



## CalHHS Alzheimer's Disease & Related Conditions Advisory Committee

### August 7, 2025, Meeting Minutes

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

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**Members attending in person:** Wynnlena Canlas Canio, Carlos Olivas III, and Claire Day

**Members attending remotely:** Sally Bergman, Barbra McLendon, William Mobley, Faisal Qazi, Julie Souliere, and Carmen Ayon for Senator Arreguín

**Members absent:** Assemblymember Gail Pellerin, Sarah Tomaszewski Farias, Myra Garcia, Kenneth Graffeo, Dolores Gallagher-Thompson, and Celine Regalia

#### Call to Order: Welcome and Introductions, May Minutes

- *Wynnlena Canlas Canio, Committee Chair and Committee members*

Claire Day moved to approve the May 2025 minutes and Sally Bergman seconded the motion. All members attending voted in favor of approving the minutes. No oppositions or abstentions.

#### California Department of Aging (CDA) Updates

- *Susan DeMarois, Director, California Department of Aging*
  - CDA submitted the 2025-2029 Older Americans Act (OAA) state plan update to the federal Administration for Community Living (ACL).
  - CDA programs impacted by the recent federal One Big Beautiful Bill Act include CalFresh, CalFresh Healthy Living outreach programs, and Senior Employment.
  - There has been a state budget augmentation of \$3 million for the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman over the next three fiscal years.
  - Work is underway in response to Senate Bill 1249 (Roth) which is an extension of CA 2030; this is the state's effort to strengthen and sustain the 33 Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs) and a key Master Plan for Aging initiative.
  - Work is underway on a statewide consumer-facing website with an embedded aging resource directory that is intended to launch in May 2026. This is a key cornerstone of the state's No Wrong Door approach.

#### Assisted Living Spotlight:

#### Part I: Dementia Regulations: Overview and Discussion

- *Thea Perrino, Assistant Chief, Policy, Community Care Licensing Division, California Department of Social Services (CDSS)*
- *Stacy Barlow, Assistant Program Administrator, Community Care Licensing Division, California Department of Social Services (CDSS)*
- An overview was provided on updated dementia care regulations for Residential Care Facilities for the Elderly (RCFE) with a forward-thinking focus on individual needs rather than diagnosis.
- CDSS developed a resource hub to help implement the new regulations that include a wide range of information on the updated regulations.

## Committee Discussion

Members inquired about the extent direct care staff are given tools to allow them to more effectively empathize with residents they care for. CDSS responded that there is mandated training required by the statutes for RCFEs that address stated concerns.

- Members asked about the timing and frequency of the staff training. CDSS responded that training guides have been developed for RCFEs that cover training as well as add-on training specifically for dementia care.
- Questions were raised about whether RCFE staff training is offered in a caregiver's primary language. It is up to the facility to provide that training.

## Part II: Assisted Living Waiver (ALW): Update and Discussion

- *Xiomara Watkins-Breschi, Acting Division Chief and Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) Operations Branch Chief, Integrated Systems of Care, Department of Health Care Services*
  - Updates were provided on the Assisted Living Waiver (ALW) eligibility, participating counties, ALW reimbursement rates, enrollment statistics, the status of the ALW waitlist, and the future of ALW.
  - Updates were provided for CalAIM Community Supports.
  - The launch of the newly created HCBS Integration Planning Workgroup was discussed and explained. Updates were provided on timeline for key milestones of HCBS Integration.

## Committee Discussion

A Committee Member asked if people with a cognitive impairment who transition to the ALW are tracked. DHCS stated that they do track utilization in the ALW but was not certain that it was tracked down to that level and would follow-up on that question.

## Public Comment Period #1

- None

## 30 Minute Break

## Committee Updates

- *Wynnelena Canlas Canio, Committee Chair*
  - An update was provided on the recruitment for the Alzheimer's Disease and Related Conditions Advisory Committee (ADRCAC). CDA received a strong response to the recent call for applications.
  - An update was provided on the U.S. Pointer Study. The goal of the study was to understand whether lifestyle interventions can protect brain health and reduce the risk of dementia in a large diverse population of older adults in the United States. Recent favorable data was released at the Alzheimer's Association International Conference.

## California Department of Public Health Update

- *Tina Fung, Chief, Alzheimer's Disease Section, California Department of Public Health (CDPH)*
  - An update was provided on the Alzheimer's Disease Program (ADP) "Take on Alzheimer's" media campaign that launched in 2024.

- The California Healthy Brain Initiative sunsetted on June 30, 2025. The evaluation report of the pilot cohort has been completed, and the report will be posted on the CDPH website.
- CDPH ADP will focus on evaluating a newer cohort of the seven remaining counties participating in HBI in the near future.
- CDPH ADP is in the second year of implementing its current Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Preventative Health and Health Services (PHHS) Block Grant. CDPH ADP is finishing up data analysis for the community needs assessment and preparing a Communities of Practice for the second year.
- For the Building Our Largest Dementia (BOLD) Infrastructure grant, CDPH ADP is waiting to hear back from the CDC about their continuation plan for year three. The focus of the BOLD grant remains in raising awareness of Alzheimer's Disease-related dementias (ADRD) and supporting CDPH's Healthy Brain Initiative partners after the end of their funding.
- An update was provided on Dr. Anna Chodos (University of California, San Francisco: Dementia Care Aware) and her team that they have created a dementia care website to provide helpful information and tools for dementia screening and detection, diagnostic evaluation, and clinical care. The website launched in August 2025.
- CDPH ADP has two contracts for dementia caregiver training. One with UC Irvine and one with UCSF Fresno.

## Legislative Update

- *Barbra McLendon, Public Policy Director, Alzheimer's Los Angeles*
  - An overview was provided on the impact of the HR-1 bill and its likely impact on caregivers using Medicaid and Covered California.
  - 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.

## Resources and Materials Shared in Meeting Chat and PowerPoint Presentation

- [Master Plan for Aging \(MPA\)](#)
- [MPA Resources Webpage](#)
- [ADRCAC Member Biographies](#)
- [Long-Term Services and Supports \(LTSS\) Financing Initiative](#)
- [Older Adult Behavioral Health \(OABH\) Resources](#)
- [2025 California's Behavioral Health Older Adults Survey Report](#)
- [California Long-Term Care Ombudsman](#)
- [Long-Term Care Ombudsman Annual Report](#)
- [Aging in California - Video Special](#)
- [Dementia Care in Residential Care Facilities for the Elderly \(RCFEs\) and Miscellaneous Regulation Changes Information and Resources](#)
- [Assisted Living Waiver](#)
- [Participating Care Coordination Agencies](#)
- [Updated Release of the Community Supports Policy Guide – Available in Two Volumes](#)

- [Enhanced Care Management and Community Supports](#)
- [U.S Pointer Study Overview](#)
- [U.S. Pointer Study Results](#)
- [Alzheimer's Disease Program](#)
- [Healthy Brain Initiative \(HBI\) Road Map](#)
- [Preventative Health and Health Services \(PHHS\) Block Grant](#)
- [Assessment of Cognitive Complaints Toolkit for Alzheimer's Disease](#)
- [California Neurodegenerative Disease Registry Guide to Reporting](#)
- [Chronic Disease Surveillance and Research Branch](#)
- 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](mailto:Engage@aging.ca.gov).

## **Public Comment Period #2**

- A public attendee wanted to make the committee aware of a pilot project in Orange County funded with Behavioral Health Services Act (BHSA) funds that's trying to find the intersection of mental health and Alzheimer's or dementia and housing.
- A public attendee asked if a transcript of this webinar would be available. The question was answered by directing the attendee to visit the ADRCAC webpage for available meeting materials.

## **Finalize Recommendations and Items for CalHHS Secretary**

- *Wynnelena Canlas Canio, Committee Chair and members*
  - Recommendations included promoting the findings of the U.S. Pointer Study and integrating evidence-based cognitive health interventions into programs statewide. Members emphasized the urgent need to fill the Governor's Senior Advisor on Aging, Disability, and Alzheimer's position, and highlighted the importance of supplemental funding to sustain California's Alzheimer's Disease Centers. Members also underscored the need for safeguards in Medi-Cal and Medicare (HR1) requirements to protect dementia caregivers and care recipients. Lastly, members emphasized maintaining caregiver hospital access and supporting policies such as Senate Bill 590 to ease burdens on families providing dementia care.

## **Closing Comments**

- *Wynnelena Canlas Canio, Committee Chair*
  - The committee discussed strategies on how to present the ADRCAC's priorities at the federal level.

## **Upcoming Meeting Dates**

- Next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 6, 2025.
- Committee meetings will be held in-person in Sacramento with a Zoom option.