

California Commission on Aging

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GAVIN NEWSOM, Governor

Executive Director
Karol Swartzlander

CALIFORNIA COMMISSION ON AGING GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

Sacramento, CA

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2022

1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Schmeding called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m. Chair Schmeding led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Roll Call and Establish Quorum

Villanueva called roll.

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

Commissioners Absent: None

Staff: Karol Swartzlander, Leza Coleman, Marcella Villanueva, Peter Anderson

Guests: Secretary Dr. Mark Ghaly, Darci Delgado, Dr. Renita Polk, Sarah Steenhausen, Kathy Yang, Emily Hackerson, Tamika Connor, Michael Younger, Alex Lawson, Kim McCoy Wade, Susan DeMarois

A quorum was established.

3. Approve Agenda

M/S/C (Adelman/Brown)

TO APPROVE THE SEPTEMBER 19, 2022, CCOA GENERAL MEETING AGENDA.

APPROVED.

Abstentions: None

4. Approve the CCoA General Meeting Minutes from May 11, 2022

M/S/C (Adelman/Frank)

TO APPROVE THE MAY 11, 2022, CCOA GENERAL MEETING MINUTES.

APPROVED.

Abstentions: None

5. Public Comments

Theresa Comstock, Executive Director California Association of Local Behavioral Health Boards and Commissions (CALBHB/C) introduced herself.

6. Dr. Mark Ghaly, Secretary, California Health and Human Services Agency (CalHHS)

Dr. Ghaly thanked the Commission for elevating three main focus areas: behavioral health, workforce development, and homelessness and housing. He expressed interest in increasing the number of community providers delivering behavioral health and other services available to older Californians living in the community. He also agreed with the Commission's workforce priority to secure more opportunities and supports promoting increasing numbers of older adults in the workforce and noted there is an opportunity to be innovative, and supportive of older adults' contributions.

- **Discussion**

None

- **Public Comment**

None

7. Chair's Comments

a. Executive Committee Report

Commissioner Schmeding reported the Executive Committee met three times since May to ratify CCoA sponsorship of Senate Continue Resolution 2 - Elder and Dependent Adult Abuse Awareness Month, approve Legislative positions on bills, accept Master Plan for Aging (MPA) Committee recommendations and the Federal Advocacy Committee focus on Social Security and Medicare.

b. Workforce Development Workgroup Report

Commissioner Schmeding reported the Workforce Development Workgroup met twice to provide input on recommendations to "Strengthen California's Direct Care Workforce; Increase Awareness of and Engagement in Gerontology, Geriatrics and Related Fields, and Encourage the Older Adult Workforce", then work pivoted to the development of MPA recommendations for the September 20, 2022, California for All Ages and Abilities event at the request of the California Department of Aging (CDA). The Workgroup will continue refining recommendations for consideration at the Commission meeting in November.

8. Presentation: State Workforce Development and CDA Updates

Darci Delgado, Assistant Secretary, CalHHS

Renita Polk, Ph.D., Assistant Director, Office of Direct Care Workforce, CDA

Sarah Steenhausen, Deputy Director, Aging Policy, Research, and Equity, CDA

Darci Delgado provided an overview of CalHHS strategic priorities: Building a Healthy CA for All, Improving the Lives of the Most Vulnerable, and building an Age Friendly State for All. She also discussed the State's \$1.4 billion Workforce Development Initiative to address

workforce shortages in allied health, nursing, and human services, increasing diversity, language, cultural competence, and creating pathways to sustaining jobs.

Renita Polk provided an overview of the California GROWs: Growing a Resilient, Outstanding Workforce program. The program seeks to improve the skills, job satisfaction, and retention of the (non-In-Home Supportive Services) direct care workforce while providing opportunities for career advancement through the provision of training and stipends. Currently under development, CDA's goal is to launch in early 2023.

Sarah Steenhausen gave an update on the No Wrong Door /Aging and Disability Resource Connection (ADRC) program, which facilitates access to information and supports for an individual's care needs. New funding will be used to establish a statewide consumer facing web portal and standardized platform. The Customer Holistic Aging Relationship Management Project (CHARM) is a customer relationship management, data sharing and reporting management system for all Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs) and ADRCs.

- **Discussion**

Commissioners commented on presentations.

- **Public Comment**

Teresa Comstock, CALBHB/C, shared that the Behavioral Health Workforce Advisory Group, led by CALBHB/C, is creating a ten-year plan. She also noted the work done as part of the Mental Health Services, Oversight and Accountability Commission and mentioned the workforce training certification program for Geriatric Mental Health being offered in San Diego.

9. Presentation: Refugee Workforce Development

Kathy Yang, State Refugee Coordinator, Refugee Programs Bureau, Office of Equity, California Department of Social Services (CDSS)

Emily Hackerson, Director of Products and Services, Upwardly Global

Kathy Yang discussed refugee resettlement, the partnerships between state/local governments and local resettlement agencies. She noted the populations eligible to receive services and the types of services frequently utilized.

Emily Hackerson discussed Upwardly Global, a program of CDSS supporting job training and workforce development for recent Afghan arrivals in California.

- **Discussion**

Commissioners commented and discussed presentations.

- **Public Comment**

None

10. Presentation: Calbright College: Free Online Certificate Programs- Strategic Initiatives

Tamika Connor, Senior Vice President, Calbright College

Tamika Connor discussed Calbright' s goal to use online education to optimize flexibility for students, creating opportunities to secure stackable certifications for career advancement.

- **Discussion**

Commissioners commented on presentations.

- **Public Comment**

None

Before lunch, Commissioner Schmeding recognized Commissioner Sanders' recent Lifetime Achievement Award from the California League of Cities.

LUNCH - 12:40 p.m. – 1:20 p.m.

11. Presentation: Social Security 2100- Federal Landscape and California Projects
Alex Lawson, Executive Director, [Social Security Works](#)

Alex Lawson discussed how the Social Security system has served as a vehicle for justice providing economic security for many people; yet since its inception it has been under threat.

Lawson asked the Commission to advocate for advancing federal and state policies that are popular with the people. Lawson referenced Governor Newsom's proposal for the public manufacturing of drugs and the federal discussion about the role of HHS and the costs of drugs to consumers.

- **Discussion**

Commissioners commented on presentations.

- **Public Comment**

None

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

a. Elder and Disability Justice Coordinating Council

Chair Schmeding provided an overview of the Council's MPA priority recommendations: fully fund Adult Protective Services, including coordination of services and opportunities to work in field; fully fund the public guardian and public conservator programs; and publicize and fund legal aid services.

b. Disability and Aging Community Living Advisory Committee

Commissioner Castile reported on four pillars that would support community living: the \$1.4 billion workforce package; the need for data and data exchange, needed infrastructure (through initiatives such as CalAIM) to allow Californians to choose where they live; ensuring inclusive and equitable quality services.

c. Equity in Aging Advisory Committee

Commissioner Brown reported the Committee's priority MPA recommendations: Embed equity throughout the implementation process; ensure access to culturally appropriate in-home care; and (support) caregiving for people at home.

d. Data Exchange Framework Stakeholder Advisory Group Meeting

Commissioner Lindeman reported that CalHHS put forth a new plan for data exchange with the state and that a formal advisory group is being formed.

e. Aging and Disability Resource Connection (ADRC) Advisory Committee

Swartzlander reported that she and Commissioner Schmeding met with Collaborative Consulting, engaged by CDA, to support an ADRC SWOT analysis. Collaborative Consulting also supports the CA 2030 Steering Committee, which will launch in October to outline a future-ready California Aging Network that can serve a larger, older, and more diverse population of Californians. She and Commissioner Saenz will serve on the Committee with other Aging leadership to help identify opportunities for network advancement and enhancement in areas such as local governance, geographic regions, funding formulas, core services, and marketing/branding. Swartzlander also shared that CDA received a new two-year, \$3.9 million Administration for Community Living grant to establish and strengthen a No Wrong Door (NWD) governance structure within the state.

• Discussion

None

• Public Comment

None

13. CCoA Master Plan for Aging (MPA) Priorities

a. CCoA MPA Committee Report

Commissioner Frank reported the MPA Committee met on August 29 to establish key MPA priorities to be shared at the September 20 California for All Ages and Abilities event: 1) Older Adult Behavioral Health 2) Workforce Development 3) Housing and Homelessness and housing

b. Review and Discussion Priorities and Strategies

Commissioners discussed the importance of ensuring representation of older adults on committees regarding issues of housing/homelessness and the need to ensure at risk older adults are prioritized for the Project Home Key and Home Safe programs.

• **Discussion**

None

• **Public Comment**

Teresa Comstock, CALBHB/C, noted the importance of prioritizing resources for Residential Care Facilities for the Elderly (RCFE), especially the 6bedstructure and other board and care given reports of increasing numbers of RCFEs closing, across the state, due to the high cost of real estate, labor and operating materials.

14. Staff Report

Swartzlander provided the staff report.

a. Administrative Updates

Swartzlander provided an update on staffing and introduced Peter Anderson soon to be hired as a part-time consultant. Anderson previously worked for CDA. She reported interviews had been completed for the policy and research analyst position and hope to bring that position on board soon.

Swartzlander thanked Commissioners Schmeding and Frank for work on MPA and Executive Committee meetings and reviewed logistics for the September 20 CDA CA for All Ages and Abilities conference.

b. CCoA Work Plan Update

None given.

c. November Election Timeline

Swartzlander reviewed the election timeline handout provided by Villanueva.

d. November 9-10, 2022, CCoA General Meeting

The next CCoA general meeting will be held in-person on November 9-10, 2022, in San Diego Tentative topics: St. Paul's PACE program, Serving Seniors, West Health Geriatric Emergency Departments (GED), and Safe Parking program. Potential Presentations: Senior Community Services Employment Program and Age Wise.

- **Discussion**

None

- **Public Comment**

None

15. CCoA Legislative Committees Updates (Commissioner Adelman, Brown, and Coleman)

a. State Legislative Committee Report

Coleman provided the State Legislative Committee Report, noting a continued focus on older adult behavioral health and RCFE expansion. Staff will work on revising strategies to realize success, including establishing broader stakeholder support and collaboration.

b. Federal Legislative Committee Report

Coleman recommended that the Committee consider that the first goal of Federal Advocacy should be to develop strategic partnerships. Commissioners discussed and provided suggestions recognizing a need for a vetting process to identify partnerships. Federal Advocacy needs to link to LTSS or other CCoA identified priorities.

c. Strategize for the Future

Coleman recommended Commission meetings be set to coincide with California Senior Legislature's Capitol Day or California Association for Area Agencies' annual conference.

- **Discussion**

Commissioners commented on presentations.

- **Public Comment**

Teresa Comstock commented about structure of Social Security system and the need for increased integrated funding for board and cares.

- **Vote**

No action taken.

16. Tour the CCoA and CDA Offices

Commissioners toured the CDA and CCoA offices.

17. Conversation about CCoA Master Plan for Aging Priorities

**Kim McCoy Wade, Senior Advisor for Aging, Disability, and Alzheimer's
Office of Governor Gavin Newsom**

Susan DeMarois, Director, CDA

Susan DeMarois stated CCoA's three priorities (Behavioral Health, Workforce Development and Housing/Homelessness) are spot on and are shared by other state agencies including CalHHS. DeMarois stated the CDA's top priority is establishing the "No Wrong Door" approach utilizing ADRCs, through the implementation of a consumer facing web portal and promoting standardized intake.

Kim McCoy Wade congratulated the Commission on increasing their budget to hire more staff. She shared a desire for concrete policy proposals in line with CCoA and CDA's priorities.

- **Discussion**

Commissioners commented on presentations.

- **Public Comment**

None

18. Wrap Up and Review of Next Steps (Chair Schmeding and Swartzlander)

Commissioner Cislowski announced that the City of West Hollywood received the Aging in Place, Aging in Community 2022 Innovation Award from The SCAN Foundation.

Commissioner Lindeman reported that Susan DeMarois will be the keynote speaker at the third meeting of the Data Exchange Framework Advisory Committee focused on Aging Technology.

19. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 4:28 p.m.