



Agenda Item 17:

Panel on Needs of Behavioral Health Workforce Caring for Older Adults

Facilitator: Hovik Khosrovian, Senior Policy Advisor, HCAI

Panelists

- Anni Chung, President & CEO, Self Help for the Elderly
- Sarah Steenhausen, Deputy Director of Policy, CA Department of Aging
- Debbie Toth, President & CEO, Choice in Aging

Discussion Questions

- In your experience, what are the most pressing behavioral health challenges, inequities or barriers that older adults face when trying to access behavioral health services?
- From your perspective, what are the most critical behavioral health workforce gaps?
- From a policy perspective, what challenges are limiting California's ability to build and sustain a behavioral health workforce equipped to serve older adults?
- What levers—funding, regulatory, or programmatic—could help accelerate workforce growth, especially for bilingual, culturally concordant, and rural/remote providers?
- Please share one **innovation, strategy, or best practice** you've seen make a meaningful impact in the behavioral health care of older adults.

Questions?