



Equity Advisory Committee on Aging and Disability (EACAD)

October 15, 2026 | 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.



Welcome



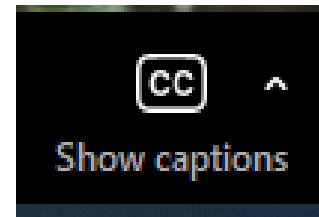
Carroll De Andreis

*Manager, Master Plan for Aging (MPA) Stakeholder Engagement
California Department of Aging (CDA)*

Meeting Accessibility



- **American Sign Language (ASL)** interpreting is provided.
- **Closed captioning** is available during this meeting.
- To initiate closed captioning (cc):
 1. Click the cc icon on the Zoom toolbar
 2. Click “Show captions” to display spoken meeting content as text
 3. Click “View full transcript” to review previous caption text
- If the (cc) icon does not appear on your toolbar, select “More”, then select “Captions” and begin at Step 1 above.



Meeting Logistics



- Meeting slides and recording will be posted to the to [CalHHS MPA – EACAD](#) meeting webpage.
- Committee Members:
 - Update your name display in Zoom by right clicking the upper right corner of your video and selecting “rename.”
 - Ensure your camera is on while the meeting is in session.

Virtual Meeting Operations



- The chat function is enabled for Committee Members, California Department of Aging and state staff, and invited guests to share meeting-related resources and information.
 - **NOTE:** select “EVERYONE” from the drop down when sharing information in the chat.
- The public will be able to view content shared in the chat during the meeting.
- The chat and the Question/Answer functions are not enabled for comments and questions from the public attendees.
- We invite the public to provide comments during the designated Public Comment period.
- Additional public comments and questions can be directed to Engage@aging.ca.gov.

Public Comment



Attendees joining by **phone**, press *9 on your dial pad to join line. The moderator will announce the last 4 digits of your phone number and will unmute your line.



Attendees joining by **webinar (Zoom)**, click the raise hand button to join line. The moderator will announce your name or the last 4 digits of your phone number and will unmute your line.

Note: Public commentators will have 2 minutes.

For additional public comment, email Engage@aging.ca.gov

Committee Purpose



The purpose of the Equity Advisory Committee on Aging and Disability (EACAD) is to serve as a strategic partner to California's Master Plan for Aging (MPA), advising and ensuring that equity is intentionally and meaningfully woven throughout the implementation of the MPA's Five Bold Goals.

EACAD Members

Maria Aguilar Aroch, *California Resource
Services for Independent Living*

Julie Bates-Livesay, *Agency on Aging Area 4*

Lauren Brown, *University of Southern California, Leonard
Davis School of Gerontology*

Candelaria Butler, *Advocate*

Linda Cardoza, *Advocate*

Megan Carey, *Caregiver and Aging Advocate*

Denny Chan, *Justice in Aging*

Ann Choi, *Chapman Consulting*

Vincent Crisostomo, *San Francisco AIDS Foundation*



EACAD Members (cont.)

Eric Devezin, *Community Action Partnership of
Riverside County*

Sue Elhessen, *Commissioner for Public Social
Services*

Lynn Fritz, *Licensed Marriage Family Therapist*

Ephraim Getahun, *Advocate*

Diana Jimenez, *County of Monterey, Department of Social
Services*

Katie Kalvoda, *Advance OC*

David “Jax” Kelly, *Aging and HIV Institute*

Nicola “Nikki” Lopez, *Caregiver OneCall*

Alicia Martinez, *California Rural Indian Health Board*

Alaya McKinney, *National MS Society*



EACAD Members (cont.)

Jose Montoya, *California Health Collaborative*

Elizabeth Pinder-McSwain, *Caramel Connections Foundation*

Carmen Reyes, *University of California Los Angeles*

Amina Sen, *The Cambodian Family*

Dani Soto, *Openhouse*

Ronald Spingarn, *Advocate*

Carli Stelzer, *California Behavioral Health Association*



Agenda



- 10:00 a.m.** | Welcome & Logistics Review
- 10:05 a.m.** | Opening Remarks
- 10:10 a.m.** | Aging & Disability Lived Experience Advisory Board Update
- 10:20 a.m.** | Older Adult Behavioral Health: Equity Intersections
- 10:55 a.m.** | Master Plan for Aging – Learnings, Progress, & Opportunities
- 11:15 a.m.** | Committee Priorities & Discussion
- 11:45 a.m.** | Public Comment
- 11:55 a.m.** | Closing Remarks
- 12:00 p.m.** | Adjourn

Opening Remarks



Claire Ramsey

Acting Director

California Department of Aging

Aging and Disability Lived Experience Advisory Board Update



Yia Xiong

Equity Specialist

California Department of Aging

Dr. Sue ElHessen

Commissioner for Public Social Services

EACAD Member

Older Adult Behavioral Health: Equity Intersections



David “Jax” Kelly

Aging and HIV Institute

EACAD Stakeholder Chair

Carli Stelzer

California Behavioral Health Association

EACAD Member

Community, Connection and Belonging

Older Adult Behavioral Health

David “Jax” Kelly, JD, MPH, MBA

Carli Stelzer, MPH

October 15, 2026

Services are not the same as belonging

What we often count

Programs

Referrals

Attendance

What we also need to understand

Connection

Trust

Belonging

Attendance is not belonging.

What California Already Knows

40%

Loneliness
or isolation

43%

Feeling
depressed

Nearly half

Recent grief or
loss

Source: California Department of Aging, 2023 Community Assessment Survey of Older Adults (approximately 17,700 respondents); reported November 2024.

What the HIV Community Has Taught Us

We learned how to survive HIV.

Now we must learn how to age with it.

Access, Recognition, and Trust

ACCESS

Can I get there?

RECOGNITION

Is this meant for me?

RELATIONSHIP

Do I trust you enough to say yes?

What Belonging Looks Like in Practice



Known.

Valued.

Needed.

Able to Contribute.

When Connection is Hard to Sustain

\$60

Round trip
to attend
church

**Transportation is more than
access to services**

It is access to community,
connection, and belonging

Different Strengths. Shared Purpose.

Community Organizations

Relationships

Trust

Belonging

Public Systems

Services

Resources

Accountability

Complementary Roles. Shared Responsibility

For future consideration: *Lancet HIV* Commission on Ageing and HIV (2026)

A Place Where You Belong

Aging well is not simply about receiving services.

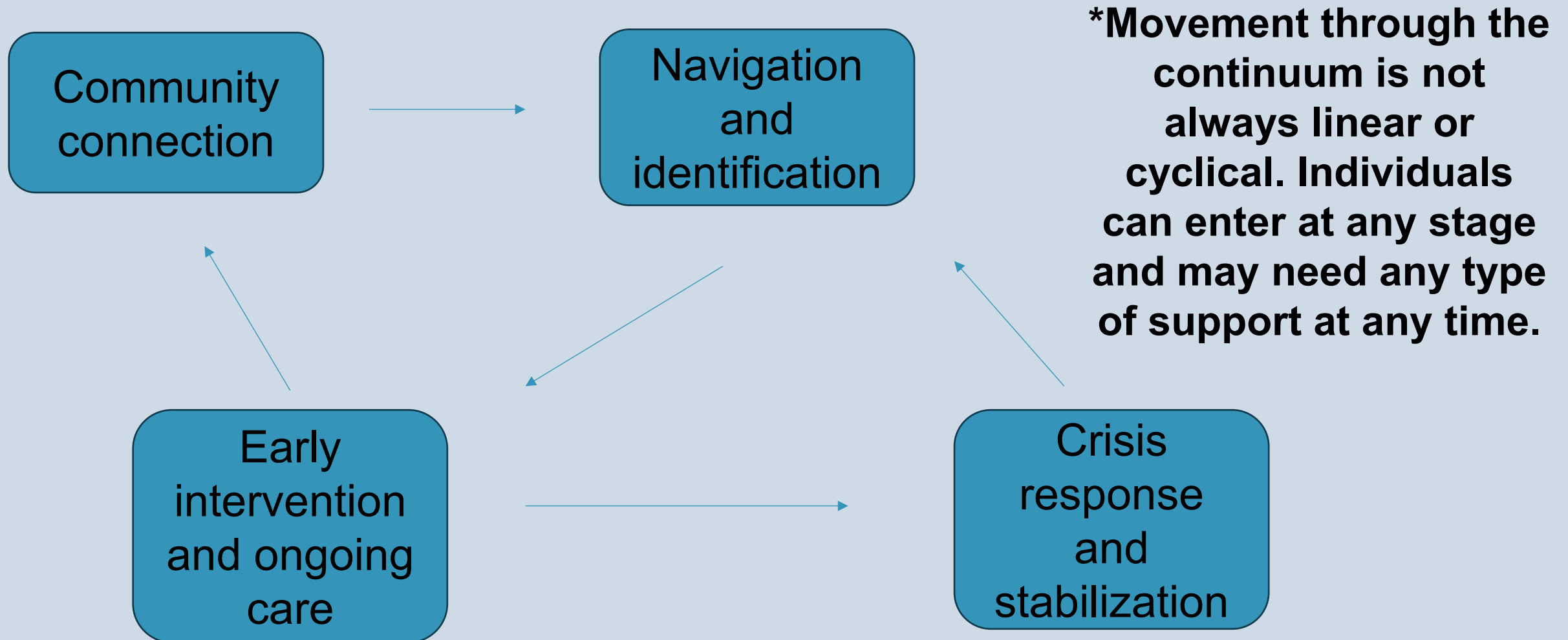
It is about continuing to have a place in the world.

Where you are known. Where you can contribute.
Where your experience matters. **And where you belong.**

From Connection to Care:

***Building pathways to behavioral health
support for older adults***

A Continuum of Care



Recognizing Needs Before They Become Crises

Possible changes that may indicate need for increased behavioral health supports:

- Changes in social engagement, mood, functioning or daily routines
- Grief, caregiving demands, health changes, financial stress, loss of independence

Early intervention services are effective when they are culturally responsive and grounded in the individual's goals and realities.

More Than A Referral

When an individual has behavioral health needs, navigational support has to be more than a referral.

Knowing a resource exists is not the same as accessing it.

Barriers include:

- Transportation
- Cost
- Language
- Technology
- Accessibility barriers
- *And more...*

Building Bridges Across Systems

What makes coordination work?

Clear referral pathways and points of contact

Shared understanding of roles and responsibilities

Follow-up and regular communication

Sustainable funding for community based care organizations

When Crises Support Is Needed

Recognize when emergency response is needed

**Ensure access to appropriate behavioral health support,
including crisis interventions, is provided**

**Account for the individuals needs including mobility, sensory,
cognitive, medical, identity-based and communication
considerations**

**Connect individual to ongoing care, community supports after
stabilization**

Where Can The System Improve?

Accessibility

Connectivity

Accountability

Sustainability

Equity-focus

Disconnected Services to Connected Support

- Community connection supports and protects an individuals well-being
- Navigation helps translate presenting need translate into access
- Early intervention can address concerns before they escalate
- Crisis response and follow-up provide a safety net when more support is needed

Public Comment



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Closing Comments

Meeting Resources



- [Master Plan for Aging webpage](#)
- [EACAD Stakeholder Committee Member Biographies](#)
- [CalHHS MPA – EACAD Meeting webpage](#)

Stay Connected



Learn more about the MPA at MPA.aging.ca.gov

Contact: Engage@aging.ca.gov

Learn more about CDA at Aging.ca.gov



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