



California Elder and Disability Justice Coordinating Council

Facilitated by the California Department of Aging, California Department of Social Services, and California Department of Justice

Background

In January 2021, the Governor released the state's [Master Plan for Aging \(MPA\)](#), which outlined over 100 action ready initiatives for implementation in 2021-2022. Elder justice is a core priority within the MPA and several MPA initiatives directly address the protection of older adults and adults with disabilities from abuse, neglect, and exploitation.

[Initiative #93 \(2021 – 2022\) of the MPA](#) specifically called for the creation of a California Elder Justice Coordinating Council (“EDJCC”) to “increase coordination and develop recommendations to prevent and address elder abuse, neglect, exploitation, and fraud, including consideration of COVID-19 risks.” The Department of Aging, in partnership with the Department of Justice, will convene this coordinating council comprised of leaders from governmental, advocacy, and community organizations across the state.

Purpose

The purpose of the EDJCC is to increase coordination and develop recommendations to prevent and address the abuse, neglect, exploitation and fraud perpetrated against older adults and adults with disabilities.

Membership

- The Coordinating Council will reflect a broad array of State agencies and organizations with resources and expertise related to elder justice initiatives.
- State government membership will include representatives from:
 - California Health and Human Services (CalHHS) Agency:
 - California Department of Aging (CDA)
 - California Department of Social Services (CDSS)
 - California Department of Public Health (CDPH)
 - California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS)
 - California Department of State Hospitals (DSH)

- California Department of Developmental Services (DDS)
 - California Department of Justice (DOJ)
 - California Department of Insurance (CDI)
 - California Office of Emergency Services (CalOES)
 - California Business, Consumer Services, and Housing Agency (BHCS)
 - California Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA)
 - County and Federal membership will include:
 - County Welfare Directors Association (CWDA)
 - Administration for Community Living (ACL), Region IX
- The membership process of the Coordinating Council is administered through an open and transparent application process, allowing for the inclusion of at least 20 stakeholder members representing regional and local governments, advocacy groups, people with lived experiences, and community-based organizations ensuring a diverse and comprehensive representation across the community.
- The Committee will consist of a State Chair, which will be a CalHHS Department Director, who oversees programs or services serving older adults and people with disabilities, as well as one Stakeholder Co-Chair, both will be Members of the Committee.
- Members will be appointed for a two (2) year period and will be eligible for reappointment for a second and final two (2) year term with the ability to serve a total of up to four (4) years consecutively. Members of the Committee serve on a volunteer basis without compensation.

Operations

- The Coordinating Council will be facilitated by CDA, CDSS, and DOJ with the support of other state government partners serving older adults and related elder justice issues.
- Each State, County, and Federal department with a role in elder justice issues will designate their own representative to attend Council meetings.
- The Coordinating Council will meet three times a year, and subcommittees will meet on an as-needed basis. Subcommittee members are encouraged to suggest agenda items.
- Subcommittee members may be appointed by the Coordinating Council Co-Chairs. Subcommittees may be composed of Committee Members as

well as non-Members who have subject matter expertise or lived experience.

- Meeting agendas will be shared in advance of each meeting. All meeting materials, transcripts and recordings are posted after the meeting to the [CalHHS EDJCC webpage](#).
- Meetings are conducted virtually. American Sign Language interpreting and Closed Captioning will be provided. Upon request, translation services will be provided.
- Meetings will be open to the public and a time will be reserved for public comment.
- Meetings will aim to adhere to principles of inclusion, collaboration, and effectiveness.
- A person-centered, data-driven, and equity-lens approach is encouraged as reflected in [CalHHS' Guiding Principles](#).

Legislative Agenda Items & Coordinating Council Guidelines

- The EDJCC plays a crucial role in advocating for elder justice reform through coordination and recommendation efforts.
- Any presentations and discussions within the EDJCC related to proposed legislation, budget actions, or regulatory changes will be treated as informational only.
- Discussions and presentations on proposed bills, budget or regulations will be welcomed to provide education, awareness and understanding among EDJCC members.
- No action items related to bills, budget or regulations will be included in meeting agendas, and the council will not adopt positions on proposed legislation, budget or regulatory actions.

Contact

Please email Engage@aging.ca.gov with questions or comments related to the Elder & Disability Justice Coordinating Council.