

CCoA
California Commission on Aging
a citizens voice within government

AGEWATCH

SCAN Foundation Summit Focuses on Long-Term Services & Supports

Changing California's system of long-term care was the focus of The SCAN Foundation's (SCAN) Long-Term Services and Supports Summit, held September 27 in Sacramento. Bringing



Bruce Chernoff, M.D.

together representatives from State Government, advocacy organizations and providers, the summit provided an opportunity for SCAN to introduce the results of its long-term care scorecard in the context of policy discussions about making services better. "...now is the time where policy solutions can focus on making California's system of care much more person-centered and better organized for individuals with needs, their family caregivers, and the providers who serve them, instead of only contemplating programmatic cuts," said Bruce Chernoff, M.D., President and CEO of The SCAN Foundation.

The SCAN Foundation is dedicated to creating a society where integrated health and human services are delivered to older adults in a setting most appropriate to their needs and with the greatest likelihood of a healthy, independent life. To

learn more about SCAN and its work, go to www.thescanfoundation.org.

Local Senior Coalition Reviews Impacts Of State and Federal Safety-net Cuts

The impact of state and federal budget cuts is the subject of a series of recent summaries released by the Senior Services Coalition of Alameda County. Distributed by the Insight Center for Community Economic Development, the information summarizes the 2011 State Budget cuts and the subsequent changes to critical safety-net programs. "The damage to California's five life-line programs has happened in a landscape of lost capacity," said Coalition Director Wendy Peterson, noting that four years of reductions have diminished or eliminated all state funding for ADHC, IHSS, SSI/SSP, MSSP and MediCal – programs that are essential to California's most vulnerable older adults and persons with disabilities. The coalition also addresses the risk of potential cuts at the federal level, where Older Americans Act programs face threats in ongoing budget deliberations. To read learn more about the coalition and to read the summaries, go to <http://seniorservicescoalition.org/urgent>.

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

CDC Recommends Seniors and Service Workers Receive Flu Vaccine.

The federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has announced the availability of the 2011-2012 flu vaccine to protect against the H3N2 virus and the H1N1 virus. Vaccinations are particularly important for high risk persons, including those age 65 and older, young children, persons with chronic health conditions and pregnant women.

For more information about this year's flu vaccine, go to <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/protect/preventing.htm>.

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OLMSTEAD AND ALZHEIMER'S ADVISORY MEMBERS SOUGHT

California Health and Human Services Agency (CHHS) is requesting nominations for people to serve on the Olmstead Advisory Committee. Membership includes seniors, persons with disabilities, advocates and provider representatives. Service on the committee is voluntary and will be compensated for necessary travel expenses. Interested individuals may submit applications by October 24, 2011 to the California Health and Human Services Agency, Olmstead Advisory Committee – Attn: Megan Juring, 1600 Ninth Street, Room 460, Sacramento, CA 95814 or by fax to (916) 654-3343.

Additionally, CHHS is requesting nominations for individuals to serve on the Alzheimer's Advisory Committee. Membership includes representation from researchers, medical and legal professionals, service providers, individuals and family members. Members serve on a voluntary basis and will be compensated for necessary travel expenses. California Health and Human Services Agency, Alzheimer's Advisory Committee – Attn: Megan Juring, 1600 Ninth Street, Room 460, Sacramento, CA 95814 also be faxed to (916) 654-3343.

Upcoming Events

Mental Health in Aging Conference; Thursday, October 20, 2011, Sacramento. *The 3R's of Elder Financial Abuse*. For information, e-mail SACMHOlderAdultCo@saccounty.net

"Dementia Care Without Drugs: A Better Approach for Long-Term Care Facilities," presented by Ombudsman Services of Northern California. Wednesday, October 26, 2011, 9:00 a.m.—3:30 p.m. Holiday Inn Capitol Plaza, Sacramento. For information, visit www.osnc.net.

Statewide Senior Center Stakeholder Forum, November 14, 2011, Los Angeles. www.ccoa.ca.gov to register.

C4A Annual Meeting and Conference. November 14-16, 2011. Marriott Los Angeles Downtown, Los Angeles. Go to www.c4a.info for more information.

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SENIOR-FOCUSED LEGISLATION APPROVED BY GOVERNOR

Governor Jerry Brown has signed a number of important bills to improve services and protections for older adults and persons with disabilities. Following is a brief list of those bills. For more information on a specific measure, go to www.leginfo.ca.gov and click on the "Bill Information" link.

- AB 69 (Beall) Senior Nutrition. Chapter 502 signed on 10/06/2011
- AB 641 (Feuer) LTC Facility Citations. Chapter 729 signed on 10/9/11.
- AB 1288 (Gordon) Public Guardians and Conservators. Chapter 370 signed on 9/30/2011.
- SB 33 (Simitian) Elder and Dependent Abuse. Chapter 372 signed on 9/13/2011.
- SB 718 (Vargas) Mandated Reporting; electronic submissions. Chapter 373 signed on 9/30/ 2011.
- SB 897 (Leno) RCFE Foreclosure Act. Chapter 376 signed on 9/30/2011.

California Commission on Aging is a citizen's advocacy body established in California's Welfare and Institutions Code as the principal advocate in State Government for older Californians. Members of the Commission are appointed by the Governor and Legislature and represent a broad range of expertise both in and outside of the field of aging. Commission meetings are held throughout the state and are open to the public. For information about the California Commission on Aging and our meeting schedule, go to www.ccoa.ca.gov.

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