

CCoA
California Commission on Aging

AGEWATCH

Connolly Named to Head California Department of Aging

Governor Brown has announced the appointment of Lora Connolly as head of the California Department of Aging. Ms. Connolly has been chief deputy director at CDA since 2002 and also served as acting director from 2004 to 2007 and from 2011 to 2012. 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.

Ms. Connolly holds a Masters of Science in Gerontology with an emphasis in public policy and administration from the University of Southern California (USC).

Legal Action Over Adult Day Health Care Continues

The legal rights advocacy organization, Disability Rights California (DRC), filed legal documents in March asking a federal district court to find the California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) in contempt for failing to comply with the settlement agreement approved in November between DHCS and the plaintiff's group representing recipients of Adult Day Health Care services. Filed on behalf of frail seniors and persons with disabilities currently authorized to receive Adult Day Health Care (ADHC) services as a Medi-Cal benefit, the suit asserts that the state failed in its duty to comprehensively assess clients for program eligibility for the new CBAS program, among other things. The March 29 federal district court hearing was postponed to April 27 for the parties to work to resolve the plaintiff's claims. A copy of the proposed order and the motion can be found on the CDCAN website at www.cdcan.us.

Information provided by CDCAN Disability Rights Report #054-2012 March 23, 2012 and the California Association of Adult Day Services.



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

60,617 Affordable Homes in California At-Risk of Conversion Due to Expiring Rent Subsidies and Maturing Mortgages

Over half of California's privately owned federally assisted housing stock is Section 8 housing. Subsidized by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Section 8 provides landlords with market rents while ensuring that residents pay no more than 30% of their incomes toward their housing. Homes with Section 236 or 221(d)(3) subsidized loans have unassisted units that are especially at-risk.

During the next decade, thousands of project-based Section 8 contracts in California will expire without any assurance of renewal by the private landlords who own them, potentially ending the subsidies that ensure affordable housing for thousands of low-income families and older adults. In the next five years alone, 60,617 apartments in 897 properties are at-risk of conversion to market rate. Among those at risk of losing Section 8 and/or Section 202/811 subsidies are 663 senior and disabled properties with a total of 31,715 units.

PROGRAM	Type	Properties	Assisted Units	Total Units	Percent of Total Assisted Units
Section 8 only	Multifamily	836	64,228	110,710	57%
Sec. 8 + Sec. 202/811	Senior/Disabled	268	16,821	17,009	15%
Sec. 8 + Sec. 515	Rural	45	2,123	2,223	2%
Sec. 8 + Sec. 236 or 221(d)(3)	Multifamily	199	15,994	19,512	14%
Sec. 236 or 221(d)(3) only	Multifamily	25	0	1,650	<1%
PRAC/202 or PRAC/811	Senior/Disabled	395	14,329	14,706	13%

Reprinted from California Housing Partnership News, March 2012

HBO Helps to Launch “Weight of the Nation” Public Health Campaign

A multi-part HBO series airing in May will launch one of the most ambitious public health campaigns on this obesity epidemic to date. With 68% of Americans over age 20 and over 31% of children either overweight or obese, this prevention and education campaign was developed through a partnership with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Institute of Medicine, the Institutes of health, the Michael & Susan Dell Foundation and Kaiser Permanente. The multi-part campaign includes four feature films airing May 14-15 on HBO, a conference in Washington DC, marketing and news outreach as well as DVD screening kits and online community action resources. To participate in the campaign:

Sign up online for e-newsletter and screening kits

TheWeightOfTheNation.HBO.com

Use the online Community Action Kit

TheWeightOfTheNation.HBO.com

Use online resources from CDC

www.CDC.gov/Obesity

Join the conversation

www.Facebook.com/TheWeightOfTheNation

For additional information, contact Rosie Bretthauer-Mueller at RBretthauer-Mueller@cdc.gov.

Submitted by AoA Region IX Administrator David Ishida

Carmen Reyes Appointed to the California Commission on Aging



The CCoA is pleased to announce the appointment of Commissioner Carmen Reyes by the Senate Rules Committee. Ms. Reyes is Center Manager and Community Relations at the Los Angeles Academic Partnership for Research in Aging in Los Angeles.

Ms. Reyes' background includes serving as Community Development Manager at the Edward R. Roybal Institute for Applied Gerontology, CSU, Los Angeles, where she established and managed the Roybal Immunization Consortium for Older Adults as well as the Roybal Fall and Injury Prevention Consortium to reduce the incidence of unintentional falls among older persons in the Latino community. She holds a BA Degree in Public Administration Criminal Justice with graduate work in Communications Studies. Ms. Reyes is also the Senior Advisor to the Los Angeles Aging Advocacy Coalition (LAAAC) and is a Fellow of the Women's Policy Institute of the Women's Foundation of California.

“FREE YOUR MIND PROJECTS” RADIO SHOW

California's Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission (MHSOAC) is now participating in an hour-long, weekly radio show that highlights Prop 63 and its many success stories. Based out of Los Angeles and heard on stations throughout California, "Free Your Mind" is produced by Brian Canning and Wendy Almas. Both have family members who have lived with serious mental illness and they know the stress of being a caregiver and dealing with depression and stress themselves. Their mission is one of awareness and education.

The 15 minute weekly segment showcases the efforts being made throughout the state, including activity at the state Capitol. The show includes interviews with decision makers, providers, clients and family members, with the remainder of the hour to originate from Los Angeles and features celebrities, non-celebrities and experts in mental health, in California and across the country. Guests to date include State Senate President Pro Tem Darrell Steinberg, Jessie Close (sister of Glenn Close), OAC Chair Dr. Larry Poaster, Stanislaus County MHSA Planning Coordinator Karen Hurley, Butte County Behavioral Health Director Anne Robin, Turning Point CEO John Buck, Alameda County Family Education and Resource Center's Annie Kim. Clients who have been served by Prop 63 programs have also been interviewed on these segments.

In conjunction with the show, the on-going social media campaign encompasses email, the website (www.freeyourmindprojects.com), Facebook and Twitter. Guests who appear on the show can have their websites linked to the Free Your Mind Projects website.

The "Free Your Mind" radio show can be heard in Sacramento on Saturday mornings at 8 a.m. on KSTE Talk 650 AM and in San Francisco on KNEW-AM 960 at 5 a.m. On Sundays it airs at 7:30 a.m. on KTLK-AM 1150 Los Angeles and KCBQ-AM 1170 San Diego at 4 p.m. The shows are posted and archived on both the MHSOAC website (www.mhsoac.ca.gov) and the Free Your Mind Projects website; shows are also streamed live on each radio station during their regularly scheduled air time.

Information provided by Michael Gardner, California Department of Mental Health

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House Budget Proposal Would Cut Senior Programs

In March the House Budget Committee released its federal budget proposal for FY13. Rep. Ryan (R-WI), chairman of the House Budget Committee, announced the proposal, which calls for reducing domestic discretionary spending by an additional \$20 billion below the cap imposed by last year's budget agreement, which would adversely affect programs that help vulnerable seniors like the Older Americans Act, senior housing, and LIHEAP. NCOA opposes the substantial cuts proposed in Medicare, Medicaid, and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (Food Stamps). The proposal has been approved by the Budget Committee and is scheduled for a House vote this week, but it's very unlikely to go anywhere in the Senate. An analysis of the House (Ryan) Budget is available at www.cbpp.org. *Excerpted from NCOA Week for March 27, 2012.*

Disaster Distress Resource Connects Callers to Local Help

A new *Disaster Distress Helpline*, funded by a Department of Health and Human Services Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) grant, was launched to respond to calls from individuals, families and communities in need of emotional assistance during times of disaster. Building on the infrastructure of the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, the Helpline's team of mental health crisis and technology experts, in collaboration with its local crisis center network members, provides support to those affected by disasters. The Helpline routes callers to a regional crisis call center, where trained staff answer calls and texts and provide assistance to those in need.

The Distress Helpline (1-800-985-5990) serves individuals and their families who are struggling to recover from any natural or man-made disaster, incident of mass violence, or any event that can cause significant psychological distress.

You can also text the Helpline by texting TalkWithUs to 66746; Spanish-speakers can text 'Hablamos.' It is also available through Facebook and Twitter. To learn more about this resource, go to <http://www.distresshelpline.org/>. *Reprinted from AoA News and Info - March 26, 2012.*

Upcoming Events

- April 24-25, 2012 -- California Commission on Aging meeting, Sacramento
- May 2-3, 2012 -- Triple-A Council of California, Sacramento
- May 7, 2012 -- LAAAC 2012 Aging Summit at the California Endowment Center featuring educational lectures and advocacy workshops. <http://laacoalition.org/> or 213-388-4444 ext. 236 for information.
- June 7, 2012 (Tentative) -- Informational Briefing on the proposed expansion of Medi-Cal managed care into traditional fee-for-service counties. State Capitol. 916-419-7591 for information.

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