

July 29, 2021

Kim McCoy Wade, Director
California Department of Aging
1300 National Drive, Suite #200
Sacramento, CA 95834-1992

RE: The Aging Hubs Initiative; Proposals to Form 40 or More AAAs

The Governing Board of AAA4 welcomes the Governor's Master Plan for Aging because systemic reform is badly needed, and more importantly, because better coordination of services at the State level will lead to better access to those services at the local level. For far too long, older adults and their families have struggled to find and access the public services they need *when* they need them most.

At the same time, we are concerned that the Aging Hubs Initiative proposals (the 40-AAA and 58-AAA Maps) appear to be moving forward on an exceptionally fast track.

Our Board members feel strongly that each County should have the freedom to decide for itself whether it wishes to remain part of Planning and Service Area 4 (PSA 4), whether it wants to form its own agency on aging, or whether it would prefer to become part of a new multi-county AAA. In addition, our collective experience tells us there is no one-size-fits-all approach when it comes to governance.

To help us better understand what decisions may have already been made and which have not, we respectfully request the Department of Aging respond to these questions.

1. 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.
2. 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)
3. 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?
4. 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?
5. 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

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AREA 4

adopted. Could CDA simply lift the moratorium, allowing any interested jurisdiction to apply for a change of designation?

Thank you in advance for your reply.

Sincerely,

Andrew P. Burton
Andrew P. Burton, Chair
AAA4 Governing Board

cc: Pamela Miller, AAA4 Executive Director
Pam Epley, AAA4 Advisory Council Chair