

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF AGING**Office of the Director**

1300 National Drive, Suite 200

Sacramento, CA 95834

www.aging.ca.gov

TEL 916-419-7502

FAX 916-928-2267

TTY 1-800-735-2929



August 24, 2021

Andrew P. Burton, Chair
AAA4 Governing Board
1401 El Camino Avenue, 4th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95815

Re: "Hubs and Spokes" Network for Aging and Disability Initiative

Dear Mr. Burton,

Thank you for your letter of July 29, 2021, addressing the new Aging "Hubs and Spokes" initiative, on behalf of the Agency on Aging Area 4 (AAA4). The California Department of Aging (CDA) is happy to provide answers to the questions posed below and continue our partnership with AAA4.

As background, in support of the vision of the Governor's [Master Plan for Aging](#) (MPA), CDA is committed to continually strengthening California's leadership for an age and disability friendly state for all. MPA Initiatives 98 and 101 specifically commit to building out a "No Wrong Door" system statewide for public information and assistance for aging and disability services and supports and to revisiting California's Area Aging on Agency local leadership structures to meet the growing and changing needs and advance equity.

COVID-19 made it more apparent than ever that all California adults and families need easy access to a strong network of aging and disability services to support home and community living as we age. Now, with the Master Plan for Aging's bold goals powered by unprecedented resources provided at the state and federal level for age and disability-friendly programs and policies, there's a historic opportunity in aging and adult services to "build back better."

To advance these initiatives on leadership in aging together, CDA, alongside the California Commission on Aging (CCOA) and other partners like the California Association for Area Agencies on Aging (C4A), began in July 2021 to convene multiple engagement and discussion opportunities within the public and stakeholders to discuss how we can strengthen a "hubs and spokes" network in every community statewide. In December, CDA will share out the learnings from this six-month engagement, with possible options for legislative, budget, administrative or other modernization in 2022. We invite you to refer to CDA's [Hubs and Spokes Network](#) page for additional resources and information about the initiative and about ongoing engagement opportunities, especially the August 31st Sacramento & Central Valley Town Hall (virtual) in the Sacramento region that AAA4 serves.

1. **Q from AAA4:** *We are unclear when the public comment period on the Aging Hubs Initiative proposals will end. We have heard the end of October, and we have heard the end of December. Please clarify.*

CDA Response:

There will be four regional townhalls co-hosted with California Commission on Aging ([Sacramento & Central Valley: 8/31](#), [Bay Area & Central Coast: 9/14](#), [Rural & Remote CA: 9/28](#), and [LA & Southern California: 10/12](#)), two expert webinars with leading California researchers and public comments, and a public survey available to accept public comments through the end of October 2021. There are also stakeholder recommendations invited from the California Association of Area Agencies on Aging (C4A) and all stakeholder organizations, and we ask that those be submitted no later than October 15, 2021. CDA will collate and organize all the comments and hold a briefing in December to discuss results and recommendations for next steps. Information regarding all these engagement opportunities can be found on our [Hubs and Spokes Network webpage](#).

2. **Q from AAA4:** We are unclear which of the following organizations have officially endorsed either the 58-AAA Map or the 40-AAA Map. Please clarify.
 - a. The California Commission on Aging (CCoA)?
 - b. The California State Association of Counties (CSAC)?
 - c. The California Welfare Directors Association (CWDA)

CDA Response:

The three scenarios that have been shared to date, and posted on our [website](#), have been developed by CDA, with input from representatives for C4A and other stakeholders, as discussion concepts and/or examples of different approaches to how the aging network could be structured to best meet the needs of California and its older adults. As explained in both the documents and the webinars, these are “food for thought” and have not been endorsed by any organization, to the best of our knowledge. Any new scenario proposed for California’s adoption will be informed by the feedback of the Hubs and Spokes Initiative work and stakeholder engagement that is currently occurring and subject to formal approval process.

Questions about the organizational position of CCOA, CSAC, and CWDA can be directed to those organizations directly and we are happy to assist with connections, as needed.

3. **Q from AAA4:** In the 40-AAA scenario, can you explain what methods CDA used to suggest which multi-county AAAs should be broken apart and which should not?

CDA Response:

As mentioned above, the Hybrid scenario with 40-AAAs, is only one example of how the aging network could be structured to meet the needs of older adults across CA and deliver person-centered, coordinated, and equitable access to services. Other Hybrid scenarios are welcome.

4. **Q from AAA4:** AAA4 has two designated ADRCs (Nevada County and Yuba-Sutter counties) as well as two emerging ADRCs (Placer and Yolo counties). If AAA4 ceases to exist as a Joint Powers Agency, would local counties assume responsibility for those programs?

CDA Response:

If AAA4 ceases to exist as a Joint Power Agency, the counties in the JPA and the State would work in partnership, per governing laws and regulations, to determine the best way to deliver AAA services, including ADRC, in the respective counties and region. As the scenarios suggest, there are multiple options for the geographic area for the AAA(s) in the region, including various single-county or multi-county options. Once the area(s) is/are determined, the designation of the AAA(s) for each of those area(s), whether CBO or county, would be the next decision. Then the network of service partners and providers, including the ADRC partnership with the Independent Living Centers follows.

In the case of any such changes in structure, a comprehensive and collaborative transition plan with all parties would be developed to allow for continuity of services for the public and smooth transitions for partners. The current planning led by LA County Board of Supervisors with Los Angeles County AAA and LA City AAA, to combine their two AAA structures into a single new County Department of Aging Services and AAA, may serve as a model to other jurisdictions.

5. **Q from AAA4:** In 1978, Governor Jerry Brown requested the Department of Aging impose a moratorium to prevent the designation of additional agencies on aging until new criteria could be adopted. Could CDA simply lift the moratorium, allowing any interested jurisdiction to apply for a change of designation?

CDA Response:

CDA does not understand there to be a “moratorium” from Governor Brown’s comments in 1978 that would prohibit the Administration from considering additional aging agencies or other restructuring of the network. CDA reviewed the transcript (Hearing Transcript) from the US House of Representatives Select Committee on Aging’s April 22, 1978 hearing in the City of Long Beach and cannot confirm any formal moratorium on the creation of additional area agencies on aging (AAA). According to the Hearing Transcript, Governor Brown requested that CDA impose a temporary moratorium so that CDA could review and establish standard criteria before adding to the existing AAA network. (Hearing Transcript at p. 19.) Other than this one comment, CDA cannot find any evidence that the requested moratorium was intended to be lasting or documentation that CDA established a moratorium.

We do note that Governor Brown’s request to establish standard criteria is consistent with the goals and objectives of the Hubs and Spokes Initiative. CDA launched its Hubs and Spokes Initiative in pursuit of building a comprehensive and coordinated system of care for older Californians. As noted in the Hearing

Transcript, this is a long-standing goal that many recognized was unfulfilled 40 years ago. Governor Brown's 1978 call for a review of the AAA designation process and the establishment of new standardized criteria were a recognition of the work ahead and the need to develop a comprehensive and coordinated system. The Governor's 1978 request aligns with CDA and stakeholder's current work on the Hubs & Spokes Initiative, which seeks to build a comprehensive coordinated system through, in part, a shared framework for all AAAs. We are confident that the development of such framework and criteria will align with Governor Brown's 1978 vision; help introduce shared services and standards for California's AAAs and the networks of county, community, and health care providers to adults; and more fully support and benefit older and disabled Californians as we age.

We greatly appreciate your feedback and look forward to continuing to engage in the conversations as together we build back better a California for all ages.

Sincerely,

Kim McCoy Wade, Director
CA Department of Aging

cc: Mark Beckley
Chief Deputy Director
California Department of Aging

Sutep Laohavanich, Deputy Director
Division of Home and Community Living
California Department of Aging

Michelle Davis, Branch Chief
Community Living Branch
California Department of Aging

Pam Miller
Executive Director
Area 4 Agency on Aging

Will Tift
Assistant Director
Area 4 Agency on Aging