



TACC – TRIPLE-A COUNCIL OF CALIFORNIA
2880 Gateway Oaks Dr., Suite 390, Sacramento, CA 95833

Phone 916-419-7591

TACC GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

THURSDAY, AUGUST 22, 2024

1. Call to Order

President Wartson called the meeting to order.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

President Wartson led the Pledge.

3. Welcome New TACC Members

President Wartson and Executive Director Swartzlander welcomed new TACC Members Mike Cottone (PSA 2), Martha Artiles (PSA 10), Dr. Deborah Nattress (PSA 20), Marlene Bush (PSA 32), Ted Smith (PSA 19), Monika Lee (PSA 8), Dr. Maria Mungia (PSA 18), Kristi Denton Cohen (PSA 5), Janie Smith-Citroni (PSA 26), Sonia Dhillon (PSA 33)

4. Roll Call and Establish a Quorum

Swartzlander called roll.

TACC Members present:

Mike Cottone (PSA 2)

Kristi Denton Cohen (PSA 5)

Jim Donnelley (PSA 7)

Monika Lee (PSA 8)

Martha Artiles (PSA 10)

Lynne Standard-Nightengale (PSA 12)

Bobbie Wartson (PSA 15)

Dr. Maria Mungia (PSA 18)

Ted Smith (PSA 19)

Debbie Nattress (PSA 20)

Debbie Baker (PSA 22)

Janine Smith-Citron (PSA 26)

Richard White (PSA 28)

Tita Bladen (PSA 29)

Joyce Gandelman (PSA 30)

Marleen Bush (PSA 32)

Sherry Gomez (PSA 33)

Staff present: Karol Swartzlander, Leza Coleman, Patrick Smith, Marijke Melman, Peter Anderson

A quorum was established.

5. Approve Agenda

M/S/C (Joyce Gandelman/Ted Smith)

TO APPROVE THE AUGUST 22, 2024, TACC GENERAL MEETING AGENDA.

APPROVED.

6. Approve Minutes

M/S/C (Joyce Gandelman/ Jim Donnelley)

TO APPROVE THE MAY 1, 2024, TACC GENERAL MEETING MINUTES.

APPROVED.

7. Public Comment for items not on the agenda

None.

8. President's Remarks

President Wartson thanked everyone for attending and welcomed all the new members. She reflected on a great California Association for Area Agencies on Aging (C4A) Annual conference in May. She reflected that attending C4A in concert with a TACC General Meeting is a good use of TACC funds.

9. Presentation: Village Movement CA's Efforts to Develop and Strengthen Villages in California, and the Potential of Villages in Addressing Social Isolation and Loneliness for Older Adults

Carolyn Ross, MSW, Director of Strategic Initiatives, Interim Executive Director, Village Movement CA

Carolyn Ross presented an overview of the Village Movement's efforts to develop and strengthen *Villages* in California and the potential of *Villages* in addressing social isolation and loneliness for older adults. Currently, Village Movement CA represents 50 villages in California.

Participation in local village activities provides a sense of community social connection. Local villages are trusted resources, often identifying services that are available in the community.

There are four main components of all villages: educational programs and educational opportunities to bring people together in the community and focus on planning for the transitions of aging; social programming, including events, outings, things that bring people together to help them forge relationships and social connection; volunteerism, whereby village members themselves often serve as volunteers, such as door to door transportation, grocery shopping, and help with errands, knowing that in the future such services are going to be returned to them; and resources and referrals to assist individuals to secure resources in the community.

Villages are currently evolving and diversifying their revenue sources. They are considering a combination of grant funding, private donors, institutional donors, fundraisers, and more affordable sliding-scale membership fees. Additionally, Villages are becoming more multicultural and representative of the communities in which they're located. The State of California included Villages in the State's Master Plan for Aging under Goal 3 to promote and adopt village models for older adult volunteerism and services building on the strengths of California's diverse communities.

Villages has developed an incubator, and the program consists of four components, with an interactive written curriculum and six phases. The incubator launched in March of 2023, and to date, three villages have been launched in Encinitas, Sebastopol, and Sonoma. Others that are continuing to develop are in Concord, Irvine, Lake Forest, South Pasadena, and Walnut Creek. Ross added that additional programs are anticipated in joining the incubator, and they are currently looking to develop a business model and ways to work with larger stakeholders to provide more sustainable funding.

10. Presentation: Enhancing Connectivity and Well-being for Older Adults: The Role of Claris Companion and the Local AAAs in Alleviating Social Isolation for Older Adults

Jake Levy, Chief Revenue Officer, Claris Healthcare

Claris Companion is an easy-to-use tablet that acts as a tool for communication to improve the quality of life for older adults. It is a Samsung device loaded with a unique operating system/application and customized for individuals before leaving the warehouse. The device offers simplified navigation with virtually no learning curve. Claris Companion operates on a private network and is fully enabled with internet connectivity included free

of charge. Only identified known contacts can use the HIPPA compliant tablet for communication. It is a secure device that cannot be used for spam or scams. Inventory control is built in through GPS tracking of the device but there is no access to the users' private information.

When distributed by a local service such as an Area Agency on Aging (AAA), the device can share deliver programs and services and track usage. From the back end, the distributing organization pushes out different resources to increase user engagement. For example, employment training such as a 12-week program of virtual classes, a book club meeting, or an internet security training can be shared on a schedule. The backend Care Management Console records usage data and can generate reports of engagement in content areas, not private information such as photos, texts, etc. Reports meet AAA needs to demonstrate use and provide data to meet grant funding and reporting requirements.

Claris will help AAAs apply for the National Internet for All Initiative's Digital Equity Competitive Grant to employ the device locally. These grants favor groups so Levy encourages AAAs to join resources with other local organizations serving the same demographic. Primary care organizations use Claris too. HIPPA compliant.

ClarisCompanion.com. **CDA state 8650.8 administration manual, devices must be tracked forever and inspected every year. AAAs cannot use Older American Act funding due to the administrative burden associated.

11. Presentation: Our Older Adults: An Untapped Resource for Solving Societal Challenges

Dana A. Griffin, Co-Founder and CEO at Eldera.ai

Griffin introduced Eldera.ai, a community and web-based organization that connects vetted older adults (mentors) with young people for weekly virtual conversations on Zoom. Eldera.ai addresses two healthcare crises at once: older adult loneliness and young people's (6-17) loneliness and mental health, turning aging from a healthcare challenge into a global opportunity. 72% of participants are still talking weekly a year after being matched. Participating older adults are linked to a social platform regionally which generates in person friendships and gatherings, further addressing loneliness in this group. Eldera.ai is offered as a direct-to-consumer product with an annual subscription of 120 dollars, scholarships are available.

The organization uses Artificial Intelligence (AI) to match conversational pairs, chaperone conversations, and conduct preventative health screening. Eldera.ai 2.0 includes a COPA

compliant chaperone to screen for red flags in language or expressions of emotion. The chaperone picks up on mental and hearing decline in adults as well as stress in children.

Currently, there are 900 kids on the wait list due to a shortage of older adult volunteers. They are also particularly in need of Korean American mentors. Eldera.ai also offers a list of volunteers available to talk to high school student groups at schools about their individual areas of expertise.

12. Staff Report

a. CCoA Update

Swartzlander announced the appointment of three new Commissioners: Adriene “Alex” Davis, Ben Jauregui, and Jamie Jensen, and thanked outgoing Commissioners. She shared the reappointments of Dana Toppel and Erika Castile.

Swartzlander reported that the CCoA Anniversary Gala was a huge success and lots of fun. The event brought together experts from all over the state and raised funds to initiate a \$60,000 gerontology scholarship at Sacramento State University. In addition, \$30,000 was raised and will support special initiatives, e.g., a K-14 curriculum for normalizing aging across the lifespan.

The CA For All Ages and Abilities event on October 8 is still open for virtual attendance. Smith shared an update on CCoA sponsored bills, AB 2207, AB 2620, AB 1993 and SB 1249.

b. New State Travel Per Diem, Lodging and Travel Policies are in effect.

c. Strategic Framework for a National Plan on Aging

Coleman introduced the report and the urgency of submitting comments by the deadline of September 15. Both individuals and organizations are urged to [participate in the survey here](#).

d. Last 2024 Meeting: November 14, 2024, 1:00 to 4:00 pm

2025 TACC General Meeting Dates:

- 1) February 13, 2025, 1 to 4 pm
- 2) April 17, 2025, 1 to 4 pm
- 3) June 12, 2025, 1 to 4 pm
- 4) Fall date TBA, at C4A Annual Conference (btw 9/15 and 11/15) in Southern CA

13. Planning and Service Area (PSA) Reports

- a. Marleen Bush, PSA 32, and Joyce Gandelman, PSA 30 will work together on a modernized template for the PSA Reports.
- b. Member Reports were postponed until the new template is available.

14. Member Comments

Representatives reflected on the presentations at the meeting today.

15. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.