



CalHHS Alzheimer's Disease & Related Disorders Advisory Committee

August 1, 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, May Minutes

- *Catherine Blakemore, Committee Chair and Committee members*

Members attending in person: N/A

Members attending remotely: Sally Bergman, Catherine Blakemore, Wynnelena Canlas Canio, Dolores Gallagher-Thompson, Myra Garcia, Barbra McLendon, William Mobley, Carlos Olivas III, Celine Regalia, Todd Shetter, Julie Souliere

Members absent: Claire Day, Sarah Tomaszewski Farias and Ken Graffeo

Todd Shetter moved to approve the May minutes and Sally seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor of approving the minutes. No opposition or abstentions.

Items shared in chat:

- [CalHHS Alzheimer's Disease & Related Disorders Advisory Committee webpage](#)
- [Committee member bios](#)
- Additional public comments and questions can be sent via email to:
EngAGE@aging.ca.gov

Building a Community to Support Individuals with Dementia At Risk for Wandering

The following presenter shared information on Building a Community to Support Individuals with Dementia at Risk for Wandering. She discussed what wandering is, exit seeking, roaming, & autism related elopement, why it happens, and why it matters.

- Overview of the issue – *Barbra McLendon, Public Policy Director, Alzheimer's Los Angeles, Committee Member*

The following presenter shared a personal story about a family member he was caring for and how wandering affected his family.

- Personal Story – *Kirk Moody, Board Member, Alzheimer's Los Angeles, and WISE and Healthy Aging*

Community Perspectives

The following presenters shared other information on wandering.

- *Barbra McLendon* – discussed what caregivers can do to reduce the risk of wandering by planning ahead for wandering and also what to do when wandering happens.
- *Wynnelena Canlas Canio, MD, AGSF, CMD, Chief of Geriatric Medicine, Kaiser Permanents San Rafael, Committee Vice Chair* – discussed wandering from a medical point of view including information on diagnosis, symptoms, prognosis, and how to keep patients safe from wandering. She also discussed some of the

misconceptions she hears from caregivers regarding why their loved one would not wander. A personal family story was shared as well.

- *Chloe Ferem, Crime Prevention Specialist, San Diego County Sheriff's Office* – shared a program they have in San Diego County called Take Me Home (TMH). She explained what TMH is, who it is recommended for, who it can help, information provided to the TMH program, current registration process, assisting clients with registration, application questions, benefits of the TMH program, and current partnerships. She also shared a video about the person who started the program in San Diego County and his personal story for starting the program.
- Recommendations – *Catherine Blakemore* – discussed three categories to think about: 1) the need for information and how to promote it for family and caregivers about the challenges they face with wandering, 2) the need for support for caregivers and what they can do, and 3) the need for this to become a community health issue and how to address it.

Question & Answer (Q&A) for Take Me Home (TMH)

- Q: (from the chat): is this program available in other counties in California?
- A: Some counties have similar programs. There are different versions available.
- Q: Do you have recommendations about what information can be shared regarding suggestions on how communities can establish a program in their local area?
- A: It would have to be a partnership with a community group from the area and the local law enforcement agency. Finding the right technology has been the biggest problem so far. They need to get law enforcement IT on board.
- Q: Can you talk about utilization across law enforcement agencies and how this committee can help advocate for this?
- A: All law enforcement agencies should have access to this information. Chloe discussed the Blue Envelope Program as a way to help introduce the TMH program.
- Q: Do police departments have training on how to deal with clients in the TMH program?
- A: Yes, they do train officers at different agencies and new cadets.

Items Shared in the Chat

- [San Diego Sheriff Take Me Home Program](#)
- [Blue Envelope Program](#)
- Chloe Ferem email address: Chloe.Ferem@sdsheriff.org

Committee Q&A and Discussion

- Todd suggested requesting funds from the state for a public awareness campaign since this is a public awareness issue. It's a statewide problem, not just a county problem.
- Carlos shared that he is at the Alzheimer's Association International Conference with his father and what he is doing to help his father while traveling. He showed a visual aid he made for his father and motion sensor lights that guide him to the rest room. He tried to replicate things he does at home to ease the comfort level.
- Dr. Mobley stated that there are educational opportunities here for families and those involved and that it may be helpful for the team to present what they think are critical educational objectives for families, physicians, and police.
- Barbra suggested asking for consideration for support from the Governor's Office for a statewide volunteer registry program that all law enforcement entities could access.

- One suggestion was for education for law enforcement on how to interact with persons with dementia.
- There is a need to increase support services for caregivers who are working hard to keep their loved ones safe.
- It could help to reduce the barriers to technology that can help find people with dementia who are missing by making it free to those who don't have the financial resources to pay for the items and/or monthly fees.
- Celine suggested building on current programs like the CDPH awareness campaign and figuring out how to leverage local Aging and Disability Resource Connections (ADRCs).

Finalizing Master Plan for Aging Initiative Recommendations

- Introduction – *Wynnelena Canlas Canio*
 - Overview of Committee's prior activities. Members completed two polls. Poll#1 identified 4 priority categories and poll #2 identified 10 priority initiatives. In May, the committee narrowed down to top 4 priority initiatives. Today, they are to select third priority and approve three to be submitted for consideration.
- Recommendation #1 – *Barbra McLendon*
 - Increase options to provide care to individuals with dementia through various strategies.
- Recommendation #2 – *Celine Regalia, Director of Operations, Providence Community Health Napa Valley, Committee Member*
 - Secure funding to expand access to dementia capable person-centered adult day services (ADP) provided by Adult Day Health Care centers (ADHCs) and ADPs with enhanced rate for participants with mid to late-stage dementia.
- Recommendation #3 – *Wynnelena Canlas Canio, Committee Vice Chair*
 - #3a. Secure continued funding to expand access to use of community health workers (CHWs) to provide dementia care management through the state's aging service network or, #3b. Incorporate family caregivers and persons with dementia into planning in local communities to increase the availability of culturally appropriate services for caregivers.

Questions and Discussion of Two Options for Recommendation #3

- The small group recommends option #3a to expand CHWs to provide dementia care management.
- No further comments were given.
- Finalize recommendations
 - Todd Shetter moved to support the recommendation of putting forward initiative #3a (along with #1 and 2) as the committee's recommendations for 2025-26 MPA initiatives. William Mobley seconded the motion.
 - All members in attendance voted to support the recommendations.

Developing the MPA Initiatives

- *Sarah Steenhausen, CDA, Deputy Director of Policy, Research, and Equity*
 - Discussed the remainder of the MPA initiatives development process.

Items Shared in the Chat

- [Master Plan for Aging](#)
- [California Master Plan for Aging \(MPA\) Draft Committee Recommendations \(2025-2026\)](#)
- To receive news and opportunities for engagement from the California Department of Aging and the Master Plan for Aging, subscribe to [CDA's newsletter](#).

California Department of Aging (CDA) Update

- *Susan DeMarois, Director, California Department of Aging*
 - Provided an update on the final state budget. Health and Human Services programs were protected. There were no direct cuts to any programs that support people with dementia, Alzheimer's, and family caregivers. The California Aging Resources guide was updated in May. There is still funding for round two for the Bridge to Recovery program. The Administration on Community Living (ACL) has identified family caregivers as a new target audience for all Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs) in the country. The Older Americans Act is being reviewed for re-authorization. Senate bill 1249 to update California's AAA network is still moving forward. Proposition 1 is being implemented. Funding is available for long-term services and supports. CDA is submitting a federal grant proposal to ACL around caregiver supports.

Items Shared in the Chat

- [October 8 Day of Action](#)
- [2024-2025 Final State Budget Summary](#)
- [California Aging Resource Guide](#)
- [Bridge to Recovery](#)
- [CalGrows](#)
- [2024 Final Rule to Update Older Americans Act Regulations](#)
- [SB 1249](#)
- [Prop 1 Behavioral Health Transformation](#)
- [LTSS Financing](#)

30 Minute Break

California Department of Public Health (CDPH) Update

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

- *Lisa Gonzales, Communications & Prevention Lead, Alzheimer's Disease Section, California Department of Public Health*
- *Cynthia Foltz, Clinical Lead, Alzheimer's Disease Section, California Department of Public Health*
- *Jarmin C. Yeh, PhD, MPH, MSSW, Associate Professor, Institute for Health & Aging, University of California, San Francisco*
 - Updating Report – Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias Facts and Figures in California: Current Status and Future Projections
 - Dr. Yeh shared a draft outline for the new report and encouraged committee members to provide their feedback/suggestions.
 - Q: How do people receive information on how to join the research symposia?
 - A: Email the CDPH Alzheimer's Program and ask to be added to the list: AlzheimersD@cdph.ca.gov
 - Q: When in 2026 will report be released? The reports are very helpful.
 - A: Plan is for report release in Spring 2026. Dr. Yeh encouraged members to submit their comments.
 - Q: Many with Alzheimer's also have other complex health issues. This often requires caregivers to take on more of a nursing role. Is it possible to include this topic in the report?
 - A: Thanks – they will consider whether they can add a section.

- Q: Is there a section on resources? It could be good to include resources for caregivers in the body of the report (continuum of care, typical resources used at different points, etc.).
- A: Is in the appendices.
- Q: Echoed the need for information on caregiver resources, such as navigating Medi-Cal.
- A: Appreciated the suggestion – maybe link with public awareness campaign efforts and cross-post.

Items shared in chat:

- [CDPH Alzheimer's Disease Program](#)
- [California Healthy Brain Initiative](#)
- [2024 CDPH Research Grants](#)
- Campaign Website: [TakeonAlz.com](#)
- CDPH Alzheimer's Program email address: AlzheimersD@cdph.ca.gov
- [2021 California Alzheimer's Disease Facts and Figures Report](#)
- [CA-ADRD-Burden-Report-Draft-Outline](#)
- Jarmin Yeh email address JARMIN.YEH@UCSF.EDU

Legislative Update

- *Barbra McLendon, Public Policy Director, Alzheimer's Los Angeles*
 - Presenter reported on budget and legislative activities related to Alzheimer's disease and caregiving.
 - Protected funding included: Older Californians Act nutrition programs, Adult Protective Services expansion and training, Medi-Cal and IHSS access for undocumented individuals, rate increase for Community-based Adult Services, and additional funding for the LTC Ombudsman Program

Alzheimer's Association State Legislative Update

- *Jason Gabhart, Government Affairs Director, Alzheimer's Association*
 - Presenter reported on current legislation being supported by the Alzheimer's Association, including **AB 2680**, which relates to the Alzheimer's Disease & Related Disorders Advisory Committee

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

- *Catherine Blakemore, Committee Chair and members*
 - In additions to the recommendations made after the wandering session, the committee members recommended putting the following items in the memo to Secretary Ghaly:
 - May want to call out that people with genetic causes of Alzheimer's and dementia are typically younger than 65 years old).
 - A statement that they are anticipating the passage of wandering training guidelines for law enforcement and encourage robust implementation

- Continue to encourage the Secretary to make sure state agencies working on emergency management are engaged in addressing the unique needs of persons with Alzheimer's and other dementias.

Closing Comments, Upcoming Meeting Dates and Next Steps

- Catherine Blakemore, Committee Chair
 - The next meeting is November 7, 2024. Members are also encouraged to attend the California for All Ages and Ability Day of Action on October 8.

Items shared in chat:

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

Meeting Adjourned

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 [CalHHS Alzheimer's Disease & Related Disorders](#) Advisory Committee webpage. If you have questions, please contact Michelle Johnston at engage@aging.ca.gov.