

**Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders Advisory Committee  
June 8, 2016 Meeting Summary  
California Department of Aging  
1300 National Drive, Suite 200, Sacramento, California**

**Members Present:**

Howard Rosen, Chair  
Lou Bordisso  
Wanda Chin (Phone)  
Debra Cherry  
Lené Levy-Storms  
Josie Porrás-Corporon  
Debbie Toth  
Sharon Trocki-Miller  
Richard Smith  
Janet Yang  
Molly Nocon

**Members Absent:**

Steven A. Barbieri  
Bill Fisher

**Staff Present:**

Marko Mijic, California Health and Human Services Agency  
Frances Parker, California Health and Human Services Agency

**Presenters and Visitors:**

Susan DeMarois  
Ruth Gay  
Julie Hohn

**Item 1. Welcome, Introductions and Committee Member Updates**

Chair Howard Rosen called the meeting to order and welcomed all attendees. Each attendee introduced themselves. Committee members provided updates on various topics.

**Item 2. Approval of June 23, 2015 Meeting Minutes**

The Committee adopted, with minor edits, the meeting minutes from the March 9, 2016 meeting.

**Item 3. Discussion: Issue Brief on Access to Mental Health Services for Californians with Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders**

Susan DeMarois of the Alzheimer's Association and Cordula Dick-Muehlke of Cordula Cares made a presentation to the Committee on a recently released issue brief on "*Mental Health Services for Californians with Alzheimer's Disease*", which includes a literature review and further outlines the barriers that prevent individuals with dementia from accessing mental health services. The issue brief also outlines a number of opportunities that could be leveraged to begin to address the issue, including: (1) clarify existing coverage criteria and communicate current Medi-Cal funding policy; (2) pilot test specialty services for this population in new Medicaid waiver programs; (3) revitalize Alzheimer's Day Care Resource Centers to support moderate to severely impaired older adults at greatest risk; and (4) invest in early detection and diagnosis.

#### **Item 4. Discussion: Committee Conversation on Defining the Problem Related to Access to Mental Health Services**

Chair Howard Rosen led a discussion among the Committee Members to further summarize the Committee's recent conversations with Departments on the issue of access to mental health services for individuals with Alzheimer's Disease. It is estimated that one-third to one-half of persons with dementia also exhibit psychiatric symptoms or behavioral disturbances and disorders, only a small percentage of these reach a level that warrants access to crisis mental health services. Moreover, the Alzheimer's Association reports that over 600,000 Californians are living with Alzheimer's disease—that is one-tenth of the nation's Alzheimer's patients reside in our state.

While the problems underpinning this issue are complex and multifaceted, the Committee has learned that there are a number of broad factors that contribute to the lack of access to mental health services particularly for person with dementia: (1) a lack of current expertise in the system to address the mental health needs of older adults, and demented elders in particular; (2) the scarcity of professionals being trained in geropsychiatry in medicine, social work, psychology, and nursing; and (3) the lack of awareness of community partners to which appropriate referrals could be made to help reduce the burden on the county system.

To date the Committee has had productive conversations with the Department of Health Care Services, the Department of Managed Health Care, the Department of Public Health and the California Mental Health Planning Council. The Committee would urge that these departments, in addition to the Department of Aging and the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development, convene to discuss and share ongoing activities related to individuals with Alzheimer's disease and related disorders.

#### **Item 5. Discussion: Access to Mental Health Services for Medi-Cal Managed Care Beneficiaries**

Staff from the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS), including Cristina Almeida, Dana Durham, and Bambi Cisneros provided the Committee an overview of mental health benefits in Medi-Cal Managed Care. They noted that beginning January 1, 2014, managed care plans became responsible for the delivery of specified outpatient mental health services through their provider network. This includes: individual or group mental

health evaluation and treatment (psychotherapy); psychological testing when clinically indicated to evaluate a mental health condition; psychiatric consultation for medication management; and outpatient laboratory, supplies and supplements. DHCS staff also provided an overview of the specialty mental health services provided to Medi-Cal beneficiaries.

#### **Item 6. Discussion: Legislative Update from Alzheimer's Association**

Susan DeMarois of the Alzheimer's Association provided a brief update of the status of the Alzheimer's Association priority legislation, and Committee members discussed the legislation.

The Committee also discussed a stakeholder budget proposal that is currently pending before the Legislature. This one-time investment would increase the Department of Public Health, Alzheimer's Disease Program budget by \$2.5 million to educate physicians and consumers through a coordinated outreach strategy led by the ten (10) California Alzheimer's Disease Centers at UC San Diego, UC Irvine, USC, UCLA, Stanford University, UCSF, and UC Davis. This proposal leverages the collaborative strength of the university-affiliated disease centers to bring evidenced-based practices in early and accurate diagnosis to health professionals (primary care doctors, allied health, nurses and social workers) working in communities throughout California.

#### **Item 7. Action: Items to include in Chair's Memo to the Secretary**

Chair Howard Rosen identified items to include in his memo to the Secretary by recapping the meeting.

**Meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.**