

Annual Conference 2025 PROGRAM



#C4A2025

Partnering to Prosper Joining Allies to Protect the Future Nov 5-7 | Hyatt Regency, Garden Grove, CA

DAY ONE: November 5

11:00 AM **Conference Registration** – *Grand Foyer*

Our team is here to welcome you! Staff will be available to check you in and answer any questions you may have.

1:00 PM **Exhibit Showcase** – *Exhibit Hall/ Grand Foyer*

Meet our exhibitors, discover new programs and services, and connect with partners eager to share resources that support your work. As you explore the Exhibit Hall, collect raffle tickets at each booth for a chance to win exciting prizes – winners will be announced during plenary sessions in the Grand Ballroom.

1:30 PM **Welcome and Opening Remarks** – *Grand Ballroom*

Join us as we officially welcome attendees to the 2025 C4A Annual Conference, Partnering to Prosper. We'll open the event with words of gratitude, inspiration, and a call to connect, learn, and celebrate the strength of California's aging and disability network.

- **Joseph Cobery**, Director, Passages Area Agency on Aging (Chico State Enterprises)
- **Aneliza De Pinal**, Chief Executive Officer, Sourcewise



SCAN ME!

To View the Digital Program & Event Materials!



Network: Hyatt_meeting
Password: C4A2025

2:00 PM **Rebuilding Lives: Disaster Response and Recovery for Older Adults and People with Disabilities in California** – *Grand Ballroom*

The California Commission on Aging (CCoA) will share findings and recommendations from Rebuilding Lives: Disaster Response and Recovery for Older Adults and Adults with Disabilities in California. The report draws on testimony from CCoA's May 5 informational hearing, which included experts in aging and disability, medical and government responders to the January 2025 Los Angeles wildfires, and community members who were displaced. The report highlights recurring challenges, barriers to recovery, and how California can better prepare for an aging population likely to face more frequent and increasingly severe natural disasters.

- **David Lindeman, PhD**, Chair, California Commission on Aging; Director, Center for Technology and Aging (CTA); Director, Health, Center for Information Technology Research in the Interest of Society and the Banatao Institute (CITRIS)

2:30 PM **Break**

2:45 PM **CONCURRENT WORKSHOP SESSIONS**

Black Advocacy in Action – *Grand F*

Older Black Californians face persistent barriers to aging with dignity, health, and community. This panel will explore gaps in behavioral health, wellness infrastructure, and caregiving supports, introducing culturally responsive reforms aligned with the Master Plan for Aging to strengthen Black-led organizations, community-based models, and culturally rooted care. Panelists will advance strategies to promote health equity, elevate community-led wellness and behavioral health solutions, and reimagine caregiving ecosystems, particularly for solo agers. The discussion will highlight disparities in mental health and chronic illness, share promising practices, address systemic barriers facing Black caregivers, and foster dialogue among advocates, policymakers, and providers to expand wraparound supports and drive racial equity statewide.

- **Cheryl Brown**, Assemblymember (Ret.) & Former Chair, California Commission on Aging
- **Tia Delaney-Stewart, MSN-Ed, RN, PHN**, Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, Alzheimer's Association
- **Dr. Bryan F. Gains**, Center Coordinator, UCI Center for Environmental Health Disparities Research
- **Dr. Lenore A. Tate, PhD**, Member, California Commission on Aging & California Wraparound

Better Together: An MCO, AAA, and CBO Partnership to Expand Access to Assisted Living – *Grand G*

California's systems serving older Medi-Cal enrollees with functional or behavioral health disabilities and those experiencing homelessness are fragmented, resulting in unmet needs and avoidable institutionalization. Assisted living (AL) can be a viable alternative, yet misconceptions about access – such as the 10,000+ person waitlist for the Assisted Living Waiver – limit its use. This session will explore alternative pathways into AL through county behavioral health funding and CalAIM's Assisted Living Facility Transition Community Support, following a Medi-Cal enrollee's transition journey and identifying partnership opportunities among health plans, care hubs, AL operators, and Area Agencies on Aging. Drawing from key informant interviews led by the Center for Health Care Strategies with support from the California Health Care Foundation, panelists will share insights on strengthening cross-system collaboration to advance the Master Plan for Aging's goals of bridging health care with home and ending homelessness for older adults.

- **Dustin Harper, MBA**, Chief Strategy Officer, Institute on Aging
- **Cindy Kauffman**, Deputy Director, San Francisco Human Services Agency/ DAS
- **Edward Mariscal**, Senior Director, Population Health, Health Net
- **Emma Rauscher**, Program Officer, Center for Health Care Strategies

We Can't Give Up: Breaking Barriers to Healthy Living for Older Adults in Rural Communities – *Garden 1*

In rural communities like Campo in San Diego County's Mountain Empire region, older adults face major barriers to health and connection due to limited access to fresh food, safe spaces for activity, and reliable transportation. This session will show how building trust, forming local partnerships, and responding to community needs can create lasting change. What began as a simple nutrition class evolved into a garden club, community garden, and social activities like karaoke and virtual exercise classes – all strategically tied to congregate meal times to boost participation. Attendees will learn practical strategies to engage rural older adults, strengthen partnerships, and design sustainable, community-driven programs that foster health and belonging in underserved areas.

- **Lina Nasr, MPH**, Administrative Analyst II, County of San Diego Health & Human Services Agency, Aging and Independence Services
- **Roberto Ramirez, MPH**, Health Promotion Manager, County of San Diego Health & Human Services Agency, Aging and Independence Services

Intergenerational Allies: Building a Multigenerational Culture Through Local Innovation – *Garden 2*

This panel explores how local, intergenerational partnerships can reduce isolation, foster inclusion, and build age-friendly connections in schools. Highlighting Golden Connections – an award-winning, student-led initiative founded by Leena at a Garden Grove high school in partnership with Olive Community Services – the session showcases how monthly “Lunch & Learn Roundtables” bring teens and seniors together on campus to share wisdom and conversation without transportation barriers. Recognized by MIT AgeLab for innovation, the program offers a scalable model for replication statewide. Panelists will discuss how this grassroots effort advances Master Plan for Aging goals around inclusion, caregiving, and age-integrated communities, and share strategies to spark youth engagement and create sustainable, inclusive intergenerational programs across California.

- **Leena Albinali**, Founder and President, Golden Connections Club, Orange Crescent School
- **Zainab Hussaini**, Program Manager, Olive Community Services
- **Maisa Youssef-Osman**, Principal, Orange Crescent School

3:45 PM **Break**

4:00 PM **CONCURRENT WORKSHOP SESSIONS**

From Pilot to Powerhouse: The Strategy and Success Behind Evolving Models of Digital Inclusion – *Grand F*

What does it take to grow a small pilot into a high-impact, community-driven program? This workshop from Sourcewise (PSA 10) will share how identifying digital equity gaps among low-income, linguistically diverse, and socially isolated older adults in Santa Clara County led to an evolving program that moved from virtual to hybrid to in-person delivery. Featuring outcomes from over 1,200 participants served at seven sites, the session will highlight gains in digital literacy, social connection, and confidence, along with the cross-sector partnerships – spanning Google, Community Tech Network, local senior centers, and city agencies – that fueled sustainability. Participants will leave with a practical three-part framework for designing and scaling community-based pilots grounded in collaboration and measurable impact.

- **Eli Albarran**, Digital Link Specialist, Sourcewise
- **Kristine Schaan, MA, CPG, NHA**, Director of Integrated Health Services, Sourcewise

Addressing Rural Aging Disparities in California: Policy Solutions & Collaborative Advocacy – *Grand G*

More than one in ten older Californians live in rural areas where access to healthcare, LTSS, transportation, and broadband is limited – challenges compounded by financial insecurity, racial disparities, and climate risks. Despite these issues, rural aging has been largely absent from statewide policy discussions since 2011. Building on local Master Plan for Aging efforts led by UC Davis and The SCAN Foundation with regional coalitions, this session will present new policy briefs outlining state-level solutions to rural challenges in housing, workforce, and healthcare access. Participants will explore strategies for cross-regional collaboration, identify policy and funding opportunities, and advance equity for older adults and caregivers in rural California.

- **Elizabeth Bogumil**, Consultant, UC Davis School of Nursing, Family Caregiving Institute & Inland Coalition on Aging
- **Megan Burke**, Director of California Health and Aging Policy, The SCAN Foundation
- **Pauline DeLange Martinez, PhD**, Research & Community Engagement Manager, UC Davis School of Nursing, Family Caregiving Institute

Moving Barriers to Local Master Plan for Aging Prosperity – *Garden 1*

As California advances from early implementation to sustained action under the Master Plan for Aging (MPA), many regions face ongoing questions about local momentum and financial sustainability. This session will explore innovative strategies to strengthen funding for community-based organizations, the role of financial professionals in supporting MPA goals, and opportunities for private or public-private partnerships to advance local initiatives. Participants will share solutions, address challenges, and exchange ideas to ensure lasting progress toward achieving the MPA's Five Bold Goals for 2030.

- **Molly Calhoun**, Associate Professor & Director of School of Social Work, California State University, Chico
- **Joanne McCarley**, Founder and Executive Director, ShiningCare
- **Carolyn Nava**, Community Relations Director, Disability Action Center, DAN Coalition

You Don't Want to Miss This!

C4A Watch Party

Health Matters: A Conversation with California's Next Governor

November 7 | 1:15 PM



AAA Today: Different Ways to Present Your Area Plan – Garden 2

This session introduces a creative, talk-show-style approach for presenting Area Plans and updates to local audiences of older adults, caregivers, service providers, and advisory councils. Developed by the Marin County AAA, the format – known as “AAA Today with Jenay” and now “Keeping it Real with Camille” – adds fun and accessibility while fulfilling public hearing requirements. Since 2018, Marin has successfully used this engaging model both virtually and in person, drawing strong community interest and participation. During the session, Marin’s AAA team will conduct a mock talk show to demonstrate how other AAAs can easily replicate this effective outreach strategy.

- **Jenay Cottrell**, Director, Marin County Aging & Adult Services
- **Amy Dietz, MPH**, Senior Program Coordinator, Marin County Aging & Adult Services
- **Camille Jolly, MPH**, Program Manager, Marin County Aging & Adult Services
- **Mandy Reyes**, Senior Program Coordinator, Marin County Aging & Adult Services

5:00 PM **Break**

5:15 PM **Meeting the Moment: Advocacy to Minimize H.R.1's Impact on Older Adults – Grand Ballroom**

Dynamic and passionate advocate Yasmin Peled of Justice in Aging will open the conference with a powerful keynote on the sweeping implications of H.R. 1. She will unpack how proposed cuts to health care programs like Medicaid and Medicare threaten millions of older adults and people with disabilities – and inspire collective action to protect access, equity, and dignity for all.

- **Yasmin Peled**, Director, California Government Affairs, Justice in Aging

5:45 PM **Networking Reception – Grand Foyer**

Wrap up the day with great company! Enjoy appetizers while connecting with colleagues, speakers, and partners in a relaxed setting. It’s the perfect chance to mingle, share ideas, and build new relationships.

6:30 PM **Adjourn**

DIAMOND SPONSORS



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DAY TWO: November 6

8:00 AM **Conference Registration** – *Grand Foyer*

Our team is here to welcome you! Staff will be available to check you in and answer any questions you may have.

Exhibit Showcase – *Exhibit Hall/ Grand Foyer*

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Networking Breakfast – *Grand Foyer*

Kick off the day with breakfast and lively conversation. It's a great way to fuel up, catch up with colleagues, and get energized for the sessions ahead.

9:00 AM **Opening Remarks by California Department of Aging Director, Susan DeMarois** – Grand Ballroom

Director Susan DeMarois will share California's vision for modernizing aging programs to meet the evolving needs of older adults, people with disabilities, and caregivers. Her remarks will highlight innovation, collaboration, and the state's commitment to building an inclusive system of care for all Californians.

- **Susan DeMarois**, Director, California Department of Aging

9:30 AM **Break**



9:45 AM CONCURRENT WORKSHOP SESSIONS**Hearing the Voices of Older Adults: From Statewide Vision to Local Action in Master Planning and Housing – *Grand F***

Stakeholder engagement is central to the success of California's Master Plan for Aging (MPA), relying on the voices of older adults, people with disabilities, caregivers, and service providers. This session will showcase two engagement models: one focused on direct services that help older adults age in place, and another advancing policy change to expand affordable housing. Featuring insights from LifeSTEPS and LeadingAge California, panelists will explore how centering older adults' voices leads to stronger programs and policies, share practical strategies for co-production and resident engagement, and offer tools to scale these approaches statewide – all while reinforcing the MPA's emphasis on inclusion and collaboration.

- **Meredith Chillemi**, Vice President, Regulatory Affairs, LeadingAge CA
- **Bruce Kuban, MS, MFCC**, Interim CalAIM Director, LifeSTEPS
- **Beth Southourn**, Executive Director, LifeSTEPS

Together for Veterans – *Garden 1*

As California's veteran population ages, many face barriers to accessing earned VA benefits due to isolation, mobility limitations, and lack of awareness – factors that increase financial insecurity, mental health risks, and vulnerability to exploitation. To address this, the Fresno County Veterans Service Office (FCVSO) and the Together for Veterans Coalition created a proactive outreach model that brings accredited Veterans Service Representatives directly to over 200 elder care facilities across the Central Valley. By providing on-site benefit counseling and claims support for programs like Aid & Attendance, DIC, and survivor assistance, this initiative strengthens access, prevents fraud, and supports suicide prevention through trusted, ethical, and community-based service delivery.

- **Kyle Pennington, MA, MBA**, Veterans Service Officer, Fresno County Department of Social Services

PLATINUM SPONSORS

Leveraging CalAIM to Strengthen Aging Services: Lessons from the Anthem ECM & Community Supports Pilot – Garden 2

This session examines how California's Aging Network can integrate with Medi-Cal managed care through CalAIM, featuring two regional implementations of the Anthem ECM and Community Supports pilot led by Agency on Aging 4 and Sourcewise (PSA 10). Panelists will share strategies for intake, referrals, data sharing, staffing, and maintaining OAA compliance while expanding services. The discussion will highlight how AAAs' community expertise and trusted relationships can help Managed Care Plans reduce hospitalizations, improve care coordination, and address social drivers of health – demonstrating a scalable model for enhancing outcomes and achieving cost savings through cross-sector collaboration.

- **Anson Houghton**, Program Administrator, Agency on Aging Area 4
- **Jennifer Lloyd**, Chief Executive Officer, Jennifer Lloyd Consulting
- **Pamela Mokler**, President, Pamela Mokler & Associates, Inc.
- **Katie Panarella, MPH**, Program Director, Community Supports, Anthem Blue Cross
- **Elizabeth Rodriguez**, Senior Director of Operations, Sourcewise
- **Kristine Schaan, MA, CPG, NHA**, Director of Integrated Health Services, Sourcewise

10:45 AM Break

Anthem Blue Cross Medi-Cal is proud to be a sponsor of the 2025 C4A Annual Conference

Thank you for making a difference in so many lives.

Anthem Medi-Cal celebrates
those who serve others.

If you are interested in working with us, email
Stephanie.Ramos@Anthem.com



11:00 AM CONCURRENT WORKSHOP SESSIONS

The California Elder Index: A Tool for Advancing Equity for Older Californians Experiencing Economic Insecurity – *Grand F*

This workshop introduces the California Elder Index (CEI), a data equity tool that measures the true cost of living for older adults across all 58 counties. Unlike the Federal Poverty Level, the CEI accounts for local housing, health care, food, and transportation costs, and integrates demographic data to highlight disparities by gender, race, age, and household type. Participants will learn how to use CEI dashboards and data to inform policy, program planning, and resource allocation that reflect the real economic conditions of older Californians, with hands-on guidance and county-level examples provided.

- **Kathryn Keitzman, PhD, MSW**, Director, Health Equity Program, UCLA Center for Health Policy Research
- **Natalie Kim**, Undergraduate Research Assistant, UCLA Center for Health Policy Research
- **Imelda Padilla-Frausto, PhD, MPH**, Research Scientist, UCLA Center for Health Policy Research
- **Lauren Vuong**, California Elder Index Team Member, UCLA Center for Health Policy Research
- **Qianyun Wang, MSW**, Graduate Student Researcher, UCLA

Los Angeles County Adult Protective Services' (APS) Center of Excellence (COE): An Elder Abuse Forensic Center Model - *Grand G*

Established in August 2023, the Los Angeles County Elder Abuse Forensic Center – also known as the Center of Excellence – serves as a multidisciplinary hub for addressing elder abuse and protecting vulnerable older adults and individuals with disabilities. This session will overview the center's forensic, legal, and therapeutic services; showcase its collaborative team of experts in social work, medicine, psychology, law enforcement, and advocacy; and share case studies illustrating innovative support for APS social workers. Panelists will also discuss future initiatives to expand the center's reach and serve as a statewide model for elder justice and prevention.

- **Ralph Pascual**, Human Services Administrator I, Los Angeles County Aging & Disabilities Department
- **Francisco Wong**, Human Services Administrator II, Los Angeles County Aging & Disabilities Department

Policy in Practice: Implementing a Values-Based Food Purchasing Framework in San Diego – Garden 1

This session will showcase the County of San Diego's Sustainable, Equitable, and Local Food Sourcing Policy, which directs its \$33 million food budget – providing over 8 million meals annually to vulnerable populations – toward sustainability, nutrition, and equity. Aligned with the Older Americans Act and the Older Californians Nutrition Program, the policy promotes whole, minimally processed, and culturally inclusive foods while supporting local economies and the environment. Through case studies and implementation tools, participants will learn how values-based procurement and cross-departmental collaboration strengthen health, equity, and community connection for older adults across the county.

- **Naomi Billups**, Public Health Nutrition Manager, County of San Diego
- **Delilah Bisase**, Public Health Nutrition Manager, County of San Diego Health & Human Services Agency, Aging and Independence Services
- **Jana Jordan**, Chief Agency Operations, County of San Diego Health & Human Services Agency, Aging and Independence Services

Senior Guided Pathways: At the Intersection of Aging, Education, and Workforce Development – Garden 2

This session explores Senior Guided Pathways, the nation's first comprehensive model uniting aging, education, and workforce development to meet the needs of a rapidly aging society. By leveraging community infrastructure, the program boosts community college enrollment among adults 50+, expands workforce readiness, and introduces younger students to careers in aging services. Implemented across California's community colleges, it has delivered measurable gains in enrollment, economic mobility, and intergenerational engagement while aligning with the Master Plan for Aging and workforce priorities. Panelists will share lessons on cross-sector collaboration and how this innovative framework can be replicated to create lasting, age-inclusive opportunity.

- **Tylor Taylor**, CEO, Successful Aging Solutions & Community Consulting (SASCC)
- **Jennifer Taylor-Mendoza, PhD**, President, West Valley College

12:00 PM Break

12:15 PM Awards Luncheon: Celebrating Leadership and Legacy – *Grand Ballroom*

This year's Awards Luncheon celebrates the 60th anniversary of the Older Americans Act and the 35th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act – two landmark laws that continue to shape our collective work toward inclusion, independence, and equity. Join us as we honor the outstanding contributions of leaders advancing aging and disability programs and services across California, and hear from keynote speaker Sandy Markwood, who will share national perspectives on aging policy, innovation, and the vital role Area Agencies on Aging play in supporting older adults to live independently and thrive in their communities. Her keynote will highlight the power of partnerships and advocacy in shaping the future of aging services as we recognize the individuals and organizations whose dedication ensures that all Californians can age and live with dignity.

- **Sandy Markwood**, Chief Executive Officer, USAging

2025 Honorees



Dr. Laura Trejo,
Retired Aging &
Disability Leader



Teresa (Terri)
Whitmire, Aging
Leader



Elizabeth Fuller,
Assembly Aging & Long-
Term Care Committee

1:30 PM Break

1:45 PM CONCURRENT WORKSHOP SESSIONS

Challenging Times: Serving Older Adults in a Changing Federal and State Landscape – *Grand F*

This session, presented by a former Chief Counsel of the California Department of Aging and a practicing health care lawyer, will focus on the legal, regulatory, and policy implications for older adult programs at both the federal and state levels, and will offer insight into what trends service providers for the older adult community should bear in mind.

- **Jeremy Avila**, Senior Counsel, Epstein Becker Green, P.C.

Bridging State & Local Aging Plans: Lessons from California's Local Aging & Disability Action Planning (LADAP) Grant Program – *Grand G*

California's Master Plan for Aging (MPA) is a 10-year, multisector roadmap to build a state for all ages and abilities. In 2023, the Department of Aging launched the \$4.5 million Local Aging and Disability Action Planning (LADAP) Grant Program, supporting 20 organizations across 30 communities to develop equitable, actionable local plans. Analyzed by UC Davis's Family Caregiving Institute, this session will share findings and lessons from two years of grantee work, highlighting innovative, equity-centered strategies such as multilingual engagement and grassroots partnerships. Participants will learn how local plans advance the MPA's Five Bold Goals through housing, health care access, caregiver support, and inclusion – and explore practical tools for sustaining local momentum.

- **Elizabeth Bogumil**, Consultant, UC Davis School of Nursing, Family Caregiving Institute & Inland Coalition on Aging
- **Pauline DeLange Martinez, PhD**, Research & Community Engagement Manager, UC Davis School of Nursing, Family Caregiving Institute
- **Jackie Tompkins, Ph.D., MPH, CPH, MCHES**, Project Director, Master Plan for Aging, California Department of Aging

Wiser Dining for Congregate Meals: The Lunch Buddies Bistro Story – *How Changing the environment increased participation at the Benicia center* – *Garden 1*

Congregate Meal programs often struggle to attract and retain participants, but Solano County's Lunch Buddies Bistro offers a successful new model. By transforming traditional meals into lively, restaurant-style social experiences, attendance at one site grew from just two diners to over 35 in three months. This session will highlight how thoughtful design, dynamic programming, and cross-sector collaboration can revitalize meal sites, reduce isolation, and improve health outcomes. Participants will learn actionable strategies to enhance engagement, integrate culturally relevant activities, and create welcoming, sustainable dining environments that foster community and connection.

- **Dr. Norma Lisenko**, Chief Executive Officer, Innovative Health Solutions
- **Hana Shirriel-Hammond**, Program Manager, Innovative Health Solutions

Empowering Caregivers through Cross-Sector Collaboration: A Dementia Training Partnership Between Alzheimer's Los Angeles and Pilipino Workers Center – Garden 2

As California's aging population grows, culturally informed caregiver education is vital. This session spotlights a partnership between Alzheimer's Los Angeles and the Pilipino Workers Center, which developed a 16-hour dementia caregiver training for frontline workers. Combining clinical expertise with grassroots outreach, the program enhanced caregiver confidence, satisfaction, and care outcomes while advancing the Master Plan for Aging's Goal 4: Caregiving that Works.

- **Natalie Rosemond, LCSW**, Director Of Healthcare Services and Professional Training, Alzheimer's Los Angeles

2:45 PM Exhibit Showcase – Exhibit Hall/ Grand Foyer

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CONCURRENT WORKSHOP SESSIONS

3:45 PM Expanding Senior Nutrition Access through Strategic Partnerships – Grand F

Meals on Wheels San Diego County, in partnership with the County's Older Californians Nutrition Program, has expanded meal access and support for older adults across urban, rural, and tribal areas through Title III funding and strong community partnerships. This session highlights flexible, culturally responsive collaboration models with partners such as the George G. Glenner Alzheimer's Family Centers, San Pasqual Mission Tribe, Borrego Springs Centers, and United Women of East Africa. Participants will learn how these initiatives reduce isolation and improve nutrition among diverse older populations.

- **Delilah Bisase**, Public Health Nutrition Manager, County of San Diego Health & Human Services Agency, Aging and Independence Services
- **Keith Fisher**, Chief Operating Officer, Meals on Wheels San Diego County
- **Jana Jordan**, Chief Agency Operations, County of San Diego Health & Human Services Agency, Aging and Independence Services
- **Aisse Saab**, Associate Director, San Diego County Meal Program, Meals on Wheels San Diego County

Collaborative Partnerships for Homesharing: Bridging Affordable Housing, Care Supports, and Equity – *Grand G*

Housing instability is a growing crisis for older adults – especially women and communities of color – who face systemic inequities and rising care needs. This session highlights homesharing as a promising solution, pairing older adults with extra space and those seeking affordable housing to foster stability, mutual support, and intergenerational connection. Drawing on research from Cal State Chico, Cal State Sacramento, UC Berkeley, and multiple California homeshare organizations, panelists will share insights on participant motivations, program benefits and challenges, organizational needs, and policy lessons learned amid social and economic pressures such as funding gaps and wildfires.

- **Luke Barnesmoore**, Managing Director of Strategy, Front Porch
- **Molly Calhoun**, Associate Professor & Director of School of Social Work, California State University, Chico
- **Jenay Cottrell**, Director, Marin County Aging & Adult Services
- **Susanna Curry, PhD, MSW**, Associate Professor, California State University, Sacramento
- **Angie Perone, PhD, JD, MSW**, Assistant Professor / Director (CASAS), UC Berkeley

Opportunity to Partner: A Closer Look at California's Elder Disability Coordinating Council – *Garden 1*

Established under Initiative #93 of California's Master Plan for Aging, the Elder Disability Justice Coordinating Council (EDJCC) strengthens statewide coordination to prevent and address elder abuse, neglect, exploitation, and fraud. Modeled after the federal Elder Justice Coordinating Council but with broader multi-sector participation, the EDJCC advances collaborative, cross-system solutions. This session will highlight the Council's structure, 2025–2026 priorities, and opportunities for attendees to engage in efforts to promote safety, justice, and prevention for older adults and people with disabilities.

- **Vivianne Mbaku**, Director, Equity in Elder Justice, Justice in Aging
- **Bertha Sanchez Hayden**, Associate Vice President Justice for Seniors & Justice for Dependent Adults, Bet Tzedek Legal Services
- **Sarah Steenhausen**, Deputy Director of Policy, Research, & Engagement, California Department of Aging

How to Leverage Technology to Build Meaningful Connections with Caregivers with an Award-Winning Program – *Garden 2*

Developed by PSA 10 in partnership with Stanford during the pandemic, MyPlan is a web-based platform that supports informal caregivers of older adults through personalized resources, assessments, and training tools – now available in English and Spanish. Integrating PHQ-9 and SDOH screenings, MyPlan helps reduce caregiver isolation and stress, with reported decreases of 60% in loneliness, 32% in depression, and 9% in food insecurity. This session will share insights behind MyPlan's development, demonstrate its measurable impact, and highlight how it advances Area Plan goals and CalAIM Community Supports through expanded caregiver engagement and respite services.

- **Elizabeth Rodriguez**, Senior Director of Operations, Sourcewise
- **Adrianna Stankovich**, Program Manager, Sourcewise

4:45 PM Adjourn

GOLD SPONSORS



For Aging and Adult Services



DAY THREE: November 7

8:00 AM **Conference Registration** – *Grand Foyer*

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Networking Breakfast – *Grand Foyer*

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9:00 AM **Fireside Chat: Aging with a Disability** – *Grand Ballroom*

As more people with disabilities live longer and more older adults experience disability with age, understanding the intersection of aging and disability has never been more vital. This engaging plenary Fireside Chat unites leaders and lived-experience experts to explore how California can better align systems, policies, and services to meet a changing population – highlighting inclusive planning, accessibility in program design, and collaboration across networks to foster dignity, independence, and equity for all while envisioning a future where aging and disability are recognized as natural parts of the human experience, supported by empowered communities.

- **Lisa Hayes**, Executive Director, California Foundation for Independent Living Centers (CFILC)
- **Stanley James**, Community Member
- **Wayed Kabir**, Self-Advocate
- **Debbie Toth**, President & Chief Executive Officer, Choice in Aging
- **Janie Whiteford, MS**, Executive Director, California IHSS Consumer Alliance (CICA)

10:30 AM **Break**

10:45 AM CONCURRENT WORKSHOP SESSIONS**Advancing Caregiver Training for Alzheimer's & Dementia: Lessons from California's IHSS Workforce – Grand F**

This session highlights the Center for Caregiver Advancement's (CCA) innovative approach to training In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) caregivers in providing high-quality care for individuals with Alzheimer's and related dementias (ADRD). Developed with subject matter experts, CCA's culturally responsive curriculum blends emotional, practical, and digital learning components tailored to IHSS structures. Presenters will share outcomes, best practices, and lessons from multiple training iterations and the High Road Training Partnership for Healthcare initiative. Attendees will gain strategies for scaling caregiver education, supporting underserved workers, and improving care quality for people living with ADRD.

- **Andrea Garcia**, Director of Home Care Programs, Center for Caregiver Advancement
- **Sabrina Ullah, MSW**, Chief Program Officer, Center for Caregiver Advancement

Home is Where the Heart Is: Aging in Place Independently – Grand G

This session presents data on falls and social isolation among older adults while introducing the Aging in Place (AIP) Program, an eight-week wellness initiative for low-income seniors that delivers on-site health, nutrition, and social support directly in community housing. Emphasizing a holistic approach to aging, AIP combines seated exercise, education on safety and brain health, nutritious meal distribution, and community-building activities to promote equity and connection. Presenters will share real-world outcomes, participant feedback, and implementation tools to help attendees replicate this impactful, accessible model in their own communities.

- **Denise Johnson**, Senior Nutrition and Health Director, Council on Aging/Aging and Disability Commission for Sonoma County

PLANNING PARTNER

The California Collaborative is dedicated to promoting the dignity, health, and independence of older and disabled adults who need on long-term services and supports (LTSS). We work towards the vision of an equitable, high-quality, and sustainable system of care that enables California's older adults, individuals with disabilities, and their caregivers to thrive.

Advancing the Well-Being of Older Adults with Vision Loss through Library Services, Social Work, & Low Vision Occupational Rehabilitation – Garden 1

This session highlights a collaborative model supporting older adults with vision loss through the Braille Institute of America's comprehensive, free services – ranging from library resources and adaptive technology training to low vision occupational therapy and social work. By meeting seniors where they are, the program fosters independence, cognitive health, and connection. Presenters will share research and outcomes demonstrating improved well-being, increased use of reading tools, and strong participant satisfaction, showcasing how cross-disciplinary collaboration creates a scalable, human-centered approach to vision rehabilitation and support.

- **Lisa Lepore, MSHCA**, Director of Library Services, Braille Institute
- **Kathryn Scheuring, DScOT, OTR/L, CLVT**, Occupational Therapist, Certified Low Vision Therapist, Braille Institute
- **Hannah Thomson, LCSW**, Manager, Social Work, Braille Institute of America

Information & Assistance: The Gateway to Services and Supports – Garden 2

The California AAA Network utilizes and relies on Information & Assistance (I&A) services to assist older adults and their caregivers in finding services that will support living in the community. To better understand existing I&A infrastructure and key performance indicators, the California Department of Aging and Collaborative Consulting conducted a secondary data landscape analysis of I&A-related activities across the California AAA Network. Results show wide variability across activities, including service training standards, data collection practices, public outreach, service quality, and performance measures. As a result of this analysis, several opportunities were identified to strengthen the consistency and quality of I&A-related services statewide. In this informative session, the key findings of the landscape analysis and their implications will be discussed.

- **Miranda Kunkel, PhD, LSW**, Consultant, Collaborative Consulting
- **Denise Likar, MSW, MBA**, Deputy Director, Division of Home and Community Living, California Department of Aging

11:45 AM Break

12:00 PM Closing Remarks & Aging and Disability Time Capsule – *Grand Ballroom*

As we bring this year's conference to a close, we want to thank each of you for your energy, ideas, and commitment. We hope you've had the chance to connect with both new and longtime partners who make California's aging and disability network bold, innovative, and inclusive. Before we adjourn, take a moment to reflect on the future - your hopes, goals, or commitments for the aging and disability network. Write them down and add them to our Aging and Disability Time Capsule. C4A will hold onto your messages and share them as we continue working together to fulfill these visions between now and 2030.

- **Christina Mills**, Executive Director, California Association of Area Agencies on Aging (C4A)
- **Aneliza De Pinal**, Chief Executive Officer, Sourcewise



The C4A Watch Party is made possible through a generous contribution from Archstone Foundation, Metta Fund, and The SCAN Foundation.



12:30 PM Networking Lunch – *Grand Foyer*

Enjoy a casual taco bar lunch and connect with fellow attendees before we gather for the gubernatorial forum watch party.

1:15 PM Health Matters: A Conversation with California's Next Governor – *Grand Ballroom*

Join us for a live watch party of Health Matters: A Conversation with California's Next Governor – a first-of-its-kind, nonpartisan forum hosted by UC Riverside. This landmark event brings together leading candidates for California governor for a statewide conversation on the health and well-being of Californians.

3:00 PM Adjourn



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