



TACC – TRIPLE-A COUNCIL OF CALIFORNIA
2880 Gateway Oaks Dr., Suite 390, Sacramento, CA 95833
Phone 916-419-7591

TACC GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

June 12, 2025

Ted Smith, President

1. Call to Order

Ted Smith, TACC President called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

President Smith lead the pledge.

3. Roll Call and Establish a Quorum

Members present virtually: Mike Cottone, Kristi Denton Cohen, Allen Cooper, Jim Donnelley, Monika Lee, Rich Corello, Tonya Frost, Bobbie Wartson, Maria Mungia, Chair Ted Smith, Deborah Nattress, Jenny Helman, Tita Bladen, Joyce Gandelman, Aimee Fuller-Coda

Members absent: Kelly Carpenter, Martha Artilles, Wayne Templeton, Debbie Franklin, Patty Mouton, Susan Mallet, Wendy Caputo, Jainine Smith-Citron, Clifford Monte, Sherry Gomez.

Staff present: Karol Swartzlander, Marijke Melman

A quorum was established.

4. Approve Minutes of April 17, 2024, TACC Meeting

The minutes were approved with one correction of a name misspelling.

5. Public Comment for items not on the agenda

None.

6. President's Remarks

President Smith welcomed new members. He attended Older Adult Recognition Day in Los Angeles (LA) on May 22, which coincided with the CCoA Informational Hearing on Fire Recovery. He noted it was encouraging to see two major events in happening in LA simultaneously highlighting the needs and contributions of older adults and individuals with disabilities.

President Smith has been appointed to the Community Policy Oversight Commission in Pasadena, and aims to collaborate with community members, including older adults.

7. **Staff Report**

a. CCoA Update

Karol Swartzlander reported on a successful informational hearing in LA focused on the impact of the January 2025 wildfires on older adults and people with disabilities. Recommendations are being developed for the administration and legislature.

Marcella Villanueva has retired from government service.

Leza Coleman announced her departure from the Commission to move to Texas, citing a desire to be closer to her grandchildren.

CCoA will be recruiting both an Administrative Associate Governmental Programs Analyst and Legislative Director.

The Commission's advocacy efforts were discussed, with some success in influencing the legislature's proposals, particularly regarding asset limits for Medi-Cal services.

Swartzlander added that at the federal level, Administration for Community Living programs will be moved under the Department of Children, Families, and Community, though the exact implications remain unclear.

b. C4A Annual Conference, November 5-7, 2025

Information will be shared in the next few weeks regarding registration and hotel booking. Travel and registration of TACC members will be covered by TACC funds to support conference and meeting attendance.

8. **Presentation: How CalAIM features are being implemented in Orange County**

Michael Hunn, Chief Executive Officer, CalOptima Health

CalOptima provides healthcare services to nearly one million individuals living at or below the poverty level through a county-organized health system supported by 10,000 contracts across Orange County. Among its members are 137,000 older adults, including nearly 300 centenarians. The organization offers a wide range of support services, including respite care, transitions to assisted living facilities, and access to community health clinics.

California Advancing and Innovating Medi-Cal (CalAIM) has been a transformative force for CalOptima, particularly in the areas of housing and medically tailored meals. Through CalAIM, CalOptima has invested \$170 million in housing solutions for older adults, resulting in the creation of 193 housing units. Funding comes from

the state's Housing and Homelessness Incentive Program and is supplemented by CalOptima's excess revenue. These efforts are directly addressing homelessness among older adults. Hunn highlighted the success of CalOptima's senior living initiatives, including partnerships with organizations such as Santa Angelina and the Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange, each of which has provided housing for 30 members. However, he acknowledged that the current level of investment still falls short of meeting the full demand for low-income housing.

The "Whatever It TakesSM" program is an initiative led by Orange County United Way as part of the United to End Homelessness campaign, in partnership with CalOptima Health. It complements CalAIM's Housing Suite of Services. It provides targeted support for CalOptima members experiencing homelessness or housing insecurity with flexible financial assistance, housing navigation support, and capacity-building and training.

He also emphasized the importance of CalOptima's focus on independent and assisted living facilities, particularly affordable housing projects that offer private units with individual bathrooms and kitchens. These fully equipped units have proven far more effective than shared, dormitory-style arrangements.

Despite the progress made, Hunn expressed concern about potential budget cuts that could jeopardize these vital services. He encouraged everyone to watch this impactful video about one member's story, Maggie Noble:

<https://vimeo.com/1053863334/b88c5ca3f0?ts=0&share=copy>

Hunn highlighted the effectiveness of CalOptima's street medicine initiatives and its Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE), which provides comprehensive medical, therapeutic, and social support services to 520 seniors. He emphasized the program's significant impact on participants' mental health and overall well-being, particularly through opportunities for socialization. CalOptima operates the largest single PACE program in California and is the only health plan in the state to do so. Each quarter, they measure success by tracking the number of individual hospital days among members. In the most recent quarter, that number was just 40 days for all 520 participants combined. An interdisciplinary team coordinates care and offers robust support for families. As a result, PACE members are thriving—both physically and emotionally.

9. Presentation: Shared Housing: The missing puzzle piece in housing older adults (

Hannah Brady, Executive Director, Senior Advocacy Network (SAN)

Brady presented on shared housing programs, explaining that Stanislaus County is a prime location for such initiatives due to its rising older adult population and the lack of affordable housing options. She detailed the program's structure as well as

ongoing support and case management. Brady highlighted the program's success in creating stable housing arrangements for older adults while also addressing broader housing and social service needs. She emphasized the need for continued funding, community support, and legislative advocacy to ensure the long-term viability of shared housing programs.

Brady highlighted how home sharing addresses housing shortages and loneliness among seniors. She noted that while the SAN program is successful, it is underfunded and would be more effective with additional resources.

10. Planning and Service Area (PSA) Reports

a) Member Reports

- PSA 30 has added recognition for “Older Adult of the Year”. PSA 30 also has a new Chair for their Commission on Aging.
- PSA 5 hosted a forum on connection and building community. They partnered with a local college and advertised to the college email list to advertise broadly. The author of the book, At Home in the City, Growing Old in Urban America, spoke at the forum. Kristi Denton Cohn has been renominated to continue as PSA 5’s Advisory Chair.
- PSA 12 will be hosting their 4th Alzheimer's caregiver workshop.
- PSA 18 supported a proclamation in their city for Older Americans Month and a Pride Proclamation for Ventura County.
- PSA 15 announced their proclamation for Older Adult Abuse Awareness Month in conjunction with a pancake breakfast.
- PSA 29 is developing a FAQ document about Accessory Dwelling Units and Home Share that addresses legal concerns and how homeowners can protect themselves. It was suggested that PSA 29 contact Front Porch for information.

b) PSA Survey Results

Submit changes to cco@cco.ca.gov as needed.

11. Discuss Topics for Future Meetings

- Topics for future consideration include: technology education programs, and the impact of state and federal budgets on older adult programs.

12. Member Comments

Members discussed various technology initiatives and programs for seniors across different counties. The group also discussed concerns about AI-related fraud and the

importance of educating seniors about online safety. One member asked how many PSAs have technology committees?

- PSAs 5, 7, and 19 have technology initiatives.
- PSA 5 is struggling with Artificial Intelligence-based fraud and is working on community education and tactics such as a family “safe” word. Their effort is called “Loaves, Fishes, and Computers.”
- PSA 7 in Ventura County distributed laptops and hotspots at to public libraries.
- Los Angeles County's technology group has made efforts to provide technology education to seniors.

13. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 3:24 pm.