



# 2021 ADVOCACY DAY TALKING POINTS

## From Crisis to Recovery: Meeting the Moment With LTSS

### SUMMARY

This is a milestone moment for California and for LTSS. After a year of crisis, we come together for our second virtual Advocacy Day with a once-in-a generation opportunity to transform the way our state treats aging.

- In the aftermath of the disproportionate impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on older adults and people with disabilities particularly in low-income and disadvantaged communities, there is consensus that change can no longer wait.
- The bold vision outlined in the Master Plan for Aging (MPA) has the commitment of the Governor, his entire Administration, the Legislature and stakeholders across many sectors.
- The federal budget commits to increased HCBS investment, and federal relief and possible infrastructure funds could be invested in building a renewed, age-friendly system of care.

With a collective commitment to providing security for the state's most vulnerable – and to each of us as we age - we are well positioned to build a statewide LTSS system that protects lives, preserves independence and curbs the high-costs of long-term care.

### KEY POINTS

#### 1. THANK YOU

##### **For Saving LTSS Last Year!**

- The Legislature's leadership and restoration of funding for home and community-based support programs such as MSSP, CBAS and IHSS, proved critical to saving and supporting lives during the pandemic, wildfires and power outage crises of the past year.

*Share stories that convey how your LTSS providers and caregivers were on the frontlines of these crises right behind first responders, including how you built rapid-response networks to provide food, safe housing, technology, telemedicine, and other supports to prevent entry/re-entry into congregate*

##### **For Supporting the Master Plan for Aging**

- We applaud the leadership and commitment by the Governor, the Administration and you (Legislator) that resulted in this bold vision
- We thank you and your peers for moving forward with a substantive package of bills

*Let staff know that CCLTSS has developed an [MPA legislative tracker](#)*

*Name bills that your organization supports*

#### 2. WE ASK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT FOR SUCCESSFUL MPA IMPLEMENTATION AND OVERSIGHT

**Current [State Budget](#) provisions supporting the MPA, including our CCLTSS priorities:**

- \$5 million General Fund for spring MPA proposals;
- \$7.5 million in 2021-2022, half-year funding of \$5 million in 2022-2023 to expand ADRC networks to serve the entire state.



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**May Revise Proposal of \$250,000 for DHCS to aggregate and report out data** related to LTSS so that individuals with dual eligibility can access full LTSS.

**Hold regular legislative policy and oversight hearings** on MPA coordination and implementation progress.

**Identify opportunities to leverage federal dollars** for investment in key components of a new system of long-term care:

- Increase HCBS organizational capacity to serve areas where access is currently limited or non-existent
- Continue the Community Care Transitions program (CCT) that improves transitions from hospital to home and community settings, and reduces re-admissions
- Expand federal waiver services to assist with supportive housing placements
- Invest in HCBS workforce recruitment, retention, and training
- Allocate funds to prepare HCBS facilities for the safe return of participants
- Continue and expand telehealth and remote health monitoring technologies

**Encourage increased coordination and communication to overcome systemic silos**

- CCLTSS members were a part of the inclusive stakeholder input process and we were glad to see many of our recommendations for HCBS front and center in the plan. We welcomed the transparent and consistent communication process during the plan's development and hope to see that continue throughout implementation.
- We appreciate that the MPA creators included ways to hold themselves accountable for the vision to become a reality including: a publicly accessible Data Dashboard; the creation of a new MPA Cabinet Workgroup to jumpstart implementation; and a commitment by the Governor to appoint a Senior Advisor on Aging, Disability and Alzheimer's.
- Ask the Governor to immediately fulfill his commitment to appoint the Senior Advisor on Aging, Disability, and Alzheimer's so that implementation gets off to a coordinated start, especially between departments such as the Department of Health Care Services and the Department of Aging.

### 3. WHY IMMEDIATE ACTION ON MPA IMPLEMENTATION MATTERS

**The MPA addresses systemic gaps that proved costly to life and safety during the pandemic**, including a patchwork model of disconnected health services and non-medical social supports, an over-reliance on congregate care as a first resort, and an under-reliance on the at-home and community-based services that prevent or delay entry and re-entry into higher levels of care.

**Community-based LTSS service providers were able to meet the moment for Californians in many communities across California** by drawing upon their expertise in LTSS models that defer and/or prevent institutional placement.

*Share stories that convey how your HCBS providers and caregivers were flexible enough to meet the moment and the positive impact this had for individuals and families.*



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**Many older adults and people with disabilities remain isolated without access to critical services and supports** due to the lack of a statewide HCBS infrastructure and ineligibility under current funding structures.

**The MPA, when implemented, will result in an integrated, statewide model of** long-term care that will provide access to care and aging supports for millions more.

*Share consumer stories to reinforce why this matters and the impact it can have on individuals, families, and communities.*

#### **Investing in the vision for a new statewide long-term care model is a cornerstone for crisis recovery**

- For too long, there has been an over-emphasis on congregate care and a lack of access to LTSS for middle-income older adults and persons with disabilities
- This has resulted in an over-reliance upon unpaid family caregivers, often rendering family members without options except to leave the workforce. This situation worsened with the added pressure of COVID-19
- Investment in home and community-based LTSS will:
  - Begin to provide enough direct care workforce jobs to meet growing need
  - Enable seniors and people with disabilities to have the right supports to be a part of the workforce
  - Allow unpaid family caregivers to re-enter or remain in the workforce