



Karol Swartzlander, Executive Director
Gavin Newsom, Governor

MINUTES OF CALIFORNIA COMMISSION ON AGING GENERAL MEETING

February 11, 2026

Part I: CCoA General Meeting, February 11, 2026

Location: 2880 Gateway Oaks Drive, Conference Room 395, Sacramento, CA 95833

1. Welcome

Chair David Lindeman presided and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Lindeman called the meeting to order at 12:35 pm and led the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Roll Call and Establish a Quorum

Executive Director Swartzlander called the roll. A quorum was established

Commissioners Present: Adelman, Carpenter-Madoshi, Castile, Costa, Davis, Frank, Jensen, Parker-Martin, Qazi, Selenski, Tate, Yourman

Commissioners Virtually Present: Vice Chair Jauregui

Commissioners Absent: Campos, Goodall, Lyford, Toppel

4. Minutes of the CCoA General Meeting from November 5, 2025

The minutes of November 5, 2025 General Meeting were approved with no changes.

5. Chair's Comments

- i. Chair Lindeman thanked everyone for attending and for their hard work.
- ii. Lindeman welcomed new Commissioner Diana Carpenter-Madoshi, who provided a short introduction.
- iii. Gratitude was expressed to former Commissioner Debbie Meador for her service. Meador will continue to serve as a Commission alumni. Another thank you was extended to the presenters.
- iv. CCoA's Age Inclusive Management Strategies (AIMS) cohort project will include the California Department of Aging, Department of Rehabilitation, California Workforce Development Bureau, and California Department of Human Resources. A kickoff meeting is scheduled for g April 14, 2026.
- v. The Research and Policy Development Committee will convene in February to determine a topic for the Commission's June 11, 2026 informational hearing in Sacramento. The Committee is seeking another Commissioner to join the committee. Any topics should be sent to Karol by Friday, February 13, 2026 to add to the agenda. The first meeting will be held Friday, February 27, 2026 from 2:00 to 3:00 pm.



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- vi. Correspondence from additional potential partnerships was received; Arizona State University with Innovation Fellows, a program promoting mentorship with older adults and students.
- vii. NOCTI Business Solutions - a program with a primary focus on the older adult workforce. Swartzlander and Lindeman have been in contact with the Director.
- viii. The Gateway-In Project by LeadingAge CA was mentioned and Commissioners discussed exploring their targeted efforts and possibly joining in the effort.

6. Comments from the Public on Issues not on this Agenda

- Los Angeles County Aging and Disabilities Commissioners attended as fellow advocates interested in CCoA policy issues. The cost of living after the natural disasters in Southern California and the rising cost of home insurance have created severe economic hardship in the region.

7. Presentation: Eldera, California's Social Health Infrastructure Partner

Dana Griffin, Co-Founder and CEO, Eldera.ai

- a. Griffin gave a presentation about Eldera and its founding mission to bring older adults and children together once a week for social connection. Eldera views older adults as natural resources.
- b. Background checks are extensive. Sessions are completely virtual and are recorded for the safety of the company and its members. Clients provided testimonials on the positive impact of the program. The business is moving to a 5013(c) making it a non-profit.. Active recruitment of mentors is taking place.

8. CCoA Committee Reports

- a. The Executive Committee approved a sponsorship for Justice in Aging's annual event, Celebrate Justice in Aging, for \$1,000, including three event tickets for Thursday, April 30, 2026, from 5:00 – 8:00 pm in Los Angeles at the City Club.
- b. Legislative Advocacy –
 - i. a Mutual Aid Benefit bill for licensed and assisted living facilities.
 - ii. a State Public Guardian Conservatorship bill that would establish a state-level position that would, among other duties, provide guidance to local Public Guardians, develop standardized referral processes, and explore the development of a single state reporting system.



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- c. Behavioral Health - Commissioner Frank reported that the Behavioral Health Committee is looking for additional members. The Behavioral Health Work Plan is the current priority. All Commissioners were invited to stay for the Behavioral Health Committee Meeting at the conclusion of the General Meeting.

9. CCoA Legislative Visit Primer

- a. Policy Priorities - The Priorities of the Commission are behavioral health, housing and homelessness, workforce development and emergency preparedness.
- b. Bill Review - Staff requested Commissioners help identify potential authors during legislative visits.
- c. Tool Kit - Smith reviewed the legislative toolkit and thanked Melman for putting the data sheets together.
- d. February 12 Schedule- Legislative meetings are scheduled to happen every 15-20 minutes. Each Legislative Toolkit includes pages for talking points and notes, as well as materials to leave behind. Smith is the point of contact if unable to make a meeting.

10. Presentation: Age Inclusive Management Strategy (AIMS) Cohort Project

Brian Kaskie, Ph.D., Professor, University of Iowa College of Public Health
Karen M. Brown, CEO, iAging

- AIMS (Age-Inclusive Management System) was founded in Colorado and is looking to expand. AIMS is six-month education and training program to learn about the aging workforce and identify age-inclusive management strategies to assist with recruiting and retaining older adults in the workforce.
- The CA AIMS Cohort will meet for an in-person orientation on April 14, 2026 from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm in Sacramento. The Cohort will then meet monthly to acquire the goal of 20 hours of professional development, finishing the week with an hour meeting “in-office” to address topics.

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11. Presentation: California Department of Aging (CDA) Update

Susan DeMarios, Director, CDA
Sarah Steenhausen, Deputy Director of Policy, Research, and Engagement, CDA

DeMarios and Steenhausen updated the Commission on the Master Plan on Aging (MPA). Steenhausen highlighted the progress of the MPA, emphasizing its importance during



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challenging times and the need for continued stakeholder engagement as the plan moves into the half-way point from 2030. The department is launching an evaluation of the MPA to gather feedback and inform future actions. Additionally, the implementation of Senate Bill 1249 was discussed, with a focus on reforming Area Agencies on Aging, improving data transparency, and updating the funding formula to better reflect the needs of different regions. The meeting also covered updates on staffing for the Long-Term Care Ombudsman program

12. Presentation: Assembly Aging and Long-Term Care Committee Update

Elizabeth Fuller, Chief Consultant, Assembly Aging and Long-Term Care Committee

Fuller recommended embedding mutual aid in emergency services to protect from defunding. She indicated a tight budget year means it will be difficult to secure new appropriate funding. Much of the Legislature's focus will be on mitigating the impact of House Resolution 1. Fuller discussed the intersection of aging policy priorities and the interconnected nature of these issues, calling out older adult access to nutrition and housing as major issues in the state. Fuller also shared tips with the Commission in preparation for meeting with Legislators.

13. Staff Report (Swartzlander)

- a. Personnel - Swartzlander announced the addition of Kourtney Hobart, Administrative Analyst, to the staff. Patrick Smith has been promoted to Legislative Director. CCoA is working to bring back the retired annuitant position and initiate the recruitment of a new Legislative and Policy Analyst.
- b. Communications - CCoA will be implementing Ideals Board, which will improve communication with Commissioners.
- c. Cheryl Brown Gerontology Scholarship – CA State University, Sacramento awarded scholarships for the 2025-26 school year to students via the Black Honors College: one gerontology major (\$5k) and 17 gerontology minors (\$2.5K). \$10K for students residing in the Inland Empire remain available. Putting together a potential fundraising workgroup was discussed.
- d. State Advisory Committees - Commissioner Frank is now formally appointed to the Behavioral Health Task Force. CCoA has formally nominated Commissioner Goodall for appointment to the California Workforce Development Board.
- e. CCoA Component Fund Updates
 - i. Sponsorships were discussed as a need to continue providing funding for the scholarship fund.
 - ii. Q2 balance- \$44,994.91.



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- iii. Disbursements- \$1,000.00
 - iv. Administrative fees- \$4,822.51
 - v. Ending total balance- \$39,172.40
- f. An email will be sent to the Commission on next steps for submitting Travel Expense Claims for this meeting.
- g. 2026 General Meetings and Event Schedule
- i. Informational Hearing: June 11, Sacramento
 - ii. General Meeting: August 24-25, Oakland
 - iii. General Meeting in concert with C4A Conference, November, TBD

14. Commissioner Comments

None.

15. Public Comments

None

16. Adjourn:

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 pm

Commission meetings are open to the public and are held via Americans with Disabilities Act-compliant technology. If disability-related accommodation is required for your attendance or you need materials in alternate formats, please contact the Commission office at ccoa@cco.ca.gov at least five days before the meeting date.

Part 2: CCoA Legislative Visits and Legislative Lunch Reception, February 12, 2026

Meet at the California Secretary of State Multipurpose Room

Location: California Secretary of State, Multipurpose Room, 1500 11th Street, Sacramento, CA 95814

Legislative Visits

Location: Various Offices, Capitol Annex Swing Space, 1021 O St, Sacramento, CA 95814
Commissioners will meet with Legislators and Legislative Staff to discuss CCoA legislative proposals and policy priorities.



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CCoA Legislative Lunch

Location: California Secretary of State, Multipurpose Room, 1500 11th Street, Sacramento, CA 95814

Debrief Location: California Secretary of State, Multipurpose Room, 1500 11th Street, Sacramento, CA 95814