

Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

March 10th, 2022

10:00am-1:00pm

Location: Zoom Conference Call

Committee Members, Presenters, and the Public Present via Zoom

Meg Barron
Catherine Blakemore
Wynnelena Canlas Canio
Darci Delgado
Susan DeMarois
Dolores Gallagher-Thompson
Jared Giarrusso
Darrick Lam
Amanda Lawrence
Karen Mark
William Mobley
Pam Montana
Claire Ramsey
Diana Ramos
Celine Regalia
Andrea Robert
Eva Saechao
Julie Souliere
Sarah Steenhausen

1) Call to Order: Welcome, Committee Member Updates, and approval of minutes

The meeting was called to order by Committee Chair, Catherine Blakemore. The Chair welcomed a new member. Members provided updates to the committee.

No corrections to the minutes. December minutes approved 3/10/2022.

2) Master Plan for Aging – focus on Goal #2 and Goal#4

Dr. Karen Mark, Medical Director, Department of Health Care Services

Claire Ramsey, Chief Deputy Director for Disability, Adults and Housing Integration, California Department of Social Services

Sarah Steenhausen, Deputy Director for Division of Aging Policy, Research, and Equity, California Department of Aging (CDA)

Minutes:

- Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) Spending Plan

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) provides qualifying states with a temporary 10 percentage point increase to the federal medical assistance percentage (FMAP) for certain Medicaid expenditures for HCBS programs.

California's HCBS Spending Plan was approved by CMS on January 4, 2022 and may spend these additional federal funds on programs to support through March 31, 2024.

- HCBS Spending Plan: Dementia Aware

Funding: \$25 million enhanced federal funding, one-time.

Lead Department(s): DHCS, with California Department of Public Health (CDPH) and California Department of Health Care Access and Information (HCAI).

Investments to improve rates of dementia screening to ensure early detection and timely diagnosis, while also connecting individuals and families to community resources.

Provider training in culturally competent dementia care.

Referral protocol on cognitive health and dementia.

Promote use of validated tools, training, and referral protocol.

Make continuing education in geriatrics/dementia available to all licensed health/primary care providers.

Aligns with SB 48: Medi-Cal: Annual cognitive health assessment.

- Dementia Aware: Contract

DHCS is contracting with University of California, San Francisco.

UCSF subcontracting with several other UCs (UCI, UCD, Harbor UCLA, UCLA Division of Geriatrics, UCSD).

Leverages necessary expertise in both dementia care and screening implementation in primary care practices.

Training available for Medi-Cal providers by July 1, 2022.

- Medicare Annual wellness Visit (AWV)

Medicare covers yearly “wellness” visits to develop or update a personalized prevention plan.

Detecting cognitive impairment is a required element of Medicare’s Annual Wellness Visit.

The Existing [Alzheimer's Association Cognitive Assessment Toolkit](#) is intended for physicians to use during the Medicare AWV. These cognitive assessment tools are used to identify individuals who may need additional evaluation.

If a physician detects cognitive impairment at an AWV or other routine visit, they may perform a more detailed cognitive assessment and develop a care plan during a separate visit.

- SB 48: Medi-Cal: Annual cognitive health assessment

SB 48 establishes an annual cognitive health assessment as a Medi-Cal benefit for beneficiaries age 65 and older if they are otherwise ineligible for a similar assessment as part of the Medicare Annual Wellness Visit.

Pending legislative appropriation, Medi-Cal providers will be eligible to receive payment for this Medi-Cal benefit, for Medi-Cal-only beneficiaries, if they:

- Complete cognitive health assessment training, as approved DHCS
- Use one of the validated tools recommended by DHCS.

- IHSS Career Pathways Program

Focuses on building provider knowledge and skills to manage and increase the quality of care for IHSS/WPCS recipients.

This program’s goals are to offer skill building, professional development, personal growth, and to promote a competent, stable and diverse workforce to improve access, equity and quality.

The program will not offer an academic degree or professional licensing. Providers will receive certificates of completion for all courses. All IHSS and WPCS providers who have

completed provider enrollment are eligible to participate in the Career Pathways program.

- California's HCBS Spending Plan
Direct Care Workforce (non-IHSS) Training & Stipends: \$150 million.
- A Multi-Pronged Approach: Support and Strengthen HCBS Workforce
High quality training, stipends and initiatives, opportunities for advancement, evaluation, leadership learning and innovation.

3) **Break**

4) **Governor's Budget and Program updates from CDPH and CDA**

Susan DeMarois, Director, CDA

Diana E. Ramos, MD, MPH, MBA, Assistant Deputy Director Chronic Disease Prevention, Center for Healthy Communities, CDPH

Minutes:

- First Anniversary Summit
[Summit Recording](#)
- First Annual Progress report
[MPA First Annual Progress Report](#)
- Budget Change Proposals
\$2.005 million in 2022-23 and \$1.933 million in 2023-24 and ongoing

Funding supports 12.0 new positions

- Community-Based Adult Day Services (CBAS)
CMS approved the extension of the section 115 Demonstration, as part of the "California Advancing and Innovating Med-Cal (CalAIM)" initiative, effective January 1, 2022, through December 31, 2026
- Multipurpose Senior Services Program (MSSP)
Restoration of 2,457 MSSP slots on January 1, 2022, for a statewide total of 11,740

Electronic Visit Verification Phase II was implemented on January 1, 2022
- Division of Aging Policy, Research, and Equity (DAPRE)

Objective: Advance Policy, Research, and Equity in alignment with the Master Plan for Aging

Focus: Apply an equity lens that elevates older adults, people with disabilities, and caregivers across program, policy and research efforts

Partners: Convene CalHHS departments, other state agencies, and stakeholders to collaborate and address issues

- Research Grants
\$3.4 million RFA released March 4, 2022
<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CCDPHP/DCDIC/CDCB/Pages/AlzResearchGrants2020.aspx>
- Public Awareness Campaign
\$8.5 million RFA in review summer 2022
- Standards of Dementia Care - \$3.825 million
California Alzheimer's Disease Center Informant Interviews
- Caregiver Training and Certification Program - \$3.4 million
Focusing on unpaid family caregivers
- Governor's January Budget Proposal 2022-23 Community Health Workers
\$350 million general fund

Recruit, train, and certify 25,000 new community health workers by 2025

Focus climate health, homelessness, and dementia workers

- Dementia Friendly Communities - \$1.7 million
Focus on prevention of dementia
- Healthy Brain Initiative
One-time funding \$10 million general fund provisional language for the funds to be available until June 30, 2025

5) **Legislative update from the Alzheimer's Association**

Jared Giarrusso, California Government Affairs Director, Alzheimer's Association

Minutes:

- State Legislative Update

Diverse bills introduced in both houses

24 bills introduced related to Master Plan Implementation

5 Alzheimer's specific bills

- AB 2175 (Rubio) – California Wandering Taskforce
Focused on statewide recommendations to address wandering
- AB 1684 (Voepel) – Alzheimer's Public Awareness Campaign
Requires Department of Aging to implement a public awareness campaign
- SB 861 (Limón) – Dementia Care Navigation
Governor's proposal: \$350 million for community Health Workers in dementia and other areas
- AB 2583 (Mullin) – Dementia Training for Law Enforcement
Dementia competency included in crisis intervention training for Police Training Officers
- AB 1618 (Aguiar-Curry) – Healthy Brain Initiative and Advisory Committee Updates
Expands HBI grant program

Updates Advisory Committee membership

Establishes HBI office in CDPH

6) Introduce for future discussion: impact of social isolation for individuals in long-term care and congregate settings

Darrick Lam, Vice Chair; Committee Members

- The Vice Chair provided information about the impact of social isolation on individuals with dementia during the pandemic and suggested that a small group be convened to discuss future presentation. Members who agreed to participate in that discussion are: Darrick Lam, William Mobley, Dolores Gallagher Thompson and Jared Giarrusso.

7) Finalize Recommendations and Items for Secretary Update

- The Chair would like to acknowledge the Administration on its implementation of the Master Plan for Aging and the useful and informative resources being provided.
- Barbra McLendon, Alzheimer's Los Angeles, wants to make the Committee and Administration aware of its budget request for \$25 million for family caregiver training

funds to CBOs. Alzheimer's LA appreciates the funds already included in the budget, but it is not enough. This request would expand access to underserved and rural communities using evidence derived training.

- Meg Barron (member) would like to note the Alzheimer's Association's support for the CADC request for an additional \$2 million in funding.
- Dr. William Mobley (member) would like to stress the importance of timing on all of the Alzheimer's activities. He believes we will have a treatment for Alzheimer's in 3- 5 years, and we will have 600,000 Californians needing to be diagnosed and properly treated. The good news is that we are getting ready for it, but need to emphasize the urgency around current Alzheimer's activities. There is also a need for primary care physicians (PCP) to get training and educated on diagnosis, screening and treatment of Alzheimer's. He would like the Administration to consider ways to incentivize PCP training and screening for appropriate diagnosis.
- Andrea Robert (member) would like the Administration to consider that while there are significant resources going towards Alzheimer's public awareness campaigns to reach Black and Brown communities, we need to ensure that the funds are reaching those communities and there is currently a disconnect. The MPA has oversight mechanisms, perhaps need to look more closely at them.
- David Johnson, Director of the California Alzheimer Disease Center (CADC) in the East Bay, requests on behalf of the 10 CADC's around the state for an increase of \$2 million for the CADCs. Mr. Johnson requests the Secretary to consider supporting the request. The current request would enhance training opportunities for clinical students and fellows to enter the dementia healthcare workforce by providing new training opportunities in the state network of CADC. The request builds on training efforts that are happening in IHSS and other home care worker areas.
- Jared Giarrusso, Alzheimer's Association presented on SB 861 and AB 1618, which he believes are in alignment with Administration's efforts. For AB 1618, the bill would expand the expertise on the Alzheimer's Advisory Committee by expanding the number of members from 14 to 20 members, and expanding the diversity of its members. Due to the short amount of time, a subcommittee was formed to look at the Committee Composition. Individuals who volunteered to serve on this subcommittee include: Catherine Blakemore, Andrea Robert, Pam Montana and Barbara McLendon and Jared Giarrusso.

8) **Future Agenda Items**

Committee Members

Open discussion among committee members

8) **Public Comment & Meeting Adjourns**

The Chair adjourned the meeting.

Other Information:

If disability-related accommodations are required for your attendance or you need materials in alternate formats, please contact Tran Duong at 916-651-0407 or Tran.Duong@chhs.ca.gov at least five business days prior to the meeting date. In consideration of attendees who are sensitive to environmental odors created by chemicals and perfumes, please restrict the use of fragrances at this meeting. Please note that the order in which the agenda items are considered may be subject to change. Opportunities for public comment will be provided at the end of each topic

Notification regarding submitting materials to the committee:

California Government Code Section 11546.7, originating from AB434 (2017-18) requires state agency Directors and their Chief Information Officers certify their agency website complies with Government Code Section 7405 and 11135, and the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines, published by the Web Accessibility Initiative of the World Wide Web Consortium at minimum Level AA success criteria. These certifications must be signed by July 1, 2019, and then on July 1 every other year thereafter.

To comply with this requirement and to ensure that all Californians have meaningful access to CHHS website content, **CalHHS is requesting that all content (including documents) submitted for posting on the CHHS website meet Web Content Accessibility Guidelines.** The California Department of Rehabilitation has created Web Accessibility Toolkit to serve as a resource for meeting these guidelines. The Toolkit can be accessed online here:
<https://www.dor.ca.gov/Home/AB434>