



Karol Swartzlander, Executive Director
Gavin Newsom, Governor

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

Monday, August 24, 2026

1. Welcome, Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

Chair David Lindeman called the meeting to order at 12:35 p.m.

2. Roll Call and Establish a Quorum

Roll was taken and a quorum was established.

3. Approve the Minutes from the February 11 CCoA General Meeting

Approved with the recommended correction of Commissioner Frank being appointed to the organization known as the California Behavioral Health Plan Council.

4. Chair's Comments

Chair David Lindeman welcomed the new Commissioners and thanked the Commissioners reaching the end of their term for their service.

5. Public Comments

Members of the public asked the Commission to consider home sharing to address housing affordability, and increased use of technological innovation to assist with challenges in aging.

6. Presentation: Berkeley OLLI and Age Friendly University

Susan Hoffman, Executive Director, introduced the Commission to the University of California at Berkeley's Age Friendly University. Classes emphasize collaboration, curriculum is tailored to older adult learning styles, and participants report high satisfaction. Intergenerational engagement with undergraduate students has been a primary focus. Partnerships and sponsorships are being explored in order to expand opportunities in program access.

7. Presentation: Aging with Pride and Authenticity in California: Findings from a Statewide Qualitative Study of LGBTQIA+ Older Adults

Angie Perone, PhD, JD, MSW, MA, presented findings from LGBTQIA+ focus

groups in California. She highlighted similarities and differences across communities, sharing the perspective that each group needs different resources and care to thrive. A large gap in research and support systems for the LGBTQIA+ community was identified. An intergenerational support model with arts-based programming and a culturally-responsive component was identified as a best practice. Addressing issues such as isolation, discrimination, and unmet needs in both medical and behavioral health, especially as it pertains to older adults, is a primary focus. More representation and further research focused on long-term supports for this marginalized population were discussed.

8. Presentation: CITRIS and the Banatao Institute

David Lindeman, Chair, California Commission on Aging gave an overview of the CITRIS program (Center for Information Technology Research in the Interests of Society). Initiated by Governor Gray Davis, its multi-decade history across four University of California (UC) campuses has focused on technological advances to help support Californians. The museum highlights artificial intelligence (AI) technological advances and their benefits.

9. Presentation: Adult Protective Services to Aging and Adult Services: The Aging and Adult Services MSW Training Program.

Jennifer James, Ph.D., Project Manager, Aging & Adult Services, School of Social Work, College of Health and Human Sciences, San José State University
E. Maxwell Davis, Ph.D., Director of Workforce Development, School of Social Work, College of Health and Human Sciences, San Jose State University
Dr. Davis and Dr. James presented the Master of Social Work (MSW) program and its work across several UC campuses. The program has been highly successful and has grown quickly since its introduction. The partnership with the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) provided initial funding support workforce development in gerontology and older adult services. The program requires students to commit to work two years in Adult Protective Services, following graduation. Specific coursework and specialized training are also required. Participants receive a \$25,000 stipend to apply toward tuition and expenses while enrolled in the college program. While the program has grown, the financial support has waned, limiting resources and halting expansion to additional interested campuses. The Commission offered to

explore other avenues for providing financial support from relevant sponsors and partners.

10. CCoA Committee Reports

- a. The Executive Committee met earlier in the month to discuss the general meeting agenda and to prepare for the upcoming year.
- b. The Legislative Advocacy Committee recommended three legislative concepts: funding for the MSW program, modernizing Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) funding and a California SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access, and Recovery (SOAR) program.
- c. The Behavioral Health Committee's representatives, Commissioners Frank and Adelman, presented highlights of the Behavioral Health LGBTQ+ Policy Paper. The collaboration and effort invested in the paper was commended. The draft will be ready for distribution after the general meeting. Comments and suggestions from Commissioners and respective partners are highly encouraged.

11. Staff Reports

- a. Personnel: Executive Director Swartzlander updated the Commission on the Policy and Research Analyst position, stating it is being prepared for re-posting.
- b. Travel Expense Claims and the process for submission will be sent via email next week. Updates included were only current and immediate previous fiscal years can be reimbursed, and the mileage reimbursement increased to 76 cents per mile.
- c. CCoA Nominations and Elections will occur in October. The General Election Meeting will take the place of the monthly Executive Meeting. Information will be sent to the Commissioners in the coming weeks. A nominating Committee will be established by Chair Lindeman.
- d. A report on the CA Foundation on Aging CCoA Component Fund was given.
- e. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**
 - i. After a brief discussion, the CCoA Strategic Plan was approved as written, with the understanding it is a living document and will be subject to evaluation and amendments as needed.

ii. Members of the Commission will convene with members of the Triple A Council of California (TACC) for an annual joint General Meeting and C4A Annual Conference in Orange County at the Hyatt Regency, from November 17-19, 2026. Registration is now open. Commissioners and TACC members have been emailed instructions to register. The deadline for Early Bird Registration is September 7, 2026. Once registered, forward the confirmation to either Kourtney or Marijke for our records.

f. NEW BUSINESS

i. General Meeting and Event Schedule

1. CCoA will hold a short General Meeting (GM) on October 6 to conduct elections.

2. 2027 Meetings and Events Calendar

- i. January 14, 10:00-11:15 am (Virtual) "What legislative staff need to know about aging and disability"
- ii. February 17-18 (Sacramento, Hybrid) – GM, Capitol Visits and Legislative Lunch
- iii. June 10 (Sacramento, In-person) – Informational Hearing
- iv. August 31 - September 1 (location TBD, Hybrid) – GM with site visits (local focus)
- v. October 25/26 (Sacramento, Hybrid) -- State of the State of Aging in CA / GM
- vi. C4A Conference (November TBD)

ii. Establishing Commissioner Priorities for 2027

Staff will be soliciting feedback from the Commissioners on policy priorities through an electronic survey. Commissioner input is highly encouraged.

iii. Collaboration

- 1.** Pennsylvania Council on Aging: Executive Director Swartzlander, and Legislative Director Smith were invited to present a workshop at the October 14 PA Council on Aging on Legislative Advocacy.. Out-of-State Travel has been approved.

2. The Age Inclusive Management Strategies (AIMS) Cohort project will conclude on September 8 with a presentation from each state agency on their strategic framework. Planning is underway for a second Cohort to begin in early 2027.
3. A CCoA Partnership and Collaboration Form has been finalized and will be available to any Commissioner upon request. Forms need to be completed and submitted before outside partnerships are considered.

12. Presentation: St Mary's Center

Sharon Cornu, Executive Director, St. Mary's Center presented on the program's older adult transitional housing, housing navigation, and clauses of homelessness. Executive Director Cornu shared that the cost of living, lower incomes, underwhelming housing programs and limited resources, adults over 50 years account for nearly half of California's homeless population. A call to action was made to develop more housing for those older adults specifically considered low income and with limited access to resources and services. The Commission was introduced to Dyron Thompson, who participated in the transitional housing program, and shared that St. Mary's provided him with training and educational opportunities. Executive Director Cornu concluded by calling attention to the need for more stable funding. She also urged Commissioners to connect with those that have participated in transitional housing programs to better understand their lived experience.

13. Commissioner Comments

The Commission and staff were thanked by Chair Lindeman for an engaging meeting. Those interested were asked to stay after the meeting for a tour of the Citris program. Commissioners were reminded about the start times for the Choice in Aging and Center for Elder Independence site visits on August 25.

14. The meeting was adjourned at 5:15 p.m.