



CalHHS Alzheimer's Disease & Related Disorders Advisory Committee

Minutes

MAY 4, 2023, 10:00 am – 2:00 pm

This meeting was held virtually.

Meeting materials and recording are available on the [CalHHS website](#).

Call to Order: Welcome and Introductions, February Minutes

- *Catherine Blakemore, Committee Chair and Committee members*

Attending: Catherine Blakemore, Darrick Lam, Sally Bergman, Wynnelena Canlas Canio, Barbra McLendon, Andrea Robert, Sarah Farias, Todd Shetter, William Mobley, Julie Souliere, Dolores Gallagher-Thompson, Celine Regalia

Absent: Pam Montana, Meg Barron

February Minutes: Sally Bergman moved to approve the minutes Darrick Lam seconded; all voted in favor to approve the minutes.

Supported Decision-Making (SDM), Other Decision-Making Tools and Capacity Considerations

The following presenters gave a presentation on capacity issues related to the progression of Alzheimer's and other dementias. They also talked about tools to help people with dementia and their care partners engage in advance care planning and making decisions for their care and finances.

- *Wynnelena Canlas Canio, MD, Committee member*
- *Sally Bergman, Committee member*
- *Catherine Blakemore, Committee Chair*

Committee Question and Answer (Q&A) and Discussion

Issues that came up:

- Physicians and lawyers are often asked to make decisions separately without input from each other.
- The way a trust is written can make it easier or more challenging to determine when it's time for someone else to make decisions (e.g., invoke the trust).
- Even people with mild cognitive impairment (MCI) may sometimes have a lack of insight that makes it hard for them to plan for the future. The person needs to have an appreciation (A in the U-ARE model) that a situation could happen to them;

otherwise, they may not have capacity.

- For a person living with MCI, there isn't enough training for agencies around MCI (people assume that they have dementia). A diagnosis does not determine capacity. Person with MCI has been told by groups that she needs to have a caregiver with her when she advocates to be able to participate in particular events. She is still able to travel by herself. She doesn't like the term caregiver – she prefers companion.

Public Comment

Alzheimer's Plan Implementation Update

The following presenters gave an update on implementation of tasks related to implementation activities of *Our Path Forward: Alzheimer's Prevention and Preparedness* report.

*Susan DeMarois, Director, California Department of Aging,
Lynnley Stern, DrPH, MPH, RD, Chief, Alzheimer's Disease Section*

Kim McCoy Wade, Senior Advisor on Aging, Disability and Alzheimer's for the Office of California Governor Gavin Newsom, joined to express her appreciation for the work being done to implement the 10 bold goals and the integration within the Master Plan for Aging. She asked for people to tell those stories about how the activities are changing people's lives. She thanked Catherine for her leadership.

30 Minute Break

Legislative Update

The following presenters shared information on their organizations' current legislative priorities and the status of the bills they are tracking.

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

Committee Q&A and Discussion

- There was discussion around terminology, with one member suggesting the use of behavioral health instead of mental health. Another member talked about issues related to stigma around behavioral health and dementia.

Key indicators for the Master Plan for Aging (MPA)

The following presenter presented a session to introduce the concept of MPA key outcome measures, provide an overview of the CA Aging and Disability and Research Partnership and discuss opportunities for future collaboration.

- *Ross Lallian, Research Data Manager, California Department on Aging*

Committee members provided input on potential outcome measures related to caregivers, workforce and behavioral health.

Finalize Recommendations and Items for CalHHS Secretary

- *Catherine Blakemore, Committee Chair*

- The committee was interested in discussing how the passage of AB 1663 (Maienschein) may provide an additional way for those living with Alzheimer's and other dementias to make their own decisions as long as they are able. They would like CalHHS to partner with others to ensure that the education and resources being developed are appropriate for those living with dementia and their potential supporters. As the law is implemented, the Committee felt that it's important to have a group that focuses on SDM and older adults provide education for families and professionals, model forms, and other resources to help families know when and how they could pursue this strategy.
- Encourage CalHHS to consider creating a best practices document from their presentation that could be shared with primary care providers and/or attorneys across the state. It's an important topic that can lead to a lot of complex issues if not done correctly and often requires collaboration among doctors, lawyers and/or financial institutions. Dementia Care Aware is doing some work in this area.
- In light of the impact of the winter storms on older adults with dementia, several committee members encouraged CalHHS to ensure that emergency planning, response and recovery services are able to meet the needs of persons living with a cognitive impairment, as well as any care partners who may exist. There was an acknowledgement of the work of the Office of Access and Functional needs and that CDA has recently hired a Senior Emergency Services Coordinator. The committee is also planning to hold a session on this topic in the future.
- As part of the legislative update, the committee discussed AB 387 (Aguiar-Curry), sponsored by the Alzheimer's Association, as it relates to the naming and composition of this Advisory Committee.
- The Committee appreciated the CDA and CDPH update about the Alzheimer's report implementation activities and the significant efforts CalHHS departments are undertaking to improve services for older adults and individuals with disabilities.

Public Comment

Closing Comments and Next Steps

- *Catherine Blakemore, Committee Chair*
- *Michelle Johnston, CDA*

The speakers shared information regarding future meetings, which will be held in-person in Sacramento again, with a virtual option for those who can't get to Sacramento. There will need to be at least seven people attending in-person for there to be a quorum.

Adjourn

Meeting materials: Slide presentations, meeting transcripts, video recordings, and any other materials will be posted following the meeting on the [Advisory Committee website](#). If you have questions, please contact Michelle Johnston at engage@aging.ca.gov.