang and her work developing innovative and affordable senior housing.

**7. CCoA Committee Reports**

**a. Executive Committee**

Chair Schmeding provided the Executive Committee report and asked Commissioners for their views on in-person meetings after the New Year. Commissioners expressed concerns regarding the ongoing pandemic; Swartzlander proposed meeting virtually in January or rescheduling for February.

Commissioner Schmeding urged members to consider running for an Executive Committee seat in December and noted that members would be surveyed for their priority MPA focus areas for the coming year.

**b. Master Plan for Aging**

Commissioner Frank provided the MPA Committee update and the work to develop CCoA's recommendations for the Hubs and Spokes initiative.

**c. Operational Procedures and Bylaws**

Commissioner Cislowski reviewed the three-year operational plan framework, a living document that may change in order to meet the current needs. Once the Executive Committee determines the priorities a timeline will be developed.

**d. Federal Advocacy**

Commissioner Brown provided an update from the Federal Advocacy meeting on November 4<sup>th</sup>. Sewell reviewed the following bills: H.R. 502 (Barragan), H.R. 2812 (Sanchez), H.R. 5425 (O'Halleran), S.2065 (Brown), S.2881 (Collins and Casey) and H.R. 5531 (Newman).

The Federal Advocacy Committee recommends CCoA support for all bills reviewed.

No action taken.

**8. Master Plan for Aging (MPA) Committees and Workgroups Reports**

Commissioners were invited to provide updates from their MPA workgroup activities.

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

Commissioner Lindeman reported on work to develop a statewide health data exchange, with completion anticipated by fall 2022. He added that his Telehealth Committee had endorsed the federal Rural Telehealth Act under consideration by the Commission.

**9. Staff Report (Swartzlander)**

Swartzlander thanked Commissioner Meador for her assistance with the State Leadership Accountability Act Report (SLAA). Swartzlander introduced CCoA's current CSUS student intern Wendy Pangilinan.

**10. Aging in our Streets: Meeting the Needs of Older Adults Experiencing Homelessness**

**Laura Trejo**, General Manager, Los Angeles Department of Aging, discussed the anticipated tripling of older adult homelessness in Los Angeles and the underlying issue of economic security, where 73.4 percent of older adults' incomes fall before the UCLA Elder Economic Index. She outlined the successes of L.A. City's Older Worker Employment Program and opportunities in the Master Plan for Aging to raise awareness and develop solutions using combined state and federal dollars.

**a. Discussion**

Commissioners noted issues with older adults' access to online program applications and appreciation for the county's use of the Elder Index in examining levels of need. Access to state housing funds and supportive services are also critical.

**b. Public Comment**

None.

**11. Assisted Living Options and Opportunities (2:15-3:00 pm)**

**Heather Harrison**, Senior Vice President of Public Policy & Public Affairs, California Assisted Living Association (CALA), discussed the pending doubling of the older adult population and the need to prepare with additional assisted living options. She commended the Community Care Expansion and Assisted Living Waiver expansion in the State Budget, but noted that the challenge remained for the smallest Residential Care Facilities for the Elderly (RCFEs) to earn an adequate income.

**Commissioner Meea Kang**

Commissioner Kang previewed a legislative proposal to expand RCFEs to increase the number of beds allowed without the current limits in state law. The

change could address regional housing needs and give local governments the authority to regulate based on local priorities and need.

**a. Discussion**

Commissioners responded favorably to Commissioner Kang's proposal.

**b. Public Comment**

None

**c. Action**

No action taken.

**12. Older Adult Homelessness: Findings and Recommendations from a Comprehensive Needs Assessment**

**Paul Downey**, President/CEO, Serving Seniors, reviewed the findings of his organization's recent study of older adult homelessness in San Diego, which recommends a range of solutions including leveraging programs to prevent homelessness, dedicating shelter space to older adults, remove technology barriers to program applications, increase transportation and storage access for the homeless, prioritize older adults in community planning, revise assessment tools to identify older adults, and increase affordable housing.

**a. Discussion**

Commissioners expressed agreement with the recommendations and commented on initiatives underway in their communities.

**b. Public Comment**

None.

**13. PACE & Supportive Housing – A Winning Combination (4:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.)**

**Carol Hubbard**, CEO, Executive Director, St. Paul's PACE

**a. Discussion**

Hubbard reviewed St. Paul's Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) including eligibility requirements, services provided and the importance of an interdisciplinary team and care coordination and supporting housing partners. St. Paul's PACE supportive housing outcomes include the housing of 302 seniors, improved physical and mental health of seniors and reduced hospital and ER visits.

- b. Public Comment**  
None

**14. Breakout Discussion – Recommendations to Address Homelessness/Housing Among Older Adults in California (4:30-4:45 p.m.)**

- a. Report Out 4:45**

- b. Discussion**

Commissioners discussed their concerns and possible recommendations for the housing of homeless older adults. Suggestions include: the importance of prioritizing seniors; making all shelters age friendly; having an overarching policy goal that can be built upon in the future (such as the Governor’s Executive Order); the need to rezone residential care facilities; an interest in affordable housing for elders; an awareness campaign for housing subsidies and services for seniors; workforce development and services; solutions for rural areas; and building of small modular homes.

- c. Public Comment**  
None

- d. Action**  
None

**15. Adjourn**

Meeting adjourned at 5:11 p.m.