



CalHHS Alzheimer's Disease & Related Disorders Advisory Committee

May 9, 2024 Meeting Minutes

This meeting was held in-person (CA Department of Aging
2880 Gateway Oaks Drive, Sacramento, CA 95833) with a remote option.

Call to Order: Welcome and Introductions, February Minutes

- *Catherine Blakemore, Committee Chair and Committee members*

Members attending in person: Claire Day, Carlos Olivas

Members attending remotely: Dolores Gallagher-Thompson, Myra Garcia, Catherine Blakemore, Celine Regalia, William Mobley, Kenneth Graffeo, Julie Souliere, Barbra McLendon, Sally Bergman, Wynnelena Canlas Canio

Members absent: Todd Shetter, Sarah Tomaszewski Farias (Freddi Segal Gidan represented the Alzheimer's Disease Centers)

Wynn Canio moved to approve the November meeting minutes. Sally Bergman seconded the motion, and all voted in favor of approving the minutes.

Items shared in chat:

- [CalHHS Alzheimer's Disease & Related Disorders Advisory Committee webpage](#)
- [Committee member bios](#)

The following presenter shared information on progress that had been made on the 10 recommendations from Governor Newsom's Alzheimer's Prevention and Preparedness Task Force, discussed the projections of a challenging budget year, and highlighted opportunities to continue to make more progress via policy levers, further implementation, and federal opportunities:

- *Kim McCoy Wade, Senior Advisor on Aging, Disability, and Alzheimer's at Office of California Governor Gavin Newsom*

California Department of Aging (CDA) Update

The following presenter provided an update on activities related to CDA-led initiatives since the last meeting and discussed the budget process. Committee members were encouraged to use their voices to amplify the experiences of Californians living with dementia:

- *Susan DeMarois, Director, California Department of Aging*

Items shared in chat:

- [Aging in California Resource Guide](#)
- [Older Californians Month – Governor's Proclamation](#)
- [ACL 2024 Older Americans Act Final Rule](#)
- [Senate Bill 1249 \(Roth\)](#)

- [CA 2030 Report](#)
- [CalGROWS](#)
- [IHSS Career Pathways](#)
- [Bridge to Recovery Program](#)
- [Proposition 1](#)
- [Governor's proposed budget and May budget revise](#)

Questions and Answers

Q: Will the materials developed through Cal Grows, Caring4Cal and/or IHSS Career Pathways remain online after program funding ends?

A: For Cal Grows grantees who developed the curricula, CDA will be able to distribute it for broader use after the initiative ends. For IHSS Career Pathways and Caring4Cal program, CDA is working with them and LeadingAge to look for ways to sustain access to the training resources after the funding ends.

Q: Can the Advisory Committee have a conversation with the contractor working on the LTSS financing and affordability work?

A: Yes, there are multiple components to the initiative: population analysis of current and future needs; looking at Medi-Cal and Medicare; potential pilot demonstration proposal with CMS OMII to test flexible HCBS benefit in Medicare. When they begin public stakeholder process, they would be happy to brief the Committee.

Q: What is the best way for Committee members to get information on the budget and how it impacts the aging space? Review the Office of Finance documents, which can be viewed by category.

Q: Request for clarification - did Kim say that there's going to be an update/report on the Task Force recommendations?

A: Yes, there are regular internal meetings on progress of the 10 recommendations from the Alzheimer's Prevention and Preparedness Task Force report. There is a summary document that's under final review. When released, it will be shared with the Advisory Committee.

California Department of Public Health (CDPH) Update

The following presenter provided an update on activities related to CDPH-led initiatives since the last meeting:

- *Lynnley Stern, PhD, Chief, Chronic Disease Control Branch, California Department of Public Health*

Items shared in chat:

- [CDPH Alzheimer's Disease Program](#)
- [Master Plan for Aging](#)
- [Sacramento County Blue Zones Assessment Report](#)
- [California Healthy Brain Initiative](#)
- [2024 CDPH Research Grants](#)
- Campaign Website: TakeonAlz.com
- Campaign Outreach Materials: [Media & Outreach Resources](#)
- TV/VIDEO Ads: [It takes understanding to take on Alzheimer's. \(youtube.com\)](#)

- CDPH News Release: [California Launches New Campaign to Take on Alzheimer's](#)
- CDPH Alzheimer's Program email address: AlzheimersD@cdph.ca.gov

Questions and Answers

Q: The programs are so encouraging. Is CDPH going to have data on the outcomes of the programs on individuals? If we want to be a nation leading model, it would be great to have a document that lays out the research that was done and could help other states; some things will have dramatic impacts, others won't – encourage a scholarly approach to what comes out of the expenditures.

A: CDPH is looking at impact at a population level, not as much on the individual level. They are planning to hold a research summit to bring researchers together in June; they will share the invitations with the Committee.

Q: Gave an example of San Luis Obispo embedding their work in local government activities; wondering how are other counties working on sustainability.

A: They are in early stages of sustainability conversations. The first six counties that started in 2020 have more infrastructure – she can get more info and reach out to Catherine with more details [update in future presentation]

Q: Are there metrics that will measure the impact of the CDPH awareness campaign? Does it change individual knowledge?

A: They will be evaluating engagement metrics and also doing a research evaluation regarding changing attitudes. She can update the Committee once the results are available.

Q: Where can we find more information on the CDPH caregiver training?

A: The caregiver training modules haven't been released yet but she'll share link when it's ready.

Q: How will the community be made aware of the caregiver training?

A: Once the curricula are ready, the next phase will be figuring out how to market and reach priority target populations. They can share marketing and outreach plan.

There was a recommendation that the Committee could be a valuable resource in giving input on the outreach plan at a future meeting. It is a great opportunity to encourage and empower caregivers.

Discussion of Recommendations for 2025-26 Master Plan for Aging Initiatives

- *Catherine Blakemore, Wynn Canio and Committee members*

Items shared in chat:

- [CA for All Ages and Abilities event](#)
- [Learn more about the MPA Advisory Committees](#)
- [Initial prioritization efforts summary](#)
- [Draft recommendations for discussion](#)

Catherine gave an overview of the MPA Day of Action and the work that needs to be done to provide input on the 2025-26 MPA initiatives. She shared the progress the committee had made to date in narrowing priorities for potential recommendations and shared the top 10 from the pre-polling.

The committee members discussed which of the top 10 items they thought should be elevated as the top three.

They chose their top two:

- Increase options to provide care to individuals with dementia through strategies such as developing and launching a Long-Term Services and Supports (LTSS) benefit, establishing a voluntary savings account and/or increasing slots in the [Assisted Living Waiver](#) (ALW).
- Secure continued funding to expand access to dementia capable, person-centered adult day services provide by adult day health care centers and adult day programs ([Cal-COMPASS](#) funding ends 2024).

For the third recommendation, they are going to choose between the two following potential objectives:

- Incorporate family caregivers and persons with dementia, as well as the family caregiving experience into planning in local communities to increase the availability of culturally appropriate services for caregivers.
- Secure continued funding to expand access to use of community health workers to provide dementia care management through the state's aging services network ([CAIz Connect](#) funding ends 2025).

A small group is going to work on putting together the documentation for review and approval at the August meeting. They are going to further discuss the two options and bring back a recommendation. Barbra, Carlos, Dolores and Celine volunteered to work on this task. Wynn will also help.

The group began to work on the details for the first goal related to LTSS.

30 Minute Break

Legislative Update

- *Freddi Segal Gidan, PA, PhD, Director, USC/Rancho California Alzheimer's Disease Center*

The following presenter discussed the 4 bills the Alzheimer's Association is sponsoring, including AB 2680, which impacts membership of this Advisory Committee:

- *Jason Gabhart, Government Affairs Director, Alzheimer's Association*

The following presenter discussed bills that Alzheimer's Los Angeles is sponsoring, as well as other bills that would impact people living with dementia and/or their caregivers:

- *Barbra McLendon, Public Policy Director, Alzheimer's Los Angeles*

Items shared in chat:

- [California Alzheimer's Disease Centers](#)
- [California bill information](#)
- [Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementia Voluntary Tax Contribution Fund](#)
- [San Diego Blue Envelope Program](#)

Question and Answer

Q: The ADCs are so important. How can we look at the budget to justify the expenses needed?

A: The current allocation of \$280K doesn't cover the costs of staffing required to run a center. Just the cost of a receptionist to answer the phone and providing staffing for the center, that takes at least \$50K per year.

Q: Does the amount the ADCs want to get per year (\$500K) properly cover the effort for all of those people?

A: It covers the minimum effort needed for a center – it varies across the state and where the center is embedded.

Q: Could you make a case that the care you provide at an ADC is of extraordinary value and makes it easier for their primary care providers to give care?

A: That's part of it, but it's also the training of future health care providers. It's important to expose people to topics when they are initially being trained.

Q: For AB 2680 – have you asked for any technical assistance from the Administration re: any changes that might need to be made from their perspective? And has there been any cost assessment yet that might cause it to get hung up?

A: There isn't an issue yet regarding cost. They may add language saying that it's okay to meet remotely, since it's an Advisory Committee. Not all members would always be attending in person, so the cost should be lower than identified last year. They may also suggest decreasing the number of members. The cost will likely come up in Senate. Recommendation that if the addition of members becomes a cost issue again, that they consider removing that portion of the bill so that they can make sure the stigmatizing language and term limits get fixed

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Additional public comments and questions can be sent via email to EngAGE@aging.ca.gov.

CDA's Upcoming Events calendar can be found on [CDA's homepage](#). To receive news and opportunities for engagement from the California Department of Aging and the Master Plan for Aging, subscribe to [CDA's newsletter](#).

Finalize Recommendations and Items for CalHHS Secretary

The committee members recommended putting the following items in the memo to Secretary Ghaly:

- Look for opportunities to sustain the work related to the needs of persons living with dementia and their caregivers, even in this difficult budget time.
- Provide technical assistance, as needed, related to AB 2680 to achieve equity in term limits for the consumer members and correct stigmatizing language.
- Increase funding for CDPH's 10 Alzheimer's Disease Centers.
- Improve collaboration and reduce silos among departments within Cal HHS to address the growing needs of people living with both dementia and intellectual and development disabilities.
- Create a specialty population in CalAIM specifically for those living with dementia.

- Ensure that the supported decision-making education and resources being developed are appropriate for those living with dementia and their potential supporters.

Closing Comments, Upcoming Meeting Dates and Next Steps

- *Catherine Blakemore, Committee Chair*

The featured topic for the August 1 meeting will be wandering. Barbra, Claire and Catherine volunteered to participate in a workgroup to help put together suggested topics and presenters.

Items shared in chat:

[CalHHS Alzheimer's Disease & Related Disorders](#) Advisory Committee webpage

Adjourn

Public Comment: The time and order in which agenda items are considered may be subject to change. Public comment will be taken toward the end of the meeting. Prior to making your comments, please state your name for the record and identify any group or organization you represent, if applicable. Depending on the number of individuals wishing to address the Advisory Committee, the Chair may establish specific time limits on comments.

Attendees joining by webinar (Zoom) can use the Q&A function to ask a question or select the raise hand icon. When it is your turn to comment, the moderator will announce your name and will unmute your line.

Attendees joining by phone can press *9 on your dial pad to "raise your hand." When it is your turn to comment, the moderator will announce the last four digits of your phone number and will unmute your line.

Accessibility: The public meeting will be accessible to the public in-person, via telephone or webinar. American Sign Language (ASL) interpretation and closed captioning will be provided via the ZOOM webinar.

Pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act, individuals with disabilities may request a reasonable accommodation or modification to access and participate in the meeting. Please contact us at least five (5) business days prior to the meeting, using the contact information below. CalHHS will ensure that it makes every effort to fulfill the request. To submit a request or if you have any questions or comments, you may contact us at engage@aging.ca.gov or (916) 419-7500.

Meeting materials: Slide presentations, meeting transcripts, video recordings, and any other materials will be posted following the meeting on the [Advisory Committee website](#). If you have questions, please contact Michelle Johnston at engage@aging.ca.gov.