

CCoA
California Commission on Aging

AGE WATCH

Tribal Representatives Share Suggestions for Improving the Older Americans Act

Increased flexibility between two titles of the Older Americans Act (OAA) was one of the requests made at an OAA Reauthorization Hearing held at Potawot Health village in Arcata on September 14. Approximately 50 individuals representing at least five tribal entities provided their suggestions for changes to Title VI of the Older Americans Act. Title VI funds programs for Native Americans.

Babbie Peterson, with the Karuk Tribe, called for greater flexibility between Title III and Title VI. Charlene Storr, from United Indian Health Services, identified transportation, home repair, high prescription costs and food insecurity as priority needs of the community. Other speakers requested greater funding for senior meal programs, for caregiver programs, and for increased support for program staff. The hearing was part of the California Commission on Aging meeting and was co-sponsored by the U.S. Administration on Aging and United Indian Health Services.

The OAA is the primary means of the organization and delivery of social and nutrition services to older adults and their caregivers. Services are administered through a national network of 56 State Units on Aging, 629 Area Agencies on Aging, 244 Tribal organizations and nearly 20,000 service providers.



*Panamnik Senior Center,
Orleans, Humboldt County, CA*

Commission Co-Sponsored Legislation Signed

Governor Schwarzenegger recently signed legislation requiring marriage and family therapists, psychologists and social workers to be trained in recognizing, reporting and working with victims of elder abuse. AB 2435 (B. Lowenthal) was co-sponsored by the California Commission on Aging (CCoA), the County Welfare Directors Association of California, and the Congress of California Seniors. The legislation built on the success of last year's SB 33 (Correa), which required courses in elder abuse be included in treatment and therapy curriculum for marriage and family therapy trainees.

AGE WATCH 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

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Legislature Recognizes California Commission on Aging work on Senior Centers

By Christin Hemann

Culminating a two-year effort, the California Commission on Aging has released its Senior Center Initiative Final Report, detailing the results of an in-depth study on California's senior centers. The report reviews the findings of the three components of the initiative – a literature review, a stakeholder forum and an infrastructure survey – and offers recommendations regarding the state's senior center network.

The stakeholder forum, which was held in 2009, brought together leaders from government agencies and both nonprofit and for-profit providers of services for elders. As noted in the report, participants "developed vision statements for centers of the future, providing a road map to follow and clear ideals to guide centers forward."

For the infrastructure survey, the commission joined the Congress of California Seniors in evaluating the current capacity of the state's senior centers, as well as their energy use, telecommunications systems, accessibility and maintenance issues, and preparedness for natural disasters. The study also assessed infrastructure developments that will be needed in the future.

In response to the report, the California State Assembly Committee on Aging and Long-Term Care held an oversight hearing on June 22, 2010, to look at the needs of California's senior centers and to evaluate whether the centers will be ready for the demographic changes associated with the Baby Boom Generation. Lawmakers and advocates also will use the report to examine the need for a bond initiative similar to the California Senior Center Bond Act of 1984. The full text of the report is available on the California Commission on Aging website (www.ccoa.ca.gov/senior-cntr.htm).

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Upcoming Events

The California Senior Legislature will meet for its 30th annual session on October 25—28, 2010 in Sacramento. More information is available at www.4csl.org.

The California Association of Area Agencies on Aging (C4A) will hold its Annual Meeting and Allied Conference on November 15th—17th in Los Angeles. This year's conference will have an older adult mental health focus. Additional information is at www.c4a.info.

The California Commission on Aging will hold a joint meeting with the State Independent Living Council December 7 and 8 in Burlingame. Fernando Torres-Gil, presidential appointee to the National Council on Disability, will be the keynote speaker.

The County Welfare Director's Association of California holds its 2010 California Symposium on Poverty October 27 and 28 in Sacramento. Program and registration information is available at <http://centerforhs.net/cwda/>.

California Commission on Aging staff:
Sandra Fitzpatrick, M.A., Executive Director
Carol Sewell, Program Analyst on Aging
Marcella Lopez, Administrative Assistant