



TACC – TRIPLE-A COUNCIL OF CALIFORNIA  
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## **GENERAL TACC MEETING MINUTES**

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2024**

Via Zoom

**1. Call to Order – Bobbie Wartson, TACC President**

President Wartson called the meeting to order at 1:04 p.m.

**2. Pledge of Allegiance**

President Wartson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**3. Welcome New TACC Members**

Welcome Janine Smith-Citron PSA 26.

**4. Roll Call and Establish a Quorum**

Karol Swartzlander called roll.

**TACC Members Present:**

PSA 5 Lee Notowich  
PSA 6 Diane Lawrence  
PSA 7 Jill Kleiner  
PSA 10 Maureen Heath  
PSA 12 Lynne Standard-Nightengale  
PSA 14 Verlaine Elindberg  
PSA 15 Bobbie Wartson  
PSA 18 Karen Gorback  
PSA 19 Helen Romero Shaw  
PSA 20 David Wilder  
PSA 21 Mark Cox  
PSA 23 Stephen Huber  
PSA 27 Terry Kelley  
PSA 29 Tita Bladen  
PSA 30 Joyce Gandelman  
PSA 33 Sherry Gomez

**Staff:** Karol Swartzlander, Patrick Smith, Marijke Melman, Peter Anderson

**Registered Guests:** Debbie Baker, Sonia Dhillon, Jim Donnelley, Tonya Frost, Ted Smith, Jennifer Webb

A quorum was established.

**5. Approve Agenda**

M/S/C (Wilder/Cox)

**TO APPROVE THE NOVEMBER 2, 2023, TACC GENERAL MEETING AGENDA.**

**APPROVED.**

Abstentions: None

No votes: 0

**6. Approve Minutes of the September 7, 2023, TACC Meeting**

M/S/C (Lawrence/Wilder)

**TO APPROVE THE SEPTEMBER 7, 2023, TACC GENERAL MEETING MINTUES.**

**APPROVED.**

Abstentions: Notowich

No votes: 0

**7. Public Comment for items not on the agenda**

None

**8. President's Remarks (President Wartson)**

President Wartson thanked TACC members for attending the meeting. It was also noted that in January Paul Branson passed away.

**9. Presentation: An Introduction to the California Civil Rights Department**

Kevin Kish, Director, California Civil Rights Department provided a summary of the California Civil Rights Department (formally the California Department of Fair Employment and Housing). The new name reflects greater emphasis on a wide array of civil rights protections, including older individuals. The mission of the department is to protect Californians from discrimination, harassment, and violence based on protected characteristics. The Director highlighted the emphasis on civil rights laws that are enforced in California, and stressed enforcement, dispute resolution, outreach, education, and rulemaking, and research and reporting. He also detailed the complaint resolution process and potential outcomes, including statistics, and discussed retaliation and discrimination. He also noted that "age" is one of the top five reasons for discrimination and identified a recent case of an assisted living facility that failed to

accommodate older adults with disabilities (interpretation services). The Director also highlighted cannabis use protections, employer responsibilities, and “hate crime” protections and the California Commission on the State of Hate. He also answered various Commissioner’ questions regarding age discrimination.

## **10. Draft Housing Recommendations**

Presenter: Patrick Smith, Policy and Research Analyst, CCoA.

Patrick provided a summary of draft housing recommendations, based on CCoA’s housing panel from the May 2023 C4A Conference. The CCoA compiled recommendations based on information obtained at the conference as well as via independent research. The report provided a background on the housing crisis, identified the Older Adult Continuum of Care, and discussed existing programs and recommendations for each care setting. The presentation identified, among other things, the increase in homelessness from 2017-2022, including an astonishing 166% increase for those 65+ during that time-period. Discussions included details on the settings of the homeless continuum of care, especially regarding older adults.

The report discussed permanent housing, especially in terms of compounding the negative effects of aging, and the need of increasing the supply of housing and keeping older adults from losing their existing housing. The report emphasized the need to develop a state-wide subsidy, utilize existing available rooms with emphasis on independent living and assisted living facilities, and a renewal of appropriations for community care expansion. Expansion of the six-resident by-right limit for Residential Care Facilities for the Elderly was also discussed.

Additional questions were also raised regarding a lack of elevators in two-story facilities.

## **11. Presentation: Modernizing TACC Program and Service Area (PSA) Reports**

Presenters: TACC Members David Wilder and Joyce Gandelman

Members discussed the current PSA report templates and the role of the advisory councils in terms of AAAs not including members of the councils in developing the area plans. Apparently, there have been questions regarding the inclusion of advisory council input in plan development, which apparently varies from PSA to PSA, and this has raised concerns among TACC members.

The modernization of the TACC program and service reports was discussed in detail, with emphasis on the crucial role of the advisory councils in the development and maintenance of the area plan and highlighted the importance of following federal law. The team also discussed the need for reports to reflect advocacy efforts and the consequences of not understanding regulations. Feedback was sought on what to include in the PSA reports, with suggestions made for providing information about

different committees or work groups. The idea of using a standardized spreadsheet on the TACC website for public access was proposed, and challenges faced in terms of membership and transparency in the planning process were discussed.

In addition, Karol recommended that David and Joyce continue working on a revised PSA report, with a plan to vote on it in May. She also suggested that anyone with ideas should share them with her, David, or Joyce, as their opinions would be considered in the next meeting. Joyce raised the issue of people facing obstacles with their area agency on aging and asked them to communicate such issues for members' awareness.

## **12. Presentation: California Master Plan for Aging Update**

Presenter: Jackie Siukola Thompkins, Project Director, Master Plan for Aging (MPA), California Department of Aging (CDA)

Jackie, the new MPA Project Director at CDA, provided updates on the MPA, discussed specific initiatives, and shared plans for future iterations. Jackie highlighted investments in senior nutrition, the expansion of CalFresh eligibility among older adults, and initiatives focused on the unique needs of the LGBTQI+ community. She also mentioned California 2030 and California's participation in the Federal initiative program, Housing and Services Partnership Accelerator. Jackie stressed the importance of affordable housing for older adults and discussed the No Wrong Door State Leadership Council. She concluded by mentioning a public-facing dashboard for partners to monitor the Master Plan's progress and an upcoming event for gathering recommendations for future initiatives.

Jackie also announced the second Day of Action for California's MPA, which will be held at the Sacramento Convention Center on October 8th and is open to the public. She highlighted the importance of stakeholder engagement and encouraged attendees to share the event. Lynne raised a concern about lower-income individuals not qualifying for certain programs, which Jackie acknowledged and emphasized the importance of considering the "missing middle" demographic. Other topics discussed included the impact of the Cal Groves initiative, the success of a home-sharing program for older adults, and the challenges faced by older adults with disabilities in accessing public transportation.

## **13. Staff Report**

Presenter: Karol Swartzlander

Karol announced that, as a part of the California 2030 Report, Marijke has developed a one-page map of PSAs throughout California to identify TACC members by county, as well as those that currently do not have representation.

Karol also announced that the CCoA will be sponsoring four bills, including two that were previously introduced last year (with new numbers). The first bill, AB 1993 (Kalra), would increase the maximum number of residents in Residential Care Facilities for the Elderly from six to 10 individuals. The second bill from last year, AB 2207 (Reyes) would expand membership on various boards and commissions to include older adult representation. Examples include Alzheimer's Disease, and Related Disorders Advisory Committee, the California Health Workforce Education and Training Council and the California Behavioral Health Planning Council.

The two new bills are AB 2620 (Bains), which would reduce the number of members on the CCoA from 25 to 18, with 12 appointed by the Governor, with two appointed from a list of nominees submitted by, among others, area agency on aging directors and the TACC, and SB 1249 (Roth), which would update the Mello-Granlund Older Californians Act.

Finally, Karol provided an update on the CCoA 50th anniversary gala, scheduled for June 20, 2024, highlighting the fund-raising efforts.

#### **14. Member Comments**

None.

#### **15. Adjourn**

Meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.