



CCoA
California Commission on Aging

AGE WATCH

Little Hoover Commission publishes recommendations on California's long-term care system

A report just released by California's Little Hoover Commission (LHC) urges the State of California to rethink its fragmented approach to long-term care services. Noting that services are delivered by 7 different state departments, the LHC report declares "The emphasis for delivering long-term care services must shift from the current unfocused piecemeal approach and toward a comprehensive, strategically managed approach. The state must develop a vision for a continuum of long-term care services that puts clients at the center, learning more about the clients to better serve them and learning more about outcomes to better manage the resources available."

The report, titled "A Long-Term Strategy for Long-Term Care," is available at www.lhc.ca.gov.

New diagnostic criteria released for Alzheimer's disease

Three expert international workgroups convened by the Alzheimer's Association and the National Institute on Aging (NIA) have issued the first new criteria and guidelines to diagnose Alzheimer's disease in 27 years. The new guidelines update, refine and broaden the widely-used 1984 guidelines published by the Alzheimer's Association and the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke.

The new guidelines refine the criteria for diagnosing mild cognitive impairment, identify a "preclinical" stage characterized by biological changes without visible or behavioral changes, and establish a framework for eventually adding [biomarker](#) benchmarks to the diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease in all of its stages. The new guidelines appear as free-access papers in *Alzheimer's and Dementia: The Journal of the Alzheimer's Association* and are available at www.alz.org/research/diagnostic_criteria/.

Excerpted from the Alzheimer's Association website alz.org / research center.

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

CCoA Executive Committee Elects New Officers

Donna Ueland, of Fresno, was elected Vice Chair of the California Commission on Aging at the Commission's April 5th meeting in Aptos. Ueland, a retired director of the Volunteer Center of Fresno County and current business owner, has served on the Commission since 2007. Ms. Ueland fills a vacancy created with the departure of Tom Rowe of Eureka.

Virgie Walker, a 2009 appointment to the CCoA, was also elected to serve as "member at large" on the Executive Committee. Ms. Walker is the executive director of People Coordinated Services in Los Angeles.

CCoA Chair Havard Staggs was elected in December, 2010.

New Partnership Between HHS, the private sector and providers set to improve patient care and lower costs for Americans

Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius has announced the launch of a new national partnership that will help save 60,000 lives by stopping millions of preventable injuries and complications in patient care over the next three years. Known as the *Partnership for Patients*, the initiative also has the potential to save up to \$35 billion in health care costs, including up to \$10 billion for Medicare. Over the next ten years, the Partnership for Patients could reduce costs to Medicare by about \$50 billion and result in billions more in Medicaid savings. Already, more than 500 hospitals, as well as physicians and nurses groups, consumer groups, and employers have pledged their commitment to the new initiative. Additional information is available at www.HealthCare.gov/center/programs/partnership.

State Budget revisions anticipated

Governor Jerry Brown is expected to release his proposed "May Revise" of the State Budget on May 15. Despite higher than anticipated income tax revenues in California, the Brown Administration is warning that additional cuts are likely.

Advocates and citizens alike are waiting for the outcome. Watch for updates in the next AgeWatch.



Keeping Everyone Safe II is focused on older driver safety

The California Highway Patrol (CHP) has launched a new public education campaign designed to help older drivers stay safe on California's roadways. *Keeping Everyone Safe II* will distribute public service announcements via television and radio, make CHP personnel available to speak on older driver safety, and to establish community-based committees to help assess the needs of the older Drivers in their communities. Funded by a grant from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, the project is designed to raise awareness about how senior drivers can drive more safely and to save lives. Additional information is available at the CHP website at the URL below:

http://www.chp.ca.gov/community/octs_v.html.



NCOA highlights older adults' economic plight with "One Away" campaign



The National Council on Aging has announced its new *One Away* campaign to highlight the economic insecurity that older Americans face. According to NCOA, more than 13 million older Americans are considered economically insecure, living on less than \$22,000 a year. A recent NCOA poll found that most Americans understand that seniors are having an especially hard time finding employment. However, most did not know that the average amount of credit card debt held by seniors is more than \$10,000, that they represent an increasing proportion of bankruptcy filings, or that many spend 25% or more of their income on out-of-pocket health care costs. The NCOA poll also found that many Americans are not aware

that there are programs to help struggling seniors. *One Away* is a national video advocacy campaign designed to spotlight the needs of disadvantaged seniors—and call for legislative and policy changes, so they can get the help they need. Learn more and watch the *One Away* videos at **OneAway.org**.

Excerpted from the National Council on Aging website (www.ncoa.org).

Upcoming Events

- Assembly Aging & Long-Term Care Committee Oversight Hearing. Subject: *What is California's Plan for Home and Community Based Services, and What are the Choices?* Tuesday, May 17 at 2:00 p.m., State Capitol, Room 127.
- May is Older Americans Month. Older Americans Month activities are listed on the Administration on Aging website http://www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/Press_Room/Observances/2011/Older_Americans.aspx.
- The California Commission on Aging will hold its next meeting on June 28-29 in San Diego. CCoA's meeting schedule is available at www.ccoa.ca.gov.

California Commission on Aging

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SAVE THE DATE !

SECOND STATEWIDE

Senior Center Forum

November 14, 2011
Los Angeles, CA

AN OPPORTUNITY FOR SENIOR CENTER STAKEHOLDERS
FROM ACROSS CALIFORNIA TO SHARE IDEAS ABOUT
THE FUTURE ROLES AND NEEDS OF CENTERS
AS WELL AS TO IDENTIFY THE POLICY IMPLICATIONS.

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