



CalHHS Alzheimer's Disease & Related Conditions Advisory Committee February 5, 2026, Meeting Minutes

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

Members attending in person: Wynnelena Canlas Canio, Carlos Olivas III and Kate Schulenberg

Members attending remotely: Sally Bergman, Barbra McLendon, William Mobley, Faisal Qazi, Julie Souliere, Celine Regalia, Sarah Tomaszewski Farias, Rhiananon Mulligan for Assemblymember Gail Pellerin, Stephanie Navarette, Jerry Jew, Jeanine Walter-Misirli, Dolores Gallagher-Thompson and Kate Schulenberg

Members absent: Senator Jesse Arreguin, Claire Day

Call to Order: Welcome and Introductions, November 2025 Minutes

- Wynnelena Canlas Canio, Committee Chair
 - An update on ADRCAC member recruitment was provided.
- Committee Members – New committee members were welcomed and introduced.

Barbra McLendon moved to approve the November 2025 minutes. Sally Bergman seconded the motion. The four new committee members abstained from the vote. All remaining members in attendance voted in favor of approving the minutes without opposition.

Opening Remarks

- Susan DeMarois, Director, CDA
 - Director DeMarois informed the committee that the fifth annual report on California's Master Plan for Aging (MPA) has been released to the legislature.
 - An update on the Governor's January 10th proposed state budget was provided. Some budget cuts have been proposed but still need to be heard in budget committees with input from stakeholders. The proposed state budget includes the anticipation of HR1 and its impact on our state Medicaid program and federal changes to SNAP/CalFresh benefit.
 - Information was provided on opportunities through Proposition 1 and the Behavioral Health Services Act (BHSA) including California Department of Public Health (CDPH) statewide opportunity for population-based prevention strategies that include older adults, people with disabilities, and family caregivers.
 - The Commission on Behavioral Health will be announcing an innovation fund with opportunities to compete for funds.
 - The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) awarded California a Rural Health Transformation grant. More information will be forthcoming.

Advances in Alzheimer's Research & Committee Discussion

- Courtney Kloske, PhD, Director, Scientific Engagement, Alzheimer's Association
 - Courtney provided a global/national overview on recent advances in Alzheimer's and dementia research. Updates on risk reduction, early detection and diagnosis, and

- treatment and care were provided.
 - Courtney also shared new findings of the U.S. Pointer study.
 - There was a recent \$100 million increase in federal funding for Alzheimer's and dementia research bringing up the total amount to \$3.9 billion in federal funding.
- Tina Fung, Chief, Alzheimer's Disease Section, CDPH
 - Tina provided a brief history of the Alzheimer's Disease program at the state level from its beginnings in the 1980s to the present including state investments in Alzheimer's and dementia research.
- Jarmin Yeh, PhD, MPH, MSSW, Associate Professor, Institute for Health & Aging
 - Jarmin provided a statistical high-level overview on the current status as well as future projections of Alzheimer's and related dementias in California.
 - Statistics related to age, sex, LGBTQ status, race and ethnicity, and county type (urban, suburban, and rural) were provided.
- William Mobley MD, PhD, Distinguished Professor, Department of Neurosciences, Associate Dean Neurosciences Initiatives, Director, Sanford Institute for Empathy and Compassion University of California, San Diego School of Medicine
 - Dr. Mobley discussed research trends and technical information on research and advances in treatment.

|Aging and Disability Lived Experience Advisory Board (AD-LEAB) Update

- Sarah Steenhausen, CDA Deputy Director, Division of Policy, Research, and Engagement (DPRE)
 - An update was provided on the establishment of the AD-LEAB.
 - Twelve members have been selected from throughout the state who represent older adults, people with disabilities, and caregivers.
 - A committee member asked if members of the public could attend AD-LEAB meetings. It was stated that currently the meetings are closed.

CDA Statewide Website Update

- Connie Nakano, CDA Assistant Director, Office of Strategic Initiatives and Equity
 - Connie provided an update on CDA's website redesign efforts to support older adults, people with disabilities, and caregivers to access the information that they need.

Master Plan for Aging Mid-Point Evaluation & Committee Discussion

- Ross Lillian, Chief of Research, CDA
 - Ross outlined the high-level goals of the MPA mid-point evaluation.
- Miranda Kunkel, Collaborative Consulting
 - Miranda discussed the six elements of what is being evaluated for the mid-point evaluation of the MPA which comes from the Center for Healthcare Strategies.
 - She also went over how the evaluation can provide recommendations for improvement of the six elements over the next five years.
 - A project timeline was also provided.

Legislative Updates

- Barbra McLendon, Public Policy Director, Alzheimer's Los Angeles
 - An overview was provided of the Governor's proposed state budget.
 - Updates were provided on the status of state policies and legislative bills that impact individuals with Alzheimer's and other dementias and caregivers.
- Andrew Mendoza, Director of State Affairs, Alzheimer's Association

- The presentation included current bills being sponsored by the Alzheimer's Association.

Public Comment

- There were no comments from the public.

Finalize Recommendations and Items for CalHHS Secretary

- Wynnelena Canlas Canio, Committee Chair
- Committee members
 - Recommendations include:
 - Having more presentations on the progress in other types of dementias like frontal temporal lobe and Lewy body to increase awareness of other dementias and not just Alzheimer's.
 - Increasing access to, and utilization of, screening tools for Alzheimer's and other dementias. Researching why there is so little screening for dementia when there are tools available and what can be done to increase screening.
 - Healthcare financing as a solution for Alzheimer's and other dementias to pay for pre-screening.

Closing Comments, Upcoming Meeting Dates, and Next Steps

- Wynnelena Canlas Canio, Committee Chair
 - The committee chair and vice chair thanked the committee for their time and thoughtful participation and for another productive meeting.

Upcoming Meeting Dates

- Next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 7, 2026.
- Committee meetings will be held in-person in Sacramento with a Zoom option.

Resources and Materials Shared in Meeting Chat and PowerPoint Presentation

- [CalHHS Alzheimer's Disease & Related Conditions Advisory Committee \(ADRAC\) webpage](#)
- [Meeting Materials & ADRAC Member Biographies](#)
- [Master Plan for Aging \(MPA\)](#)
- [MPA AR](#)
- [MPA Initiatives](#)
- [MPA Annual Report Press Release](#)
- [MPA Annual Report Social Media Toolkit](#)
- [ADRAC Lived Experience Application](#)
- [AD-LEAB](#)
- 1984 - AB 2225 - Established Alzheimer's Disease Program diagnostic centers and research grant program
 - [STATUTES AND AMENDMENTS TO THE CODES 1984 | Office of the Chief Clerk](#)
- 1987 - SB 139 - Expanded state efforts in addressing Alzheimer's disease
 - [STATUTES AND AMENDMENTS TO THE CODES 1988 | Office of the Chief Clerk](#)
- 2019 - 2019 Budget Act - Increase in funding to support research
 - [Legislative Analyst's Office](#)
- [California Department of Public Health: Alzheimer's Disease Program Research Projects](#) in response to [24-10004 Request for Applications](#)
- 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](#).
- Comments may be submitted after the meeting via email to Engage@aging.ca.gov.