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PRESS RELEASE
California Commission on Aging

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**Director Susan DeMarois of the California Department of Aging Appoints
Commissioner Timothy Perry to the Elder and Disability Justice Coordinating Council**

The EDJCC is a fulfillment of Initiative #93 of California state's Master Plan for Aging

SACRAMENTO --- The California Commission on Aging (CCoA) proudly announces the appointment of Commissioner Timothy Perry to the Elder and Disability Justice Coordinating Council (EDJCC). Commissioner Perry joins the council, bringing fresh perspectives and insights to further the mission of enhancing elder and disability justice in California. He succeeds Commissioner Ellen Schmeding, who served on the EDJCC since its inception in November 2021. The Commission expresses its gratitude to Commissioner Schmeding for her dedicated service and invaluable contributions.

In addition to Commissioner Perry's appointment, the CCoA's Legislative Director, Leza Coleman, has been reappointed to a second term, reflecting her continued commitment to advancing elder and disability justice initiatives.

Appointments to the Elder and Disability Justice Coordinating Council are made by the Director of the CA Department of Aging. The council's primary objective is to foster coordination and develop recommendations aimed at preventing and addressing abuse, neglect, exploitation, and fraud against older adults and adults with disabilities. This collaborative effort, in partnership with the Department of Justice, brings together leaders from various State agencies and stakeholder organizations. To learn more about the EDJCC or to attend a meeting, visit their website at www.chhs.ca.gov/home/committees/elder-and-disability-justice-coordinating-council/

Elder justice holds a central position within California's Master Plan for Aging (MPA), introduced by Governor Gavin Newsom in 2021. Among the MPA initiatives, Initiative #93 specifically mandates the establishment of a coordinating council to enhance coordination and provide recommendations for combating elder abuse, neglect, exploitation, and fraud.

As the primary advocacy body for older Californians, the California Commission on Aging serves as a catalyst for addressing emerging challenges and opportunities faced by older adults. Advising the Governor, Legislature, and various state, federal, and local agencies, the Commission advocates for programs and services that promote equity, inclusion, autonomy, choice, access, respect, integrity, collaboration, and partnership.

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