



CalHHS Alzheimer's Disease & Related Disorders Advisory Committee February 2, 2023

This meeting was held virtually.
The meeting agenda, slides, video and transcript can be found on
the [CalHHS website](#).

Call to Order: Welcome and Introductions

- *Catherine Blakemore, Committee Chair and Committee members*

Advisory Committee members in attendance: Catherine Blakemore, Julie Souliere, Andrea Robert, Dr. William Mobley, Todd Shetter, Celine Regalia, Dr. Wynnelena Canlas Canio, Barbra McLendon, Meg Barron, Dolores Gallagher Thompson, PhD, Pam Montana, Darrick Lam and Sally Bergman

Absent: Dr. Sarah Tomaszewski Farias

Catherine welcomed Sally Bergman, our newest member, who represents the elder law field.

[Story featuring member, Pam Montana](#)

Darrick Lam mentioned that he will be representing the Advisory Committee on the [Long-Term Care Facility Access Policy Workgroup](#) and is looking for a committee member to serve as the alternate.

Master Plan for Aging – progress report & update on new initiatives

The following speakers gave a presentation and held a discussion about California's Master Plan for Aging, progress made in the first two years and highlights on new initiatives, including Cal GROWS.

- *Sarah Steenhausen, Deputy Director, Policy, Research and Equity, California Department of Aging*
- *Renita Polk, PhD, Assistant Director, Office of Direct Care Workforce, California Department of Aging*

[Press release re: Cal GROWS initiative awards](#)

For more information on the Age and Disability Local Action Planning Grants, please contact Jackie.Tompkins@aging.ca.gov

CDA launched the new [Office of the Long-Term Care Patient Representative](#) on 1/31 to support residents in skilled nursing facilities who do not have decision making capacity and who lack a representative.

CalHHS and Stakeholders: Partners in Progress

- *Mark Ghaly, MD, MPH, Secretary, California Health and Human Services Agency (CalHHS)*

Dr. Ghaly shared the history of the Advisory Committee and discussed their role in providing recommendations to CalHHS. He highlighted some of the work being done in the agency, some of the upcoming opportunities and identified areas where he would appreciate additional input from the Advisory Committee, such as new ways to think about the Community Health Worker/Promotores benefit.

Master Plan for Aging – progress report & update on new initiatives (continued)

The following presenter gave a presentation on the work of the California Department of Public Health related to goals in the Master Plan for Aging.

- *Lauren Groves, Chief, Chronic Disease Control Branch, California Department of Public Health*

[Healthy Brain Initiative Grant Opportunity](#)

Question and Answer, Discussion and Public Comment

Community Health Workers/Promotores: Emerging Efforts and Opportunities

The following presenters gave a presentation on the progress and opportunities to promote, formalize and grow the community health worker/promotores program.

- *James Regan, Assistant Deputy Director, Health Workforce Development, [Department of Health Care Access and Information](#)*
- *Maria Lemus, Executive Director, [Visión y Compromiso](#)*

Question and Answer, Discussion, Approval of December Minutes

Approved December minutes – Todd Shetter moved to approve the December meeting minutes and Meg Barron seconded the motion. The minutes were approved (13 ayes, zero no's and one abstention-Darrick Lam, who was not at December meeting).

30 Minute Break

Legislative Update

The following presenters gave an update on their organizations' legislative priorities.

- *Barbra McLendon, Public Policy Director, Alzheimer's Los Angeles*
- *Jared Giarrusso-Khlok, Government Affairs Director, Alzheimer's Association*

Q&A and Discussion re: Legislative Updates

There was a question related to whether the Committee takes a position on bills. Because the CalHHS Secretary heads up the committee and the committee is advisory in nature, the committee should capture and share their thoughts on bills and budget through the Secretary's memo process. Then it can be taken into consideration as bills move through the legislative process and CalHHS

departments make internal recommendations on bills.

Dementia Care Aware Update

The following presenters gave an update on the [Dementia Care Aware](#) project, which offers provider training and support in culturally competent dementia care.

- *Anna Chodos, MD, MPH, Principal Investigator, Dementia Care Aware, UC San Francisco*
- *Danielle Taylor, Director of Operations, Dementia Care Aware, UC San Francisco*
- *Clara Park, Director of Strategy, Dementia Care Aware, UC San Francisco*

Q&A and Discussion re: Dementia Care Aware

Finalize Recommendations and Items for CalHHS Secretary

- *Catherine Blakemore, Committee Chair*

Focusing on brain health is important – very important to decrease risk of dementia and also improve general brain health (e.g., brain scans or other biometrics to detect underlying conditions). It would be good to look at the evidence base to determine what guidelines there should be for primary care providers regarding what tests should be administered at different times.

During the presentation on expansion of the Community Health Workers/Promotores (CHW/Ps), one of the presenters discussed that it will be a challenge for most small to medium-sized community-based organizations to become Medi-Cal providers in order to bill for CHW/P services. Ask CalHHS to reduce barriers for small to medium community-based organizations who have established CHW/P programs, especially those serving underserved communities, to receive Medi-Cal funding as they provide these services. One option mentioned was to ensure that large healthcare organizations are partnering with these CBOs, to help bring the CHW/P program to scale.

Recommend that physicians be trained to encourage the person with cognitive health issues to have someone who knows them well attend key medical appointments during the diagnostic process, since one's memory issues may make it difficult to accurately respond to provider questions. There is a need to be careful to ensure that family members aren't trying to exert undue influence on someone with a cognitive impairment.

The Committee appreciated getting an update on the progress and plans for Dementia Care Aware (DCA). The committee expressed concern that the program is currently only funded through March 2024. CalHHS should start thinking about how to maintain and build on the work of DCA, including opportunities to integrate it into ongoing efforts.

Public Comment

Closing Comments and Next Steps

- *Catherine Blakemore, Committee Chair*

Committee members were asked to consider participating on workgroups to help pull together presentations for future meetings:

- Help plan and select presenters for a presentation on supported decision making for the May meeting – Dr. Canio, Sally Bergman, Catherine Blakemore
- Help put together a presentation regarding the federal Alzheimer’s plan update and the national strategy on family caregiving – Dr. Canio

Adjourn

Additional resources related to Governor’s proposed budget

- [CalHHS summary of Governor’s proposed budget](#)
- [Legislative Analyst’s summary of Governor’s proposed budget](#)
- [Department of Finance summary of Governor’s proposed budget for CalHHS](#)