

CCoA
California Commission on Aging

AGEWATCH

Lance Robertson confirmed to lead the Administration for Community Living



Assistant Secretary Lance
Robertson

Oklahoma's Director of Aging Services, Lance Robertson, was confirmed by the U.S. Senate this month to head the umbrella-structured Administration for Community Living (ACL) within the federal Department of Health and Human Services. ACL houses the Administration on Aging, the Administration on Disabilities, the Center for Integrated programs and National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research.

Assistant Secretary Robertson has earned respect across the aging services network, having led Oklahoma's aging division for 10 years and served as president of NASUAD. The appointment was praised by the National Association of States United for Aging and Disabilities (NASUAD) and the National Council on Aging (NCoA) for Robertson's knowledge of the aging and disability networks and compassion for the populations served.

Proposed federal cuts threaten progress toward older adult access to food

A new analysis by the California Budget & Policy Center (CBPC) explores the impacts of federal proposals to reduce funding for nutrition programs. According to the CBPC fact sheet, *Federal Cuts to Food Assistance Would Harm Older Californians, Many of Whom Already Struggle to Afford Enough Food*, "policy changes being pursued by the Trump Administration and Republicans in Congress threaten to inflict serious harm on older adults, and the rapid aging of California's population means that a growing number of state residents are at risk."

In July the House Appropriations Committee moved to cut the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) by \$150 billion (20%) over the next ten years, a proposal that was slightly less than the President's proposal to cut over 25% over that same period. In California, SNAP benefits – known here as CalFresh – are based on a cost of \$1.50 per meal.

CBPC predicts the proposed cuts would cause significant increases in "hunger and hardship" across the state, given the California's already-bare bones expenditures. Approximately 25% of older Californians face food insecurity today, and efforts are ongoing to increase both access to CalFresh benefits as well as to strengthen the state's commitment to older adult nutrition programs. With progress underway to reduce older adult hunger in California, the federal cuts could shift at least \$1.8 billion in costs back to the state in order to maintain CalFresh benefits at 2016 levels.

To read the full CBPC fact sheet, click [here](#).

Information from California Budget & Policy Center, Federal Cuts to Food Assistance Would Harm Older Californians, Many of Whom Already Struggle to Afford Enough Food. August 2017.

AGEWATCH is an occasional publication of the California Commission on Aging (CCoA) intended to inform, educate, and advocate. The CCoA is an independent state agency established in 1973 to serve as the principal state advocate on behalf of older Californians. The CCoA office is located at 1300 National Drive, Suite 173, Sacramento,

CA 95834. (916) 419-7591

www.ccoa.ca.gov

to Unsubscribe email coaagewatch@gmail.com

Survey results compare national AAA services, staffing and budget averages to data from individual states

The [National Survey of Area Agencies on Aging 2017 Report](#) tracks important new trends in Area Agency on Aging (AAA) programs, services and funding. The report reveals the average rates of the aging services system participation in national initiatives and compares state participation rates to the national numbers. As reported by n4a, survey data is essential for analyzing policy issues, benchmarking services, supporting requests for funding, preparing local issue briefs, speaking with funders or legislators and more.

The latest report shows that AAAs offer an average of 22 home and community-based services; 63% of AAAs participate in integrated care efforts; 70% of AAAs are involved in age-friendly, livable, or dementia-friendly community activities; 66% provide services to veterans; and 85% serve individuals with disabilities. The survey also includes individual state summaries of Area Agency sources of funding, evidence based programs, participation in integrated care opportunities, and data on staffing, volunteers, and the average annual budgets.

California AAA's budget and staffing averages appear high compared to national numbers, but are likely skewed upward by the state's large population centers in Los Angeles, San Diego and the San Francisco Bay Area. The California data shows half of all Area Agencies delivering some level of evidence based services, while less than 20% participate in an integrated care model. California's AAAs rely on the Older Americans Act for half of their funding and on state funding for another 25 percent, with a variety of sources filling in the remainder.

To read the full national report, click [here](#); then scroll down to find reports on participating states.

Information from *NASUAD Friday Update* - July 14, 2017

One-Stop Support Center for the Legal Services and Aging and Disability Community

The [National Center on Law and Elder Rights](#) (NCLER) is a new national resource center for providers of legal, aging and disability services that is focused on the legal rights of older adults. A collaborative effort of Justice in Aging, the American Bar Association Commission on Law and Aging, the National Consumer Law Center, and the Center for Social Gerontology, NCLER provides training and technical services to states and programs working to improve legal services development.

The NCLER website features a free library of training materials and webinars on basic legal topics such as Medicare, foreclosure prevention, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), and supported decision-making; and advanced legal trainings on topics that include benefits for consumers in the revised nursing facility regulations, social security overpayments and low-income clients, older adults and health care decision-making in clinical settings, reverse mortgage servicing & foreclosure: emerging issues, elder financial abuse and Medicaid denials, and elder abuse: the impact of undue influence.

Established in partnership with the federal Administration on Community Living and Administration on Aging, the NCLER resource is designed to enhance the quality, cost effectiveness, and accessibility of legal assistance and elder rights programs provided to older persons with the greatest social or economic need.

Information from the *National Center on Law and Elder Rights* website and *NASUAD Friday Update*, Friday, August 18, 2017.

Spousal Impoverishment rule expanded to cover HCBS waiver clients

Under a new Medi-Cal rule announced in July by the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS), the state's spousal impoverishment rule has been expanded to protect a broader range of individuals receiving services covered by Medi-Cal.

The new rule expands spousal impoverishment provisions to Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) waiver programs, which enable older adults or persons with disabilities who are at high risk for nursing home placement to stay at home or within their community. When one spouse in a married couple applies for an approved HCBS program, the spousal impoverishment provisions apply. As described by DHCS, the spousal impoverishment provisions allow the community spouse to retain more income and resources upon submission of a Medi-Cal application.

The changes announced by DHCS include:

- A broadened definition of an institutionalized spouse.
- Expanding spousal impoverishment provisions to IHSS beneficiaries enrolled in the Community First Choice Option (CFCO) (Many IHSS beneficiaries are enrollees in Community First choice).
- Expanding provisions to include waiver applicants on a waitlist – i.e., allowing applicants on a waitlist for the NF Waiver, Assisted Living Waiver, or other HCBS waivers to access Medi-Cal benefits under the spousal impoverishment rules.
- Allowing applicants to use a form completed by their physician indicating they meet the required medical criteria instead of a waiver program assessment to initiate Medi-Cal eligibility under spousal impoverishment provisions.
- Retroactivity for CFCO participants enrolled on or after January 1, 2014, and for those who were denied or discontinued eligibility due to delayed implementation of the new rules.

To learn more, visit the [California Advocates for Nursing Home Reform](#) website.

Information from California Advocates for Nursing Home Reform. *News & Notes July 2017*

Input requested for California Task Force on Family Caregiving Best Practices Survey

The California Task Force on Family Caregiving (established as the result of ACR 38 in 2015) would like to learn more about programs serving caregivers throughout the state. California has 4.4 million family caregivers who provide an estimated \$58 billion worth of labor each year in this role. Despite their growing ranks and essential role in supporting older adults in need of assistance, little is known about services available to meet the needs of family caregivers.

If your organization provides direct services to family caregivers in California, you are strongly encouraged to complete the survey below. Your responses are critical to improving services to family caregivers in California. (One response per organization please.) To participate in the survey, click here :https://uscollege.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_8bLPGMORUuGRAY1



Task Force members include (from L-R, front row) Kathleen Kelley, Carmen Estrada, Edie Yao, Sandi Fitzpatrick, Anat Louis, Donna Benton and back row: Robert Lesh, Eric Mercado, Les Cohen, and Douglas Moore.

California
Commission on
Aging

Paul Downey, Chair
San Diego

Ed Walsh, Vice
Chair,
Rancho Mirage

Commissioners

Joaquin Anguera,
San Diego

Cheryl Brown,
San Bernardino

Betsy Butler,
Marina del Rey

Steven Castle,
Los Angeles

Julie Conger,
Sonoma

Lucille Fisher,
San Francisco

Stuart Greenbaum,
Sacramento

Meea Kang,
Davis

Gail Nickerson,
Citrus Heights

Robert Petty,
Monterey

Kathy Randall,
San Diego

Carmen Reyes,
Whittier

Jane Rozanski,
Camarillo

Rita Saenz,
Sacramento

Sedalia Sanders,
El Centro

Jean Schulberg,
Chico

Purposeful Aging Los Angeles Launches Landmark Age- Friendly Survey



[Purposeful Aging Los Angeles](#)

(PALA) – an Age-Friendly Initiative – has launched a landmark survey to gather feedback from County and City of Los Angeles residents that will guide the development of an Age-Friendly Action Plan for 2018-2021 for the Los Angeles region.

PALA seeks to prepare the Los Angeles region for a rapidly aging population through an innovative, sustained initiative that unites public and private leadership, resources and strategies. The older adult population (65 years and above) in the Los Angeles region will double between 2010 and 2030, from approximately 1.1 million to more than 2.2 million people.

“This is an opportunity for County and City of Los Angeles residents to speak out and help us make the Los Angeles region more age-friendly, allowing people to age in place and in community,” said Cynthia Banks, Director of Los Angeles County Workforce Development, Aging and Community Services. Laura Trejo, General Manager of the City of Los Angeles Department of Aging added “We ask residents of every community in the County and City of Los Angeles to join us in changing the future of aging in our region by taking this incredibly important survey.”

The confidential PALA survey takes about 20 minutes to complete and can be filled out by anyone 18 years of age or older who resides in the County of Los Angeles. The survey is available in 10 languages* at purposefulagingla.com and will be available from mid-August through September 15, 2017. Individuals and organizations are encouraged to help promote the survey to County residents using a Toolkit available at purposefulagingla.com.

Information from Los Angeles County press release Purposeful Aging Los Angeles Launches Landmark Age-Friendly Survey, August 14, 2017.

Upcoming Events

August 28-30, 2017, 28th Annual NAPSA Conference — **Justice for All: Protecting Vulnerable Adults and 8th Annual Summit on Elder Financial Exploitation, August 31, 2017.**

[Hilton City Center](#), Milwaukee, WI. [Click here](#) for registration brochure & workshop descriptions.

September 7-8, 2017. California Commission on Aging, San Rafael. www.ccoa.ca.gov for information.

September 29, 2017. Contra Costa Senior Transportation Forum, John Muir Medical Center, Walnut Creek. 9 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. For information or to RSVP: 925-937-8311 or nsalgado@mowsos.org.

October 26, 2017. The SCAN Foundation Long-Term Services and Supports Summit, Sacramento Convention Center, Sacramento. Click [here](#) for more information.

California Commission on Aging staff:
Sandra Fitzpatrick, M.A., Executive Director
Carol Sewell, MAG, Legislative Director
Marcella Villanueva, Analyst