

**California Commission on Aging  
Operational Plan**

**Progress Report: January 2015 – December 2017**

*Approved January 8, 2018*

The California Commission on Aging (CCoA) Operational Plan covers the time period of January 2015 through December 2017. It describes the Commission’s priorities and goals and provides an overall strategic framework to guide its function in advocating for and shaping aging policies and programs that meet the needs of older Californians today and in the future. The 2015-2017 Operational Plan is consistent with statutory responsibilities as identified in Welfare and Institutions Code, Section 9200-9205.

This Progress Report identifies CCoA activities and accomplishments for the entire period January 2015 through December 2017. The Report is divided into two sections. Part 1 uses the goals of the Operational Plan as the reference point. Progress reports are provided for each Action Statement(s) under each goal. Part 2 utilizes the identified six priority areas as the reference point and identifies CCoA progress in responding to each area. Though there is occasional redundancy, this two-part-report format allows the reader to see the nexus between statutory responsibilities and CCoA’s selected priority areas.

**PART 1**

**ADVOCACY**

**GOAL 1: CCoA will identify needs that can be best met with legislative solutions and research issues for policy implications.**

- **Sponsor and take positions on state legislation and polices affecting older Californians and adults with disabilities. Progress:**
  - ✓ *Co-sponsored three legislative resolutions in 2015, one in 2016 and one in 2017.*
  - ✓ *Co-sponsored two budget augmentations in 2015, three augmentations in 2016 and one in 2017.*
  - ✓ *Co-sponsored one legislative proposal in 2016 and one in 2017.*
  - ✓ *Positioned bills: CCoA supported sixty-one bills in 2015, twenty-five bills in 2016 and forty seven in 2017.*
  - ✓ *Policy: Commented on State Housing Plan and shared draft with other aging organizations.*
  - ✓ *Topics Researched: food insecurity; home care, health care, long term care insurance, senior poverty; impact of aging, women and poverty; tax credit for food producer donations to meal programs; prescribed meals as a managed care benefit; senior center*

*infrastructure needs; caregiver issues, and alternative funding sources to assist victims of elder financial exploitation; gerontology education; dental care for older adults.*

- **Track federal issues impacting older Californians and take positions on selected federal legislation. Progress:**

- ✓ *Supported Older Americans Act reauthorization and Elder Protection and Abuse Prevention Act passage.*
- ✓ *Opposed repeal of the Affordable Care Act; opposed cuts to federal budget that would curtail or eliminate programs for older Californians; opposed Tax Reform and Jobs Act.*
- ✓ *Supported: RAISE Family Caregivers Act (S. 1028/H.R. 3759); Chronic Care Act (S.870); Elder Justice Act Reauthorization (H.R. 2639); Credit for Caring Act (S.1151 and H.R. 2505); Senior Fraud Prevention Act (S.81/HR.44)*
- ✓ *Issues Tracked: federal budget appropriations for elder services; Patient Access and Medicare Protection Act; discharge planning rules; Medicare observation status and 72 hour acute stay; Supplemental Security Restoration Act of 2015; Medicare Formulary Improvement Act; Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act of 2015; Release of Recommended Voluntary Guidelines for Adult Protective Services; Creation of the Office of Elder Justice and Adult Protective Services within Administration for Community Living.*
- ✓ *Monitored and participated in 2015 White House Conference on Aging events.*
- ✓ *Coordinated several presentations on federal policy shifts and how these might impact older Californians.*

- **Network with California Association of Area Agencies on Aging (C4A) on issues of concern to older adults and persons with disabilities. Progress:**

- ✓ *Co-sponsored with C4A budget augmentations for home delivered meal programs.*
- ✓ *Attended C4A meetings and presented on CCoA activities (ongoing).*
- ✓ *Co-sponsored C4A Annual Meeting & Allied Conference (2015, 2016 & 2017) and served on Planning Committee.*
- ✓ *Collaborated with C4A on development of 2016 Elder Abuse Awareness Month toolkit.*

**GOAL 2: CCoA is focused on assuring continuation of the network of services that is so vital to older adults.**

- **Evaluate opportunities to influence emerging policy issues. Progress:**

- ✓ *Technical assistance and support to Senate Select Committee on Aging and Long-Term Care (2015 – 2016) to promote and implement Committee recommendations.*

- ✓ *Reviewed and discussed the Gauging Aging Report by the Frameworks Institute.*
- ✓ *Participated on AARP Livable Communities Advisory Team.*
- ✓ *Participated with Leading Age California, AARP California, and The California Council of the Alzheimer's Association to identify components and financing options for a long term care insurance product for California.*
- ✓ *Participated (ongoing) in an effort to create a state coalition of disability and aging organizations focused on caregivers.*
- ✓ *Participated with West Health Institute in designing a survey of California voters to obtain general opinions on older adults and the government's role in providing services. The results will be released to the gubernatorial candidates.*
- **Partner with organizations to enhance the existing array of services. Progress:**
  - ✓ *Partner/Member of the California Collaborative for Long-Term Services and Supports working to enhance existing array of long-term care services.*
  - ✓ *Partnered with Long-Term Care Ombudsman to successfully secure increased funding.*
  - ✓ *Supported the State Alzheimer's Disease Center's successful request for funding for early detection and diagnosis.*
  - ✓ *Partnered with California Welfare Directors Association and the California Elder Justice Coalition to successfully increase funding for adult protective services training statewide.*
  - ✓ *Partnered with California Welfare Directors Association and the California Elder Justice Coalition to sponsor budget request for development of a Home Safe program to prevent homelessness for APS clients.*
  - ✓ *Partnered with C4A and Congress of California Seniors to successfully increase funding for senior nutrition programs.*
  - ✓ *Partner/Member with the Office of Emergency Services Victim's Assistance Steering Committee to develop new grant opportunities for programs assisting victims of elder abuse.*
  - ✓ *Partner with aging/long-term service advocates on Long-Term Services and Supports workgroup to develop systems change proposals.*
  - ✓ *Participate on the Partnership for Long-Term Care Task Force to design more effective public/private long-term care insurance options.*

- ✓ *Partnered with the Department of Social Services and others to plan the 2017 Elder Abuse Awareness Month event and on preparations for the 2018 Elder Abuse Awareness Month event.*

## **ADVISORY**

**GOAL 1: CCoA is included in policy and program development discussions on a wide variety of issues that affect older Californians.**

- **Identify and respond to emerging issues and concerns in a timely manner. Progress:**
  - ✓ *Statistics on senior poverty resulted in a collaboration between CCoA, California Women's Law Center and the California Commission on the Status of Women and Girls to host a statewide forum on Aging, Women and Poverty in California in 2016. A white paper was produced and distributed.*
  - ✓ *Wrote in support of the Legislature's low-income housing fund proposals and the Governor's proposal to expedite development of compliant housing projects.*
  - ✓ *CCoA's opposition to a bill to allow homeowners' association boards to bypass democratic election procedures convinced the bill's author to drop the effort.*
  - ✓ *At the federal level the Senate voted to eliminate all federal funding for the State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP), prompting CCoA to send a request to California's Congressional delegation to oppose the cut.*
- **Invite the California Department of Aging (CDA) Director or designee to participate in Commission meetings on a regular basis and as appropriate invite representatives of other state and federal entities to address the Commission. Progress:**
  - ✓ *CDA Director attended meetings to provide an update on CDA activities and state programs that impact older Californians.*
  - ✓ *Chairs and/or staff of the Assembly Aging & Long-Term Care Committee and State Senate Select Committee on Aging and Long-Term Care addressed the Commission.*
  - ✓ *Speakers at the Aging, Women & Poverty in California Forum included President pro Tempore of the California State Senate Kevin de Leon; State Senator Carol Liu, Los Angeles County Supervisor Hilda Solis and Los Angeles District Attorney Jackie Lacey.*
  - ✓ *Director of the State Alzheimer's Disease Centers addressed the Commission.*
- **Advise the State Legislature and relevant policy committees on issues pertinent to older Californians. Progress:**
  - ✓ *Participated in a Legislative Briefing coordinated by the California Collaborative of Long-Term Services and Supports.*

- ✓ *With Congress of California Seniors, sponsored a Legislative Briefing on the state's changing demographics and impact on state services and expenditures.*
- ✓ *With California Elder Justice Coalition and the Assembly Aging & Long-Term Care Committee, co-sponsored a series of Legislative Briefings on topics related to elder justice and protections.*
- ✓ *Participated with the California Collaborative for Long-Term Services and Supports in providing annual legislative briefings for budget staff.*
- ✓ *Assisted the Assembly Aging & Long-Term Care Committee Chair with coordinating three hearings during Fall of 2017. CCoA provided expert testimony at one hearing and provided public comment at a second hearing.*

**GOAL 2: CCoA will successfully fulfill its statutory responsibilities around the *State Plan on Aging*.**

- **Periodically request that CDA review with the Commission the Department's progress and assessment of use and impact of the 2013 – 2017 Plan within California. Progress:**
  - ✓ *CDA Deputy Director provided a report on the impact of the 2013-2017 State Plan on Aging.*
  - ✓ *CCoA Vice Chair facilitated three public hearings, along with the CDA staff, to gather input on the 2017-2021 State Plan on Aging.*

**INFORMATION DISSEMINATION**

**GOAL 1: CCoA will promote a well-informed senior population that is an effective and positive voice for older Californians.**

- **Communicate regularly with key stakeholders via CCoA AgeWatch, website and other digital media forums to provide accurate and timely pertinent information. Progress:**
  - ✓ *24 issues of AgeWatch were published, including special issues focused on emerging matters.*
  - ✓ *Continued inclusion of guest editorials in AgeWatch to highlight pertinent information.*
  - ✓ *Kept Commissioners informed of trending issues by regularly providing news articles, reports and other documents.*
  - ✓ *In addition, CCoA created two "postcards" for public and legislative education: one postcard focused on older adult poverty and the other on elder and dependent adult financial abuse.*

- **Sponsor and/or participate in statewide public education initiatives and events. Progress:**
  - ✓ *Co-sponsored statewide Aging, Women & Poverty in California Forum.*
  - ✓ *Attended The SCAN Foundation's Long-Term Services and Supports Summit - CCoA moderated a panel.*
  - ✓ *Helped create and implement 2016 and 2017 Senior Rally Days.*
  - ✓ *Sponsored two Legislative Breakfasts for members of the State Legislature.*
  - ✓ *Presented a workshop on preventing caregiver abuse at C4A Annual Meeting.*

**GOAL 2: CCoA will hold public hearings around the state as a means to talk directly with older adults and service providers, to gather information on senior needs and to issue summation papers on policy recommendations.**

- **Schedule a minimum of two public hearings a year. To maximize the impact of public hearings, invite organizations with an interest in the topic to become a co-sponsor. Progress:**
  - ✓ *Issues Impacting Older Americans using CSU Long Beach Gerontology Students as expert witnesses.*
  - ✓ *Challenges to Aging in Place in Rural California – both in Chico and in Modesto.*
  - ✓ *Multi-Generational Perspectives on Aging.*
  - ✓ *Working Together to Solve Older Adult Poverty – informational hearing held at C4A's Annual Meeting 2016.*
  - ✓ *Tracking the Federal Pulse of Change*
  - ✓ *Held two "open forums" – one in Modesto and one in Marin – to hear directly from older consumers, service providers and family members.*

## **INFRASTRUCTURE**

**GOAL 1: Administration provided to Triple-A Council of California (TACC) by CCoA Staff is at an appropriate level and effectively meets their needs.**

- **Work with TACC leadership to build agendas that are relevant to their work at the local level. Progress:**
  - ✓ *Regularly scheduled Executive Committee Meetings to draft TACC agendas.*

- ✓ *Provided opportunities for TACC members to participate in events in/around Sacramento including Alzheimer’s Advocacy Day, Senior Rally Days and legislative hearings.*
- ✓ *Transitioned TACC website to an “official” state website.*
- ✓ *Developed flier for TACC to publicize their tax check-off fund.*
- **Maintain updated TACC Policy Manual. Progress:**
  - ✓ *TACC Policy Manual is updated annually.*

**GOAL 2: CCoA utilizes a variety of sources to share information about its work.**

- **Semi-annually review CCoA website for updating. Progress:**
  - ✓ *Migrated CCoA website to CDA hosting to save costs, increase efficiency and timeliness.*
  - ✓ *Reformatted website to conform to new state requirements.*
  - ✓ *Reviewed website for updating during migration.*
  - ✓ *Updated home page, lead articles and photos quarterly.*
- **Update CCoA brochure as necessary and as resources allow. Progress:**
  - ✓ *Resources did not allow for the creation of a new brochure – CCoA regularly updates our “one pager” for distribution.*
- **Disseminate information about CCoA’s work through AgeWatch. Progress:**
  - ✓ *Effort is on-going*
- **Miscellaneous Administrative Actions. Progress:**
  - ✓ *Adopted the following procedures and Policies: CCoA Legislative Prioritization Procedure; Policy for bringing items to the California Commission on Aging for consideration and/or action; and CCoA Editorial Guidelines.*
  - ✓ *When a timely response is requested, the Executive Committee authorized Executive Director to respond to federal budget matters that could harm or benefit older adults through letters, web posting and/or AgeWatch.*
  - ✓ *Extended MOU with the California Foundation on Aging through 2023.*
  - ✓ *Sent letter to Senate Pro Tempore Kevin de León requesting that the Senate Select Committee on Aging and Long-Term Care be maintained.*

- ✓ *Adopted four policy areas for 2017-2019 legislative cycle: poverty, elder justice, health care and community living.*
- ✓ *Supervised a student intern for one semester.*
- ✓ *Co-sponsored an educational event on Dementia with the City of Fountain Valley.*
- ✓ *Staff was requested to make numerous presentations to community organizations.*
- ✓ *CCoA approved the January 2018- December 2020 Operational Plan.*

## **PART 2**

**The California Commission on Aging has identified six priorities for 2015 through 2017. Those areas are listed below along with a description of how CCoA has been involved with these issues.**

### **Develop a more accurate and progressive vision of aging and aging services. Progress:**

- ✓ *Adopted a CCoA Reframing Aging Initiative and approved a Statement of Purpose.*
- ✓ *Distributed Framework Institute's Reports to Commissioners who then discussed the report at several subsequent meetings. Two presentations were made to the Commissioners from a representative from Frameworks Institute and the American Society on Aging.*
- ✓ *Helped to facilitate the Reframing Aging training for a state-wide meeting of Adult Protective Service employees.*
- ✓ *Presentation on Ageism made at the Mizell Senior Center.*
- ✓ *Made two presentations on Reframing Aging.*
- ✓ *CCoA is a member of AARP's Livable Community Advisory Team to identify key issues that impede or support the development of age-friendly communities. CCoA will be partnering with AARP in 2018 to sponsor a resolution naming California as an age-friendly state.*
- ✓ *Plans are underway for a "Hollywood Takes: on Aging" roundtable in 2018.*

### **Preserve the effectiveness of the aging services continuum. Progress:**

- ✓ *Advocated for increased funding for key programs within the aging services network.*
- ✓ *Toured a Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) and learned about issues impacting the growth of these programs. Tracked CalPACE's efforts for rate restructure.*
- ✓ *Co-sponsored Senior Rally Day (2016 and 2017) as a way to call Legislators' attention to the changing demographics.*

- ✓ *Tracked and opposed federal efforts that would harm Older Californians.*

#### **Enhance community-based services and organizations. Progress:**

- ✓ *Through Commission meeting presentations, CCoA learned about innovative programs that address issues facing service providers around the state, and that could be replicated to remedy these concerns. One of the more impactful services was Stanislaus County's MOVE program.*
- ✓ *After visiting several senior/community centers each year, CCoA revisited its earlier work on senior/community center's need for upgraded infrastructure to determine feasibility of requesting one time state general funds.*
- ✓ *Became a participating member of the California Telehealth Policy Coalition.*
- ✓ *Launched an Aging, Women and Poverty Initiative. Co-sponsored a successful one-day forum on the topic and published a policy brief. The policy brief was distributed to every member of the Legislature and used to guide the CCoA's policy efforts. The initiative led to a joint effort with the Alzheimer's Association to sponsor an Alzheimer's and Women Event in January 2018.*
- ✓ *Became a participating member of the California State Family Support Coalition led by The Arc California.*

#### **Expand a trained aging service workforce. Progress:**

- ✓ *After hearing testimony at a meeting in Chico, the Commission formed an Ad Hoc Gerontology Workforce Committee. The Committee researched prior efforts to build gerontology education programs in the state and prepared a research paper documenting the need. A budget request was submitted to the Senate Budget Committee to fund a study of gerontology courses as a general education requirement.*

#### **Prevent crimes against older adults and persons with disabilities and enhance remedies for victims of such crimes. Progress:**

- ✓ *Following participation in a 2010 elder abuse summit, CCoA researched the shortage of services for elderly and dependent adult victims of financial exploitation and fraud. As a result, the Commission sponsored legislation to make Victim Compensation available to these victims and worked with the state's Victim Assistance Program to increase programs serving elder abuse victims.*
- ✓ *Co-sponsored the second statewide elder justice summit in 2015, bringing together experts from law enforcement, district attorney's offices, adult protective services, home and community based services and policy makers to identify policy solutions to improve abuse prevention and intervention. One outcome was an updated 2016 California Elder Justice Coalition's Blueprint.*

- ✓ *The Commission sponsored a series of informational “brown bag” sessions at the Capitol to educate Legislative staff about elder abuse and to identify policy recommendations.*
- ✓ *Attended a 2016 World Elder Abuse Awareness Day event in San Francisco; was a co-sponsor for the 2017 Statewide Elder Abuse Awareness Month Event and is part of the planning committee for the 2018 event. In addition, CCoA worked with Assembly members Dodd (2016) and Kalra (2017) to carry the resolution recognizing June as Elder Abuse Awareness Month in California.*
- ✓ *Created an educational postcard on Elder & Dependent Adult Financial Abuse. The postcards were distributed at the 2017 Statewide Elder Abuse Awareness Month event.*
- ✓ *Made presentations on services for elder financial abuse victims at 2017 World Elder Abuse Awareness Day events in Los Angeles and Modesto.*

**Support caregivers and their families. Progress:**

- ✓ *Co-sponsored a resolution to establish a California Task Force on Family Caregiving; worked with appointing authorities to generate a list of potential Task Force members; became a participant of the Task Force and the CCoA Executive Director was elected co-chair of the Task Force.*
- ✓ *Participated on the California Elder Justice Coalition’s Caregiver Committee.*
- ✓ *Presented a caregiver workshop at the C4A Annual Conference.*
- ✓ *Several CCoA meetings included speakers who talked about the difficulties family caregivers often experience.*
- ✓ *Participated in an effort to create a state coalition of disability and aging organizations focused on caregivers.*