

# CCASSC Agenda

April 30, 2026

Focus Topic – Adult Welfare

Hilton Gardens -601 James Way

Pismo California

## Present:

Reuben Addo

Linda Belch

Sanja Bugay

Monica Connor

David Foster

Feliza Gray

Nadia Lopez

Francena Martinez

Helen Miltiades

Jeremy Oliver

Christopher Woods

Kelly Woodard

Ali Adebisi

Tracey Belton

John Ceccoli

Jeff Dilbeck

Vanessa Frando

Katherine Harwell

Donna Lutz

Joshua Mercier

Cindy Nakagawa

Angela Sahagun

Mee Wang

Alejandra Avila

Debbie Blankenship

Christine Chung-Camacho

Devin Drake

Christa Gomez

Christine Huber

Deborah Martinez

Lito Morillo

Christopher Narez

Elisangela Vigil

Ryan Walthuis

09:00 – 09:15

**Welcome & Introductions – Christine Huber, Chair**

Christine Huber opened the meeting and welcomed all attendees.

09:15 – 09:45

**Student Stipend Presentations:**

**Ryan Walthuis, MSW – Barriers in Providing Equitable Service Delivery for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer/Questioning (LGBTQ+)**

Ryan Walthuis, MSW, presented on barriers in providing equitable service delivery for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer/Questioning (LGBTQ+) populations. He defined key terms, including LGBTQ+, gender expression, gender identity, queer, and transgender. His methods included surveys, case analysis, and review of training documents. He discussed interventions in Fresno County such as the Sexual Orientation Gender Identity and Expression (SOGIE) Task Force, learning events, and training efforts. Findings indicated that while social workers recognize the importance of gathering SOGIE data, it is not consistently recorded. Survey responses showed a need for additional training, tools, and services to better serve LGBTQ+ clients. Over half of respondents indicated understanding of SOGIE terminology and felt equipped to work with LGBTQ+ clients. There was no indication that bias among social workers was a significant barrier. Recommendations included making SOGIE data collection mandatory, expanding training, including AB 959, developing a database of LGBTQ+ providers, and increasing ongoing education and bias training. Research highlighted that LGBTQ+ youth are overrepresented in foster care and experience higher rates of homelessness and adverse outcomes.

**09:45 – 10:15**

**Alejandra Avila, MSW – Exploration of Lived Experiences of Parents Facing Housing Instability.**

Alejandra Avila, MSW, presented on the lived experiences of parents facing housing instability. She used a phenomenological approach grounded in ecological systems theory and collected data from six parents participating in reunification services. Participants ranged in age from 25 to over 45 and included five females and one male. Emerging themes included the negative impact of housing instability on parent-child relationships, financial barriers, lack of guidance, and systemic delays in reunification. She discussed ecological system influences, including environmental barriers, service navigation challenges, and broader systemic issues. She also highlighted the positive impact of AB 135 in supporting families by allowing housing support during reunification. A recommended resource shared was Homelessness is a Housing Problem by Gregg Colburn and Clayton Page Alderny.

**10:15 – 11:00**

**Adult Services Innovative Practices – Linda Belch/Group**

Aquila Corley from San Luis Obispo County discussed the Buried in Treasures program, which addresses hoarding and self-neglect through a structured support group model. The program consisted of a 16-week group with consistent participation and focused on creating a nonjudgmental environment while addressing themes of anxiety, depression, and grief associated with excessive collecting. Plans include integrating grief counseling into future cohorts.

Amanda Servin presented the Library Social Worker Program in San Luis Obispo County. This initiative involves a partnership between the library system and social services, where a social worker provides outreach to individuals experiencing homelessness and housing insecurity. The program averages approximately 90 interactions per month, with most individuals accepting services. The model includes 30, 60, and 90-day follow-ups and has also led to the development of de-escalation training for library staff.

Jeff Davis presented the Sheltering Hope program in Stanislaus County, an ACL-funded pilot providing emergency and transitional assisted living support for older adults and adults with disabilities experiencing homelessness. The program offers varying levels of care, including assisted living and memory care. To date, 34 individuals have been enrolled, with 18 transitioning to permanent housing. Challenges include extended lengths of stay and increased costs, particularly for participants with memory care needs.

**11:00 – 11:30**

**Training Academy Updates – Christine Chung-Camacho**

- Report on Training Needs Assessment (TNA) Results  
Christine Chung-Camacho reported on the Training Needs Assessment (TNA) results and ASTA training deliverables. From July 1, 2025 through March 30, 2026, Adult Services Training Academy (ASTA ) delivered 225

trainings and developed new curricula including Advanced SOP, Code of Ethics, MDT 102, Legal 101 for APS Social Workers, Navigating Conservatorships and Supported Decision Making, and Vicarious Trauma. Upcoming trainings include End of Life, Executive Leadership, Aging Veterans, and Aging with HIV.

Cindy Uetz-Nakagawa shared that ASTA received 146 survey responses, with participation from all Central counties and representation from multiple staff levels. Key findings showed high satisfaction with training quality and a preference for in-person learning, with time constraints and high caseloads identified as barriers to participation. They also discussed the continued implementation of Virtual Reality training through Embodied Labs, which has been well received, as well as updates on the Palliative Care Conference.

**11:30 – 12:00**

**State Budget Impacts and AAA Data Dashboard – Feliza Gray – Jeremy Oliver**

- **Discussion of the State Funding Formula and Potential Future Designations.**

Feliza Gray and Jeremy Oliver discussed SB 1249 and its implications for the Interstate Funding Formula (IFF), which introduces new funding factors including population age 60 and older, low income, racial and ethnic minority status, disability, and geographic isolation. These changes may significantly shift funding across Area Agencies on Aging. The implementation timeline is projected for 2029. They also discussed the development of a public-facing data dashboard by the California Department of Aging and noted challenges related to data processing timelines and interpretation.

**12:00 – 12:45**

**Lunch**

**12:45 – 01:15**

**CFCO – Group Discussion**

The group discussed Community First Choice Option (CFCO) penalties and county efforts to reduce overdue cases. While progress has been made, concerns remain regarding state calculation methodologies and administrative burden. Counties discussed operational approaches such as shared responsibility models and caseload structures. Recommendations included eliminating the CFCO penalty or maintaining it at 50 percent rather than increasing it to 100 percent, as well as advocating for additional administrative funding for IHSS intake processes.

**01:15 – 02:30**

**IHSS Impacts – Feliza Gray, Jeremy Oliver and Elise Vigil**

- HR 1 Impacts on Aging Services/State Budget Changes  
State Budget Changes Regarding Participation in Increase Hours

Feliza Gray, Jeremy Oliver, and Elise Vigil discussed HR 1 impacts and state budget changes affecting IHSS. Medi-Cal redeterminations will shift to a six-month eligibility review for certain populations starting in 2027, which may lead to increased case terminations and workload. New work requirements for adults will require participation in employment, training, or education activities, increasing administrative complexity. Changes to asset limits and eligibility criteria, including impacts to non-citizens, refugees, and asylees, were also discussed. The group reviewed system-wide impacts, noting significant IHSS caseload growth from 630,253 in 2019–2020 to 859,470 in 2024–2025. Additional concerns included residual case auto-termination, baseline authorized hours, elimination of backup provider systems, and overall strain due to an aging population.

A brief update was provided regarding the status and implementation of telehealth services.

**02:30 – 03:00**

**Faire Hearing Process – Home Safe – Linda Belch**

- **Overview State Guidance**
- **Anticipated Funding Loss/Impact/Advocacy**

Linda Belch provided an overview of new statewide requirements under SB 146, including individualized written housing plans, complaint resolution processes, and formal appeal procedures. Implementation is expected by September 2027. Anticipated challenges include operational readiness and fiscal impacts. Additional guidance from CDSS is pending.

**Adjourn**