

CCoA
California Commission on Aging

AGE WATCH

Connolly Appointed Acting Director of Department of Aging

California Health & Human Service Secretary Diana Dooley has appointed Lora Connolly as Acting Director of California Department of Aging. Ms. Connolly was appointed Chief Deputy Director of the Department in 2002 and continues to serve in that role as well. She holds a Masters of Science in Gerontology with an emphasis in public policy and administration from the University of Southern California (USC).



Lora Connolly

She previously served as an Assistant Secretary at the California Health and Human Services Agency and the Chief of the Department of Health Services (DHS) Office of Long Term Care, with responsibility for the Program of All Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE), Senior Care Action Network (SCAN), and efforts to develop integrated models of care for persons with disabilities. Before coming to the Department of Health Services, Lora served as a consultant on aging and long-term care issues at the California Assembly Office of Research.

2011 NAMED "YEAR OF THE FAMILY CAREGIVER"

2011 has been designated as *Year of the Family Caregiver* by the U.S. Administration on Aging (AoA). The designation acknowledges the 10th Anniversary of the federal National Family Caregiver Support Program and the enormous value — both social and economic — of family caregivers, as well as the important work of the Caregiver Resource Centers across the Nation.

On February 2, 2011 the California Commission on Aging (CCoA) met at Asian Community Center in Sacramento for its first in a series of public hearings on the theme, *Celebrating Caregiving in California*, to coincide with the federal designation. CCoA was joined for the hearing by AoA Region XI Administrator David Ishida and Program Administrator Darrick Lam.

Testimony on caregiving programs and innovations came from Kathleen Kelly, Executive Director of the Family Caregiver Alliance; State Assembly Member Mariko Yamada; Donna Yee, PhD., Asian Community Center CEO; Ed Long, Deputy Director of California Department of Aging; and Jane Stan, Area 4 Agency on Aging Program Director. Moderating and participating in the panel was Commissioner Cheryl Phillips, Medical Director of OnLok PACE in San Francisco. The next CCoA public hearing on caregiving will be April 6, 2011 in Aptos.



Kathleen Kelly, Executive Director, Family Caregiver Alliance.

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

Donna Benton Appointed to California Commission on Aging

Donna Benton, PhD, has been appointed to the CCoA by Assembly Speaker John Perez. Dr. Benton is a Research Assistant Professor of Gerontology at USC Davis School of Gerontology. She received her graduate training in clinical psychology from the California School of Professional Psychology and was a Gero-psychological postdoctoral fellow at USC /Rancho Los Amigos Medical Center. She is a licensed clinical psychologist.

Commissioner Benton is the Director of the Los Angeles Caregiver Resource Center. Her interests include research in elder abuse and minority caregiving.

CCoA Commissioner Phillips to Take Advocacy Role With AAHSA

Commissioner Cheryl Phillips, MD, will join the American Association of Homes and Services for the Aging (AAHSA) – soon to become LeadingAge – as its new senior vice president for advocacy in Washington, D.C. Dr. Phillips was a 2005 Governor's appointee to the CCoA and delegate to the 2005 White House Conference on Aging.

Dr. Phillips currently serves as chief medical officer for On Lok Lifeways, the country's first Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) program. In this role, she provides medical leadership for On Lok's five corporations and is responsible for medical policy and overseeing all medical affairs and clinical functions for both employed and contracted medical providers. Previously, she served as the chief medical officer for Sutter Select and Medical Director, Chronic Disease Management, for the Sutter Health System. Sutter Health System is a network of doctors, hospitals and other health providers who serve more than 100 communities in Northern California.

In her new role, she will oversee the organization's public policy development, government relations and advocacy efforts to benefit AAHSA/LeadingAge's not-for-profit members and the people they serve. Dr. Phillips will officially start on May 1.



Cheryl Phillips, MD

Adapted from the American Homes and Services for the Aging press release, January 12, 2011.

State Budget Proposals Could Decimate Safety-Net Programs

As of the date of this publication, decisions are pending on funding some of the most critical programs in California's safety net. Many services to the elderly, persons with disabilities, and the poor are at risk due to the state's economic decline. Among the proposed cuts are:

- \$1.7 billion from the Medi-Cal program, including proposals to eliminate Adult Day Health Center funding, place annual caps on the number of prescriptions and doctor visits covered, and impose co-payments on several services.
- Over \$500 million from the In-Home Supportive Services program.
- Reduce the maximum SSI/SSP grant to individuals from \$845 to \$830 per month.
- Permanent reductions for developmental services of over \$750 million, with significant impacts on regional centers that coordinate community-based services for infants, children and adults with developmental disabilities.
- Elimination of the Multipurpose Senior Services Program's \$19.9 million appropriation.
- Realign a number of critical social services programs, moving them back to the counties for administration and delivery.

The Governor's proposal calls for passage of the budget by March, in order to place a number of tax measures before the voters in June.

Information taken from CDCAN Disability Action Rights Report, California Legislative Analyst, and California Healthline.

California Service Provider Elected President of the NANASP.

Paul Downey, President and CEO of Senior Community Centers of San Diego, has been elected president of the National Association of Nutrition and Aging Services Programs (NANASP), a membership organization of senior centers across the country that are dedicated to advocating for seniors in need. Downey's goal for his organization is to "reshape aging policy in this country so that all seniors have the opportunity to live healthy, independent lives without the fear of hunger or homelessness." Downey's program operates 9 congregate meal sites in San Diego County 7 days a week, as well as home delivered meals.

Senior Housing Protected by New Law

A law signed by President Obama in January will improve the Department of Housing and Urban Development's Section 202 Supportive Housing for the Elderly Program. Sponsored by Senator Herb Kohl (D-WI), chairman of the Senate Special Committee on Aging, the law will address the affordable senior housing shortage by:

- >Making it easier for owners to refinance Section 202 developments in need of rehabilitation;
- >Providing greater flexibility to owners to transform unmarketable studio apartments into rentable one-bedroom units;



- >Establishing a new project-based rental assistance program for seniors at risk of losing rental housing due to rent increases after refinancing;
- >Making it easier for owners to make health and supportive services available to residents through service-enriched housing.

More than 300,000 seniors live in 6,000 Section 202 developments across the country, with ten seniors vying for each housing unit that becomes available. It is expected that approximately 730,000 additional senior housing units will be needed by 2020 in order to address the housing needs of low-income seniors. At this point the program is not expected to meet the future demand.

Excerpted from a Senate Special Committee on Aging Press Release, December 21, 2010.

Upcoming Events

Aging Services of California will hold its Public Policy Conference on Tuesday, March 1, 2011 at the Hyatt Regency in Sacramento. More information at www.aging.org.

The Triple-A Council of California meets March 5-6, 2011 in Sacramento. Meetings are held at the Vagabond Inn, 909 Third St, and are open to the public. The current TACC president is Marge Depew of Sonora. Agendas and prior minutes can be viewed at www.4tacc.org.

California Commission on Aging holds its next meeting April 5 and 6 in Aptos. Agenda and information on prior meetings at www.ccoa.ca.gov.

The American Society on Aging's *Aging in America 2011* annual conference is scheduled for April 26—30 in San Francisco. More information at www.agingconference.org.

HHS Creates Office to Administer CLASS Act

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Health & Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius has established a new office within the Administration on Aging to implement the Community Living Assistance Services and Support (CLASS) program.

Enacted last year as part of health reform, CLASS will provide a voluntary long-term care insurance program for working individuals. Assistant Secretary for Aging Kathy Greenlee will oversee the new CLASS office. More information on CLASS is available at <http://www.advanceclass.org/>.*



National Alzheimer's Project Act Becomes Law

President Obama signed into law the [National Alzheimer's Project Act \(S. 3036, H.R. 4689\)](#) on January 4, 2011. The Act will create a national strategic Alzheimer's plan and establish an inter-agency council to work with the Secretary of Health and Human Services. For a historical perspective on the legislation, view this [chronology](#) of events from the Alzheimer's Association.

The National Alzheimer's Project Act (NAPA) is the largest legislative victory in many years for the Alzheimer cause. Over the last several years, the Alzheimer's Association has been the leading voice in urging Congress and the White House to pass the National Alzheimer's Project Act (NAPA). The National Alzheimer's Project Act will create a coordinated national plan to overcome the Alzheimer crisis and will ensure the coordination and evaluation of all national efforts in Alzheimer research, clinical care, institutional, and home - and community-based programs and their outcomes. Alzheimer's advocates were instrumental in moving NAPA through Congress. More than 50,000 e-mails, nearly 10,000 phone calls and more than 1,000 meetings by the Alzheimer's Association and its advocates led us to the historic legislative victory for the Alzheimer community. *

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