

# California Commission on Aging

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GAVIN NEWSOM, Governor

Executive Director  
KAROL SWARTZLANDER

## GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

Via Zoom

THURSDAY, JANUARY 11, 2023

### **Part I: Legislative Outreach 10:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m. “AGING & DISABILITY ISSUES: WHAT LEGISLATIVE STAFF NEED TO KNOW FOR 2023”**

#### **1. Welcome - Cheryl Brown, CCoA Chair**

Chair Brown welcomed Commissioners and presenters.

#### **2. Overview of the California Commission on Aging and Key Priorities for 2023 - Karol Swartzlander, Executive Director CCoA**

The Commission is an independent state body statutorily mandated to serve as principal advocate for Older Californians and advise the Governor, legislature, state and federal departments on all issues impacting older adults. The Commissioners are appointed by the Governor, the Senate Rules Committee and Speaker of the Assembly for up to two, three-year terms.

CCoA’s three key priorities for 2023:

#### **Workforce**

Expand the workforce, and increase workforce opportunities for older adults by:

- Meeting the needs of a diverse and increasing aging population.
- Expanding the workforce that services older adults and ensure the workforce reflects the diversity of older adults.
- Leveraging current workforce initiatives to encourage specialization in geriatrics and gerontology, such as the \$1.7 billion Building a Workforce for a Healthy California for All initiative and the Mental Health Services Act Workforce, Education and Training program under the CA Department of Healthcare Access and Information (HCAI).
- Help older adults retain current employment) or re-enter the workforce through training, and providing assistive technology, devices, and supports through coordination at state and local levels.

#### **Homelessness**

- Address older adult homelessness and increase housing options for older adults. Older adults are the fastest growing age group experiencing homelessness in California. Chronically homeless older adults often have critical health and service needs in addition to their obvious housing needs.

## **Behavioral Health**

- Improve behavioral health services for older adults. Behavioral health includes both mental health and/or substance abuse issues. Access to behavioral health is even urgent in underserved communities such as communities of color, LGBTQ, and other marginalized groups.

### **3. Older Adult and Adults with Disabilities: Stakeholders, Providers, Subject Matter Experts:**

#### **Leza Colman, Legislative Director, CCoA**

Coleman provided an overview of CCoA sponsored legislation: (1) expanding capacity of small six-bed Residential Care Facilities for the Elderly (RFCEs) and establishing RCFEs as permanent housing under the Housing Element, and (2) modernizing the teleconferencing stipulations in the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act to ensure accessibility accommodations for all Californians and protect the privacy of members of state bodies.

#### **a) Amber King, Vice President, Legislative Affairs, LeadingAge California**

LeadingAge California's 2023 priorities are the Long-Term Care Mutual Aid Program, Targeted Rent Stabilization Program, affordable senior housing infrastructure, broadband infrastructure and access, and workforce support.

#### **b) Michael Wasseman, MD, CMD, Chair, CA Association of Long-Term Care Medicine (CALCTM)**

CALCTM is California's interdisciplinary medical voice for post-acute and long-term care, empowering interdisciplinary teams to thrive. CALCTM is a resource to connect policy to clinical care including subject matter experts.

#### **c) Debbie Toth, President & CEO, Choice in Aging**

Choice in Aging's (CIA) mission is "to create opportunities where people can learn, grow and age independently with dignity in community." Currently CIA provides two Adult Day Health Care programs serving east, central and south Contra Costa County; the Multipurpose Senior Services Programs serving Contra Costa, Solano and Napa Counties; the California Community Transitions project serving Contra Costa, Solano and Sacramento Counties; an intergenerational Montessori preschool in Pleasant Hill; Prevention and Early Access for Seniors in Solano County; specialized transportation services; caregiver support and education; and policy and budget advocacy.

#### **d) Mariya Kalina, Executive Director, CA Collaborative for Long-Term Services and Supports (CCLTSS)**

CCLTSS works to foster understanding among its members, educate policymakers about the needs of older and disabled adults, develop policy solutions and recommendations for improvement, build connections and support members in

their advocacy.

**e) Dan Okenfuss, Public Policy Manager, California Foundation for Independent Living Centers (CFILC)**

CFILC's public policy priorities are examining legislation, voicing concerns, and recommending positions for the California Legislature and US Congress regarding issues that impact people with disabilities. CFILC advocates for access and equal opportunities for people with disabilities.

**f) Michael Costa, Executive Director, California Association for Area Agencies on Aging (C4A)**

AAAs deliver programs directly or indirectly that promote older Californians' independence and ability to remain in community for as long as possible. AAA works with state agencies and community partners to strengthen caregiver support, ADRC sustainability, coordination with disaster preparedness and response infrastructure, housing supportive services, Alzheimer's/dementia support services.

**g) Jenna Shankman, Policy Specialist, California Coalition on Family Caregiving (CACFC)**

The CACFC is a coalition of caregivers and organizations committed to advocating for California policies and services that support diverse unpaid family caregivers and those who need assistance. The coalition is convened by University of Southern California Family Caregiver Support Center (USC FCSC), Family Caregiver Alliance (FCA), and Los Angeles Alliance for Community Health and Aging (LACHAA) with funding from Community Catalyst and Archstone Foundation. CACFC policy priorities include caregiving financial impacts, caregiver supports, education campaigns and outreach, inclusion/recognition of caregivers in healthcare and other social service systems, increasing the availability of long-term services and supports.

**h) Denny Chan, Justice in Aging**

Justice in Aging (JIA) is a national organization that uses the power of law to fight senior poverty by securing access to affordable health care, economic security, and the courts for older adults with limited resources. Since 1972 JIA has focused efforts primarily on fighting for people who have been marginalized and excluded from justice, such as women, people of color, LGBTQ+ individuals, and people with limited English proficiency. Key priorities are Medicare affordability, rental subsidies for older adults, master plan for aging implementation, and executive order N-16-22.

**• Discussion**

Commissioners commented and discussed various issues and possible solutions with presenters, such as:

- Assisted living not being recognized as permanent housing – a possible solution would include investments in community-based health alternatives to institutional care.

- Status of Alzheimer navigation programs – There is a proposed pilot program did not survive the last legislative session.
- Current exclusion of mobile home parks from rent stabilization programs.
- Need to expand the RCFEs.

**Public Comment**

None

**Part II Commission Business Meeting 11:30 a.m.- 12 noon**

**4. Call to Order, and Pledge of Allegiance**

Chair Brown called the meeting to order at 11:31 a.m. Commissioner Lyford led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**5. Roll Call, and Establish a Quorum**

**Commissioners Present:** Marcy Adelman, Joaquin Angera, Chery Brown, Kim Carr, Anni Chung, Joe Cislowski, Janet Frank, Brendalynn Goodall, Meea Kang, David Lindeman, Shelley Lyford, Debbie Meador, Rita Saenz, Sedalia Sander, Ellen Schmeding, Dana Toppel

**Commissioners Absent:** Erika Castile, Faisal Qazi

**Staff:** Peter Anderson, Leza Coleman, Marijke Melman, Patrick Smith, Karol Swartzlander, Marcella Villanueva

A quorum was established.

**6. Approve Agenda**

M/S/C (Carr/Saenz)

**TO APPROVE THE JANUARY 11, 2023, CCOA GENERAL MEETING AGENDA.**

**APPROVED.**

Abstentions: None

No Votes: None

**7. Approve the CCoA General Meeting Minutes from November 10, 2022**

M/S/C (Frank/Saenz)

**TO APPROVE THE NOVEMBER 10, 2022, GENERAL MEETING MINUTES.**

**APPROVED.**

Abstentions: 2 – Commissioners Carr and Sanders.

No Votes: None

**8. Public Comment**

Linda Parker-Pennington introduced herself. She is a new Commissioner with the San Francisco Disability and Aging Services.

**9. Chair's Comments**

Chair Brown discussed concerns of ageism on television, specifically among late night talk

shows. Chair Brown thanked former CCoA Chair, Ellen Schmeding, for her work on the Commission.

### **10. Staff Report - Karol Swartzlander, Executive Director, CCoA**

CCoA is fully staffed, with new team member Marijke Melman working on bios. Swartzlander thanked partners and organizations for attending today's meeting. Former CCoA student intern Beverly Townsel's internship ended last month with the convening of her "2022 Challenging Ageism" forum sponsored by CCoA and hosted by Sacramento State Department of Gerontology. CCoA has committed to an annual forum to encourage student interest in the field of aging.

### **11. Committee Assignments**

Swartzlander reviewed Committee descriptions. Standing Committees include the Executive, Legislative Advocacy, Operational Procedures and Bylaws, and Federal Advocacy. Special Committees previously included the Master Plan for Aging and Workforce Development Workgroup. The only Ad Hoc Committee is the Nominating Committee, which convenes annually, with members appointed by the chair.

To officially combine or merge the Legislative Advocacy and Federal Advocacy Committee meetings will require a change in the CCoA Bylaws. For now, Coleman will hold separate Legislative Advocacy and Federal Advocacy Committee meetings.

- **Discussion**

In the interest of time, Swartzlander asked that Commissioners to submit desired committee assignments by email.

- **Public Comment**

None

### **12. Presentation: Outlook for 2023, Department of Rehabilitation (DOR) Jessica Grove, Deputy Director, Vocational Rehabilitation Policy and Resources Division**

Grove thanked the Commission for inviting her to present today. DOR is addressing the fact that individuals are working longer as are individuals with disabilities. DOR defines disability broadly. Vocational rehabilitation focuses on helping an individual understand how they can work, removing barriers, and providing training. DOR also addresses helping individuals maintain employment due to life changes or the emergence of a disability. Vocational Rehabilitation is also about meeting the workforce needs of the present. DOR incentivizes businesses to hire an age- and ability-diverse workforce. DOR works to counter ageism and discrimination against disabilities and seeks to expand its services to those who would benefit. One issue of concern is individuals not wanting to accept services because of the stigma of identifying as having a disability.

- **Discussion**

None

- **Public Comment**  
None

**13. Adjourn**

Meeting adjourned at 12:01 p.m.

M/S/C (Saenz/Lindeman)

**TO ADJOURN MEETING.**

**APPROVED.**