



CCoA
California Commission on Aging

AGE WATCH

CCoA LAUNCHES SENIOR CENTER INNOVATIONS PROJECT

The California Commission on Aging (CCoA) is undertaking a project to document and promote senior center innovations from around the state. Planned for distribution in November 2011, the publication will include a compilation of vignettes from around California demonstrating that centers are embracing paradigm and program shifts, moving forward with strategic plans and allowing their creativity to shine despite the economic realities facing their communities.

CCoA's report will be designed to demonstrate that despite challenging economic times, California centers have a reputation for resiliency and creativity. Regardless of their struggles to operate with diminished budgets, reduced staff, and even the possibility of closure, innovative projects abound. From creative programming to unique partnerships, centers are breaking new ground in ways that strengthen their role in the community and keep vital programs in place for older adults.

In recognition of that spirit of innovation, the CCoA's publication containing "big ideas" will show how some centers are meeting the challenge. As part of CCoA's four-year Senior Center Initiative, carried out in partnership with the Congress of California Seniors (CCS), the senior center innovations project will draw from Area Agencies on Aging nominations as well as self-nominations for innovations in the areas of governance, financing, facilities, collaborations, humanities, healthcare, wellness, etc. CCoA is seeking nominations that exhibit replicability, creativity, innovation, sustainability and deliver a positive impact on the older adult population. For further information or nominations forms, call (916) 419-7591.

Senior Center Forum Plans Moving Forward; Plenary Speakers Announced

Plans for the second CCoA/CCS Statewide Senior Center Stakeholder Forum are progressing well. The day-long event is scheduled for November 14 at the Marriott Los Angeles Downtown. The forum planning committee has selected **Colin Milner**, of the International Council on Active Aging, and **Bob Blancato**, National Coordinator of the Elder Justice Coalition, as plenary speakers. **Manoj Pardasani, Ph.D.**, one of the nation's foremost researchers into senior centers, will lead a session on demonstrating center impacts and effectiveness. All three speakers are nationally known for their extensive work on behalf of seniors.

This year's forum, *Centers of Today ... Investing in Tomorrow*, is being planned by an advisory committee of 13 senior center directors from across the state. The forum will give center representatives an opportunity to learn of national senior center trends, will validate and strengthen the role of centers in difficult economic conditions, and provide networking opportunities. Registration for the event will be FREE. Check the CCoA website for information on registration and additional information (<http://www.ccoa.ca.gov/senior-cntr.htm>).

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

Lucille Fisher Appointed to California Commission on Aging

CCoA welcomed Lucille Takesue Fisher of San Francisco last month as its newest member. Ms. Fisher is an Assistant Adjunct Professor & Project Director, Transition to Adulthood Plans Study, Family Health Care Nursing at UCSF. She has earned two bachelors degrees, two masters level degrees and a PhD in nursing from UCSF. Ms. Fisher is licensed in California as a registered nurse, a public health nurse and a clinical nurse specialist. Ms. Fisher was appointed by the Senate Rules Committee, filling a vacancy created by the completed term of Commissioner Benny Yee.



New AARP Public Policy Institute State Data Center

The AARP Public Policy Institute analyzes and publishes a wide range of state-specific data related to Americans 50+. Now, you can find it all in one place, either by state or by issue area at www.aarp.org/research/ppi/state_data/. The center incorporates data from recent PPI reports, including:

Impact of the Recession on Long-term Services and Supports by State, 2010

Data on non-Medicaid services, Medicaid long-term services and supports (LTSS), LTSS expenditures and provider payment rates, and state priorities.

Quick Health Facts 2010: State Data on Older Americans

Demographic data, health expenditures and financing, health status, Medicare enrollment, utilization and quality of services, access to care.

State Economic, Demographic and Fiscal Indicators

Economic indicators, population and poverty data, income distribution, state and local revenues, taxes and rates, state and local expenditures.

Across the States: Profiles of Long-term Care and Independent Living

Population by age cohort, locality, gender, income level, disability rates. Long-term care financing, utilization, costs, resources and trends.

Energy and Telephone Assistance in the States

Lifeline, linkup phone assistance. Low-Income Home Energy Assistance, Weatherization Assistance Programs and utility rate assistance.

State Housing Profiles

Households by race, type, family make-up, and incidence of disabilities. Characteristics of occupied units.

State Estimates of the Economic Value of Family Caregiving

Number of caregivers, economic value of caregiving, economic value relative to level of Medicaid spending.

Excerpted from AARP Public Policy Institute's Public Policy Alert, May 2011.

CMS Announces Nursing Home Compare Changes

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services has announced the posting of new information on the *Nursing Home Compare* website (<http://www.medicare.gov/NHCompare>) in compliance with requirements of the Affordable Care Act. The changes add new information allowing consumers to file complaints directly with State Survey Agencies by adding links from the Nursing Home Compare website to state agency websites and posting agency phone numbers more prominently. Those changes, implemented in April, also include a standardized complaint form consumers can print and file via fax and easy-to-find information on consumer rights, how to choose a nursing home and the Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program. The final change to be implemented this month is posting the number of verified complaints for each facility and the number of enforcement actions levied.

Excerpted from the National Consumer Voice for Quality Long-Term Care

CSU Sacramento Gerontology Students Intern at CCoA

Two student interns from the CSUS Gerontology Program will spend the remainder of 2011 working with CCoA staff on the November 2011 Senior Center Forum. Suzanne Anderson is graduate student with a strong interest in improving services available to rural elders. Alexa Vu is an undergraduate who hopes to enter the CSUS Nursing Program after completing her Gerontology degree. The pair will work with staff in planning and preparations for the 2011 forum. Ms. Anderson will take a principal role in researching and drafting the Senior Center Innovations report. Both students have volunteered their time with CCoA over the summer and will begin formal internships in the fall.

CDC Announces Availability of Community Transformation Grants

Applications are now available for Community Transformation Grants (CTGs) authorized under The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010 for state and local governmental agencies, tribes and territories, and national and community-based organizations. The CTGs will support the implementation, evaluation, and dissemination of evidence-based community preventive health activities to reduce chronic disease rates, prevent the development of secondary conditions, address health disparities, and develop a stronger evidence base for effective prevention programming. This Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) is designed to build intensive community approaches to reduce risk factors responsible for the leading causes of death and disability and to prevent and control chronic diseases in the nation. Through a competitive selection process, up to 75 communities will soon be expanding their work on disease prevention and health promotion for both youth and adults.

CALIFORNIA STATE LTC OMBUDSMAN TESTIFIES IN CONGRESS

California's State Long-Term Care Ombudsman, Joe Rodrigues, joined representatives from national aging advocacy organizations last month to brief Congressional staffers on the importance of the Older Americans Act. Organized by the Leadership Council of Aging Organizations, the briefing included representatives from the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging, the National Association of Nutrition and Aging Services Programs, and Experience Works. Rodrigues spoke in his dual roles as California's State Long-Term Care Ombudsman as well as President of the National Association of State Long-Term Care Ombudsman Programs. The briefing highlighted the critical function of OAA programs and the cost differential between providing these home- and community-based services versus nursing home or facility placement.



Joe Rodrigues, President, NASOP

In addition, Mr. Rodrigues met with House and Senate Appropriations Committee and Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee staff to discuss the President's Fiscal Year 2012 Budget request of a \$5 million increase for the Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program and the reauthorization of the Older Americans Act. Rodrigues stated "This was an excellent opportunity to educate staff and advocate for the Ombudsman Program and the residents we serve."

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LATE BREAKING NEWS - ADHC GRANTED TEMPORARY REPRIEVE

An unanticipated reprieve means that Adult Day Health Care (ADHC) centers can continue to serve MediCal-eligible patients until October 1, 2011, according to a July 14 announcement from the Brown Administration.

This latest action, however, coincides with an announcement that the federal Department of Justice (DOJ) was siding with ADHC advocates in a lawsuit to keep the program running. Although the CMS has granted authorization to end the program, DOJ filed a brief with the court supporting the role ADHC plays in complying with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements to provide services in the least restrictive setting of an individuals' choosing.

Excerpted from the CDCAN Report #150-2011 and California Healthline Capitol Desk for July 14, 2011.

STATE BUDGET CUTS IMPACT SENIOR PROGRAMS

The 2011-2012 California State Budget signed by Governor Brown includes significant cuts to health and human service programs serving seniors and persons with disabilities. Limits on MediCal covered doctor visits, new co-pays on a wide range of health care services, provider reimbursement cuts and reductions in IHSS services will all impact California's most vulnerable elders. A new briefing from The SCAN Foundation details the latest cuts and can be found at

<http://www.thescanfoundation.org/foundation-publications/fact-sheet-no-21-summary-2011-12-enacted-budget-impact-older-adults-and-peop>.

Excerpted from TSF Update: New CA Budget Fact Sheet July 14, 2011.

Upcoming Events

- Triple-A Council of California — August 24-25, Sacramento. (www.4TACC.org)
- California Commission on Aging meeting— September 13-14, Roseville.
- Senior Center Stakeholder Forum, November 14, Los Angeles
- C4A Annual Meeting and Conference, November 15 &16, in Los Angeles.

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