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California Commission on Aging

AGEWATCH

Administration for Community Living Introduced

The re-organization of the federal Administration on Aging, the Office of Disability, and the Administration on Developmental Disabilities into the new Administration for Community Living was announced today by HHS Secretary Kathleen Sibelius.

“All Americans - including people with disabilities and seniors - should be able to live at home with the supports they need, participating in communities that value their contributions. The Obama administration and my department have long been committed to promoting community living and finding new mechanisms to help ensure that the supports people with disabilities and seniors need to live in the community are accessible.

“Today, with the creation of the new Administration for Community Living (ACL), we are reinforcing this commitment by bringing together key HHS organizations and offices dedicated to improving the lives of those with functional needs into one coordinated, focused and stronger entity.

“The ACL will include the efforts and achievements of the Administration on Aging, the Office on Disability and the Administration on Developmental Disabilities in a single agency, with enhanced policy and program support for both cross-cutting initiatives and efforts focused on the unique needs of individual groups such as children with developmental disabilities, adults with physical disabilities, or seniors, including seniors with Alzheimer's.”

According to Assistant Secretary for Aging Kathy Greenlee, creation of the ACL is reflective of the move across the nation toward system integration, but will not diminish the ability of each of the three divisions to advocate and serve their unique constituencies.

Information provided by the Department of Health and Human Services.

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UCLA Study finds a majority of paid caregivers live in poverty

Fifty-seven percent of paid Medi-Cal caregivers - and almost half of all paid caregivers in the state - have incomes that leave them in poverty or near poverty, according to the study, [*"Hidden in Plain Sight: California's Paid Medi-Cal Caregivers Are Vulnerable."*](#)

Medi-Cal is the state's public health insurance program for low-income seniors or adults with long-term illnesses or disabilities.

"Paid caregivers do a lot but get paid very little," said Geoffrey Hoffman, the study's lead author. "They play a critical and complex role caring for our aging or disabled parents, grandparents, friends and neighbors yet can earn only a little more than minimum wage."

With recent state budget cuts, the situation for caregivers is already more precarious, and it could worsen now that the state's Adult Day Health Care (ADHC) program has transitioned into a different program and if further cuts are made to In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS), Hoffman noted.

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