

September 16, 2019

Secretary Mark Ghaly, MD  
California Health and Human Services Agency  
1600 Ninth Street, Room 460  
Sacramento, California 95814

**Re: Master Plan for Aging Proposed Agenda Priorities**

Dear Secretary Ghaly:

Our organizations are grateful that Governor Newsom has prioritized the creation of a Master Plan for Aging to address the growing needs of California's older adults. We are pleased that the Stakeholder Advisory Group was recently appointed and that the work will begin in earnest very soon. This is a critical moment in the growth of our state's aging population. The Master Plan for Aging provides a tremendous opportunity for stakeholders to work together to address the many important issues that impact older adults in our communities and for the State to chart its direction to improve the lives of all older people.

As you and your staff begin the work of developing the Master Plan for Aging, our organizations have identified a set of priorities that the Plan should address. We are sharing these priorities with you to assist in the Agency's work of developing the Master Plan for Aging. This list is not meant to be inclusive of all of the issues facing older adults across the state. Rather it is an attempt to identify issues that the Master Plan for Aging should prioritize in its work.

It is critical that the Master Plan for Aging address these priorities with a focus on equity, diversity, and inclusion. Certain communities are at an increased risk of aging into poverty because of systemic inequities they confront throughout their lives. Inequities and resulting disparities arise based on race, gender, sexual identity, disability, immigration status, language, and the environment in which people live. California's Master Plan for Aging must be centered on equity and must put forth policy solutions that address the fact that not all individuals age the same.

The Master Plan for Aging must:

- Advance the economic security of older adults in California by setting a goal and developing strategies to reduce the state's senior poverty rate.
- Enable older adults and people with disabilities to receive the long-term services and supports (LTSS) they need while remaining in their homes and communities by setting clear goals for rebalancing the provision of LTSS and expanding access to home and community-based services.

- Support and optimize older adults' ability to live with dignity and independence and make decisions about their own care, by further integrating and coordinating California's health care and LTSS delivery systems.
- Ensure that California families can afford the costs of long-term care by supporting the development of a new model for financing LTSS coverage.
- Meet the needs of a growing number of older Californians living with dementia by ensuring that California's health care delivery system is incorporating best practices related to dementia care.
- Enable older adults to maintain and secure housing and decrease the rate of older adults experiencing homelessness by developing strategies to increase the availability of affordable housing for older adults.
- Ensure the rights, independence, and safety of older Californians are protected by developing strategies to prevent and address elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation.
- Ensure that the recommendations of the Master Plan for Aging can be implemented by building leadership on aging issues within state and local governments, including within the Governor's Cabinet, within and across state agencies, and within the Legislature.

For the Master Plan for Aging to be successful at addressing these priorities, it must be actionable and funded. We appreciate that you and your staff have been explicit that the Master Plan for Aging must not be a document that collects dust on a shelf. Instead, it must include clear and specific action steps that state and local governments and other stakeholders will take to improve services and outcomes for older adults. It must also include plans for collecting data and evaluating the impact of the Plan. Finally, the Master Plan for Aging must also make a clear commitment to funding the actions identified in the plan.

We understand that developing and then implementing this Master Plan for Aging requires the collective efforts of your agency, your colleagues in the Administration, the Legislature, and many other stakeholders, including all of us. We look forward to continuing to contribute to this important process over the next year. If you have any questions about this letter, please contact Kevin Prindiville ([kprindiville@justiceinaging.org](mailto:kprindiville@justiceinaging.org)) and Marty Lynch ([mlynch@lifelongmedical.org](mailto:mlynch@lifelongmedical.org)).

Sincerely,

2-1-1 Orange County  
Acacia Adult Day Services  
ACC Senior Services

Advancing Justice-LA  
Advocates for African American Elders  
Alameda County Community Food Bank  
Alliance on Aging  
Alzheimer's Association, Orange County Chapter  
Alzheimer's Los Angeles  
Alzheimer's Orange County  
Angelus Plaza  
APLA Health  
Asian Law Alliance  
Assembly Member Cheryl Brown (Ret)  
Association of California Caregiver Resource Centers (ACCRC)  
Bay Area Community Services Inc.  
Bet Tzedek Legal Services  
CA Association of Public Authorities for IHSS  
California Advocates for Nursing Home Reform  
California Alliance for Retired Americans  
California Association for Adult Day Services  
California Association of Area Agencies on Aging C4A  
California Association of Food Banks  
California Commission on Aging  
California Council of the Blind  
California Elder Justice Coalition  
California Health Advocates  
California Hospital Association  
California IHSS Consumer Alliance  
California Immigrant Policy Center  
California Long-Term Care Ombudsman Association  
California Pan-Ethnic Health Network  
California Primary Care Association  
California Senior Legislature  
California Senior Medicare Patrol  
California Women's Law Center  
Californians for Disability Rights  
Californians for SSI (CA4SSI)  
Carroll Estes, Emerita Professor & Founding Director UCSF Institute for Health and Aging  
Center for Successful Aging, California State University, Fullerton  
Centers for Elders' Independence  
Choice in Aging  
City of Irvine  
Coalition of California Welfare Rights Organizations  
Communities Actively Living Independent & Free

Community Action of Napa Valley  
Community Action Partnership of Orange County  
Community Legal Aid SoCal  
Community SeniorServ  
Corporation for Supportive Housing  
David Lindeman, Director, CITRIS Health  
Disability Action Center  
Disability Rights California  
Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund (DREDF)  
Easterseals Southern California  
El Dorado County Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program  
Eunice Kim, California State University, Los Angeles  
Family Caregiver Alliance, National Center on Caregiving  
Family Caregiver Resource Center, Orange County  
Fernando Torres-Gil, Director, Center for Policy Research on Aging UCLA Luskin School of Public Affairs  
Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano  
Health Plan of San Mateo  
Help Me, Help You, Inc.  
Housing and Economic Rights Advocates  
Human Services Association  
Hunger Action LA  
Huntington Senior Care Network  
Jennie Chin Hansen  
Jewish Family Service of Los Angeles  
Jewish Public Affairs Committee of California  
Justice in Aging  
L.A. Care Health Plan  
Latino Coalition for a Healthy California  
Laura L Carstensen, Professor of Psychology, Director, Stanford Center on Longevity  
Leading Age California  
Legal Aid Society of San Diego  
Legal Assistance for Seniors  
Leonard School of Gerontology  
LGBT Center OC  
LIFE ElderCare  
Life Skills Training & Educational Programs (LifeSTEPS)  
LifeLong Medical Care  
Little Tokyo Service Center  
Marin Center for Independent Living  
Maternal and Child Health Access  
Meals on Wheels by ACC  
Meals on Wheels California

Meals on Wheels of Alameda County (MOWAC)  
Meals on Wheels West  
Mercy Brown Bag Program  
Multipurpose Senior Services Program Site Association  
National Association of Social Workers, California Chapter (NASW-CA)  
National Health Law Program  
Ombudsman Services of Contra Costa and Solano  
Partners in Care Foundation  
Personal Assistance Services Council  
Sacramento Regional Coalition to End Homelessness  
San Francisco AIDS Foundation  
Second Harvest Food Bank of Orange  
Senior Advocates of the Desert  
Senior and Disability Action  
Senior Services Coalition of Alameda County  
SeniorServ  
Service Center for Independent Life  
Serving Seniors  
Society for the Blind  
Southern California Resource Services for Independent Living  
St. Barnabas Senior Services  
St. Mary's Center  
UCLA Center for Health Policy Research  
UDW/AFSCME Local 3930  
USC Family Caregiver Support Center  
Western Center on Law and Poverty  
WISE & Healthy Aging  
Yolo Healthy Aging Alliance

cc: Marko Mijic, Deputy Secretary, California Health & Human Services Agency  
Kim McCoy Wade, Acting Director, California Department of Aging