



CalHHS Alzheimer's Disease & Related Conditions Advisory Committee

May 1, 2025, Meeting Minutes

This meeting was held in-person (CA Department of Aging 2880 Gateway Oaks Drive, Sacramento, CA 95833) with a remote option.

Members attending in person: Carlos Olivas III and Claire Day

Members attending remotely: Sally Bergman, Barbra McLendon, William Mobley, Faisel Qazi, Celine Regalia, Julie Souliere, Wynnelena Canlas Canio, Jason Gravano for Sara Tomaszewski Farias, and Carmen Ayon for Senator Arreguín

Members absent: Sarah Tomaszewski Farias, Myra Garcia, Kenneth Graffeo, Dolores Gallagher-Thompson

Call to Order: Welcome and Introductions, February Minutes

- *Wynnelena Canlas Canio, Committee Chair and Committee members*

Barbara McLendon moved to approve the February 2025 minutes and Dr. Mobley seconded the motion. All members attending voted in favor of approving the minutes. No oppositions or abstentions.

Navigating Long-Term Services and Supports (LTSS) & CA's No Wrong Door System

- *Master Plan for Aging Introduction and Overview, Ana Acton, Assistant Deputy Director, California Department of Aging*
 - An overview was provided on the Master Plan for Aging (MPA) goals, long-term services and supports (LTSS) systems change framework, and MPA 2025-2026 Initiatives that support older adults, people with disabilities, and caregivers to navigate service and support.
 - MPA 2025-2026 Initiatives include developing an Aging and Disability No Wrong Door (NWD) system, strengthening inter-agency disability and aging communities of practice, and exploring Community Health Workers to support individuals to navigate the services and supports they need.
- *A caregiver's experience of navigating access to services, Carlos Olivas, Committee Vice Chair*
 - Carlos shared a personal story about the difficulties in navigating access to services as a caregiver for his father who is living with Alzheimer's.
 - Carlos emphasized that family caregivers are a part of Alzheimer's and related dementias and the need for networks to grow, support, and embrace the caregiver community.
- *Updates on California's No Wrong Door (NWD) System for accessing aging services Mark Beckley, Chief Deputy Director, California Department of Aging*
 - An overview was provided on the need for older adults, people with disabilities, and caregivers to navigate LTSS and for an Aging and Disability NWD system.
 - The Aging and Disability NWD vision and system key elements were shared.

- NWD system key elements include governance and system structure, standard service and operating models, technological infrastructure, and branding/marketing/outreach.
- *Calz Connect, Brian Carter, Project Manager, California Department of Aging*
 - An overview of the Calz Connect program was provided which includes a NWD approach and Community Health Workers designed to support individuals with Alzheimer's and dementia, family members, and caregivers to access person-centered dementia capable services. The program uses an evidence-based Care Ecosystem developed by The University of San Francisco.
 - The Calz Connect program is designed to include a multi-disciplinary team to incorporate the core components of the Care Ecosystem protocols to support a person living with Alzheimer's or dementia and the needs of the caregiver.
 - Currently there are three counties participating in the program: Imperial, Marin, and Ventura.
- *Bridging Aging Disability Networks (BADN), Alison Giannini, Acting Aging Inclusion Specialist, Department of Developmental Services*
 - An overview was provided on the BADN grant that was awarded to the Department of Developmental Services by the National Association of Councils of Developmental Disabilities (NACDD).
 - The goal of the grant is to bridge intellectual and developmental disability (I/DD) and aging networks to better support individuals with I/DD who are aging and caregivers; leverage existing resources; increase access to culturally competent services; and to increase access to future planning services and supports. The California Department of Aging (CDA) and DDS are co-leading on this five-year grant which is expected to end in September 2026.
 - An overview was also provided on the increase of individuals with I/DD who are aging.

Items Shared in Chat and PowerPoint

- [CalHHS Alzheimer's Disease & Related Conditions Advisory Committee](#)
- [Master Plan for Aging](#)
- [2025-2026 Master Plan for Aging Initiatives](#)
- [MPA: LTSS Fact Sheet](#)
- [Strategy to Create Statewide No Wrong Door](#)
- [AARP's LTSS Scorecard](#)
- [CDA Resource Guide](#)
- [Care Ecosystem](#)
- [HomeMeds](#)
- [Ventura County Calz Connect](#)
- [Marin Center for Independent Living](#)
- [Imperial County AAA](#)
- [CDA Alzheimer's/Dementia Support – Calz Connect Program](#)
- [DDS Aging Inclusion Resources](#)
- [Guide Model](#)

Committee Discussion

- A member remarked on the Aging and Disability NWD system and the importance of ensuring online resource guides are updated with current information. CDA is planning to contract with a provider for the online resource hub who will do audits, work with providers to update information, and have options for customers to send queries regarding incorrect

information.

- Several other members confirmed the challenges related to obtaining accurate and up to date information.

Public Comment #1

- A public member asked about the Guiding an Improved Dementia Experience (GUIDE) Model program and how it relates to previously discussed MPA initiatives. A committee member provided an overview of the program.

30 Minute Break

Committee Updates

- *Wynnelena Canlas Canio, Committee Chair*
 - An overview was provided on the updated by-laws and their alignment with recent changes to statute, such as member composition, policy and planning recommendations, and the stakeholder consultation requirements.
 - Carlos made a motion to approve the clarified roles and responsibilities within the updated by-laws as presented. Sally seconded the motion. All present members approved and the motion carried, and new by-laws were adopted.

California Department of Aging (CDA) and Administration for Community Living (ACL) Updates

- Susan DeMarois, Director, California Department of Aging
 - An update was provided on CDA's official theme for Older Americans month, "Flip the Script" which is a continuation of CDA's "Start the Conversation" campaign. The campaign focuses on ways to strengthen the language used to describe and communicate with older adults.
 - An update was provided regarding a recent meeting which included the Acting Secretary and Administrator for ACL as well as leaders from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). Currently, Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) will be paid under a continuing resolution through September.
 - The Older Americans Act (OAA) Final Rule is proceeding but there may be some adjustments to the area of diversity, equity, and inclusion. However, the policy direction will continue as planned.
 - California recently submitted a NWD grant proposal to ACL to use Community Health Workers to support older adults, people with disabilities, and caregivers to navigate services and programs. Awards will be made in June, but there is no assurance that California will be selected.
 - A small ACL grant was awarded to the LA County and LA City AAAs for the recent wildfires in the LA area.
 - ACL has decreased from approximately 200 employees to 100 employees. All ACL regional offices have been eliminated. The remaining staff members will be distributed among three agencies (CMS, Administration of Children and Families, and the Administration for Strategic Planning and Evaluation) later this spring and summer.

California Department of Public Health Update

- *Tina Fung, Chief, Alzheimer's Disease Section, California Department of Public Health (CDPH)*
 - An update was provided on Alzheimer's Disease Program (ADP) activities related to prevention, clinical and caregiving support, research and evaluation, and the California Healthy Brain Initiative (HBI).

- CDPH funds 13 counties. The ADPs evaluation report highlighting the pilot cohort that worked on this initiative from 2020 to 2022 will be posted on the CDPH web page in the next couple of months. The contracts end on June 30, 2025.
- The Building Our Largest Dementia (BOLD) grant is in the process of submitting a three-year continuation plan to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and activities are being planned for the 2025-2026 state fiscal year.
- ADP also funds 10 California Alzheimer's Disease Centers (CADC) that provide dementia screening and diagnosis as well as training for healthcare professionals.
- The CADC's are currently revising their assessment of cognitive complaints toolkit for Alzheimer's disease.
- For the 2025-2026 state fiscal year, ADP intends to continue raising public awareness of brain health and dementia by promoting newly developed resources as well as continuing partnerships with other CDPH programs related to aging.
- The California Neurodegenerative Disease Registry has been rolled out by CDPH. It is a statewide population-based neurodegenerative disease surveillance system within CDPH. The data is used to determine the incidences and prevalence of neurodegenerative diseases.

Legislative Update

- *Barbra McLendon, Public Policy Director, Alzheimer's Los Angeles*
 - An overview was provided on the federal agencies that are directly impacting Alzheimer's services and programs including ACL, the Food and Drug Administration, CMS, CDC, and the National Institutes of Health, and who are currently experiencing budgetary and staffing reductions.
 - Discussion took place on California's Medi-Cal and Covered California programs in relation to the current federal budgetary concerns.
 - An overview was provided on the status of state policies and legislative bills that impact individuals with Alzheimer's and other dementias and caregivers.
- *Andrew Mendoza, Director of State Affairs, Alzheimer's Association*
 - The presentation included current bills being sponsored by the Alzheimer's Association.

Items Shared in Chat and PowerPoint

- [New Release - Start the Conversation](#)
- [Flipping the Script](#)
- [Master Plan for Developmental Services](#)
- [Alzheimer's & Dementia Facts and Figures](#)
- [Healthy Brain Initiative Roadmap](#)
- [Preventive Health and Health Services \(PHHS\) Block Grant](#)
- [HBI Road Map for American Indian and Alaska Native Peoples](#)
- [BOLD Infrastructure for Alzheimer's Act](#)
- [Alzheimer's Awareness Toolkit](#)
- [2025 California Alzheimer's Statistics](#)
- [California Neurodegenerative Disease Registry Guide to Reporting](#)
- [California Neurodegenerative Disease Registry \(CNDR\)](#)
- [LEAD Coalition's issue brief on Medicaid and Dementia](#)
- [Covered California](#)
- [Justice in Aging Fact Sheet - Cutting Medicaid Harms Older Adults](#)
- [How National Medicaid Work Requirements Would Lead to Large-Scale Job Losses, Harm State Economies, and Strain Budgets](#)
- [Who's Affected by Medicaid Work Requirements? It's Not Who You Think!](#)
- [CDA MPA Fact Sheets for all 58 Counties](#)
- CDA's Upcoming Events calendar can be found on [CDA's homepage](#).

- To receive news and opportunities for engagement from the California Department of Aging and the Master Plan for Aging, subscribe to [CDA's newsletter](#).
- You may submit comments after the meeting via email at Engage@aging.ca.gov.

Public Comment #2

- None

Finalize Recommendations and Items for CalHHS Secretary

- *Wynnelena Canlas Canio, Committee Chair and members*
 - Recommendations included underscoring the potential damage that the actions taken at the federal level would have in California. Discussion included the importance of modernizing access to services and moving forward with an Aging and Disability NWD system.
 - Discussion took place on the need to share all the great resources available and how to meet the demand for these resources.

Closing Comments

- Wynnelena Canlas Canio, Committee Chair
 - The group discussed strategies on how to present the ADRCAC's priorities at the federal level.

Upcoming Meeting Dates and Next Steps

- Next meetings are scheduled for August 7 and November 6.
 - Committee meetings will be held in-person in Sacramento with a Zoom option.