



CalHHS Alzheimer's Disease & Related Conditions Advisory Committee

February 6, 2025 Meeting Minutes

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

Members attending in person: Carlos Olivas III

Members attending remotely: Sally Bergman, Claire Day, Catherine Blakemore, Dolores Gallagher-Thompson, Myra Garcia, Kenneth Graffeo, Barbra McLendon, William Mobley, Faisel Qazi, Celine Regalia, Todd Shetter, Julie Souliere, Wynnelena Canlas Canio, Jason Gravano for Sara Tomaszewski Farias, and Carmen Ayon for Senator Arreguin

Members absent: Sarah Tomaszewski Farias

Call to Order: Welcome and Introductions, November Minutes

- *Catherine Blakemore, Committee Chair and Committee members*

Sally Bergman moved to approve the November 2024 minutes and Todd Shetter seconded the motion. All members attending voted in favor of approving the minutes. No oppositions or abstentions.

Welcome from CalHHS Agency Secretary

- *Kim Johnson, Secretary, California Health and Human Services Agency*
 - Secretary Johnson thanked the members for their work, including how the committee is vital to the success of the Master Plan for Aging (MPA).
 - She asked the committee to amplify their advocacy in the face of uncertainty and to continue vocalizing community needs.
 - The Secretary engaged with the group on the issues and challenges in Los Angeles and committed the Administration to continued support through the wildfire recovery phase in Altadena and Pacific Palisades.

Elevating Persons Living with Dementia and Caregivers: Proposition 1/Behavioral Health Transformation

- *Introduction – Wynnelena Canlas Canio, MD, AGSF, CMD, Chief of Geriatric Medicine, Kaiser Permanente, Committee Vice Chair*
 - Dr. Canio discussed how she sees many patients and family caregivers in her practice who need help managing behavioral symptoms, creating a safe environment, and accessing support for caregivers.

- *Master Plan for Aging – Susan DeMarois, Director, California Department of Aging*
 - Susan discussed the integration of dementia care within the broader MPA and highlighted recent developments and future goals related to individuals with dementia.
 - She emphasized that individuals with dementia may also need behavioral health services. Susan highlighted that older adult behavioral health is embedded in all five bold goals of the MPA.
- *A caregiver's experience – Emyin Harrison, Family Caregiver*
 - Emyin shared her experience of being an only child caregiver for her mother.
 - She discussed the challenges in getting the proper diagnosis and treatment. She also highlighted the difficulty in advocating for someone with a history of mental health issues.
- *Prop 1: Population-Based Behavioral Health Prevention Strategies*
Julie Nagasako, Deputy Director, California Department of Public Health (CDPH) and Christine Siador, Assistant Director, CDPH
 - Julie discussed what the CDPH is doing to help facilitate Proposition 1 and the Behavioral Health Services Act Population Based Prevention planning.
 - Julie went over the statutory requirements that CDPH is responsible for including:
 - Dedicating 4% of the total fund to population-based prevention in order to look at how they can prevent and reduce risk and increase protective support before behavioral health harms occur.
 - How implementation of all population-based prevention programs may be statewide or in a community setting.
 - Clarification that prevention funds cannot be used for diagnostic services or treatment, only prevention.
 - Affirming that behavioral health experiences and needs of older adults are a priority for CDPH through some of their existing programs.

Committee members raised questions/comments about the following topics:

- Immigrants in the current climate where people are afraid to make any kind of connection because of the risk that it imposes to their physical safety and/or well-being.
- Loneliness is about as important as anything that has been discussed and encourages a social neuroscience-informed approach to combat loneliness.
- The importance in getting a diagnosis for robust services and supports for families with limited financial resources.

Items shared in chat and PowerPoint:

- [ADRCAC November 7, 2024, Meeting Minutes](#)
- [Master Plan for Aging Five Bold Goals for 2030](#)
- [MPA Fourth Annual Report](#)
- [2025-26 MPA Initiatives](#)
- [Existing CDPH Programs supporting overall health and well-being of older adults](#)
- [Alzheimer's Disease Program](#)
- [SB-326 The Behavioral Health Services Act](#)
- [Equity & Inclusion in Public Health Approaches – Targeted Universalism](#)
- BHSAinfo@cdph.ca.gov
- [CDPH Transforming Behavioral Health](#)
- [November 13, 2024 BHTF - CDPH Meeting Slides](#)
- [CDPH BHSA distribution list](#)
- [Mental Health for All](#)

- [DHCS Behavioral Health Transformation Stakeholder Engagement webpage](#)
- [HCAI's Prop 1 webpage](#)
- [HCD's Homekey+ program](#)

Committee Updates

- *Catherine Blakemore, Committee Chair*
 - Committee bylaws have changed and include:
 - Changing of committee name.
 - Removal of one year term limit for consumer members. This gives equal term limits to everyone on the committee.
 - Terminology referring to individuals with lived experience has been updated.
 - Addition of consumer committee members who need caregiver support to be able to get reimbursed for travel costs for their caregiver as an accommodation for their disability.
 - Updated committee representation.

Committee Discussion on Updates to Committee Representation

- Multiple committee members discussed the benefits of having a first responder representative from the emergency services, a primary care physician (PCP) to improve access to healthcare, law enforcement, clergy or parish nurses, and someone with expertise with homelessness and housing services on the committee.

Future Meetings

- Committee members suggested the following speakers and/or topics for future committee meetings:
 - Dr. Margot Kushel from UCSF on homelessness.
 - The increase in older adults who are incarcerated.
 - Financial vulnerability of seniors with dementia and scams.
 - A committee member shared how difficult it was to get a diagnosis of early-stage Alzheimer's even though she knew it was happening, and it runs in her family.
 - A committee member discussed the importance of PCPs helping with early diagnosis to get people into the system to get the resources they need. Often clients come to her where a conservatorship is the only choice to move forward with their finances and living options.

Committee Leadership

Catherine stated that her and Todd's positions with the committee have concluded, and those positions will need to be filled. Dr. Canio has agreed to become the Chair of the committee and Carlos has agreed to become the Vice Chair.

Barbara McLendon moved to approve the bylaws and Dr. Dolores Gallagher-Thompson seconded the motion. All members attending voted in favor of approving the minutes. No oppositions or abstentions.

Public Comment #1

- None

30 Minute Break

California Department of Aging (CDA) Update

- Susan DeMarois, Director, California Department of Aging
 - Last Fall, CDA released the updated Emergency Preparedness Guide for older adults, individuals with disabilities, and people with access and functional needs.
 - CDA has a new Deputy Director, Ana Acton, from the Department of Rehabilitation.
 - Susan visited the Los Angeles Wildfire shelters and both of the disaster assistance centers and talked to dozens of partners in the field.
 - CDA has updated their Strategic Plan for 2025-2028 which took effect in January.
 - CDA will be updating the Older Americans Act State Plan this year.
 - CDA was awarded a Cal CARES Grant for family caregivers by the federal Administration for Community Living.
 - A Caregiver Equity Roadmap will be released this spring.
 - American Rescue Act Home and Community Based Services Spending Plan funding has concluded, and all local partners have closed out their grants and awards.
 - It is the goal of CDA to curate the free trainings made available through Cal Grows and eventually from the IHSS Career Pathways program. CDA is working with the UC Davis Caregiver Institute to validate the trainings and make them available in multiple languages. CDA plans to eventually have the trainings available to anyone in California who seeks free training.

California Department of Public Health Update

- *Tina Fung, Chief, Alzheimer's Disease Section, California Department of Public Health (CDPH)*
 - Tina provided updates on the Alzheimer's Disease Program (ADP) activities related to prevention, clinical and caregiving support, research and evaluation, and the CA Healthy Brain Initiative (HBI).
 - CDPH's HBI funds 13 counties who are continuing to work on their goals of engaging and educating the public, strengthening partnerships and policies, and building a diverse and skilled workforce.
 - ADPs Evaluation Report for the 2020-2022 pilot cohort will be released in the coming months.
 - Currently, ADP is in year one of their Block Grant from the Centers for Disease Control and intend to use this grant to expand the CA HBI to include tribal as well as rural communities that are not currently funded through HBI work.
 - The goal is to expand HBI work to historically underrepresented and underreached communities.
 - ADP is currently partnering with UC San Francisco, UC San Francisco-Fresno and UC Irvine to create a caregiver training and certification program by spring of 2025.
 - ADP is also hosting a series of research topics.

Legislative Update

- *Barbra McLendon, Public Policy Director, Alzheimer's Los Angeles*
 - There have been very few bills filed that relate to our issue. The budget was released in January and did not have any cuts to our programs but there are still questions regarding federal funding.
- *Eric Dowdy, Vice President of Public Policy and Advocacy, Alzheimer's Association*
 - The Association is prioritizing obtaining easier access to new approved therapies via public employee health plans, specifically CalPERS. Other initiatives include Medi-Cal cognitive assessments where we may or may not have Dementia Care Aware training anymore, dementia training for home care aids, and championing a budget increase to \$5 million for the 10 Alzheimer's Disease Centers which is about \$2.2 million in new funding. This would bring the funding of each center up to \$500,000.

Items Shared in Chat

- [Assembly Bill 2680](#)
- [CA Elder and Disability Justice Coordinating Council](#)
- [Emergency Preparedness Guide](#)
- [Strategic Plan](#)
- [CalGrows Information](#)
- [Healthy Brain Initiative \(HBI\) Roadmap](#)
- [Preventive Health and Health Services \(PHHS\) Block Grant](#)
- [HBI Road Map for American Indian and Alaska Native Peoples](#)
- [Alzheimer's Disease and Related Conditions Advisory Committee](#)
- To receive news and opportunities for engagement from the California Department of Aging and the Master Plan for Aging, [subscribe to CDA's newsletter](#).

Public Comment #2

- There was one public comment from one of the directors of the Rancho Los Amigos Alzheimer's Center as a follow-up to Eric's presentation. She wanted to bring attention to the committee and emphasize how critical funding is for these 10 centers. She stated that some of these centers are in danger of potentially closing without additional funding.
- 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

- *Wynnelena Canlas Canio, Committee Vice Chair and members*
 - Summarized committee recommendations including for clergy, first responders, and PCP representation on the committee.
 - Recommendations included that wildfire relief funds go to help older adults that have been impacted by the Southern California wildfires and the importance of additional funding for the Alzheimer's Disease Centers.

Closing Comments

- Wynnelena Canlas Canio, Committee Vice Chair
 - Discussed having all committee members attend the November 6, 2025, meeting in-person with a Zoom option available.

Upcoming Meeting Dates and Next Steps

- Future meetings for 2025 have been scheduled for May 1, August 7, and November 6.
 - Committee meetings will be held in-person in Sacramento with a Zoom option.