



California Commission on Aging

## AGEWATCH

*... as a citizen's voice in government...***California Commission on Aging turns 40: looks forward**

The California Commission on Aging (CCoA) celebrates its 40th anniversary in 2014, with plans for a year of reflection, advocacy and action. Coming on the heels of a year marked by new membership and new collaborations, the Commission's 2014 meeting schedule includes events in Sacramento, Los Angeles and Monterey.

Created by the Burton Act in 1974, the CCoA was established in the Welfare & Institutions Code to



Commissioners (L-R, from back) Stuart Greenbaum, Steven Castle, Rita Saenz, Paul Downey, Carmen Reyes, Julie Conger, Jane Rozanski, David Sanchez, Donna Benton, Bob Petty, Jean Schuldberg, Ed Walsh, (front row) Lucy Fisher, Marian Last, Bert Bettis, and Virgie Walker in April 2013. Commissioner Gail Nickerson is not pictured.

serve as California's principal advocate for older adults before the Legislature and state and federal agencies. The Commission's membership is appointed by the Governor, Senate Rules Committee and the Assembly Speaker and supported by three full-time staff.

Collaborations with such organizations as The SCAN Foundation, C4A, the California Elder Justice Coalition, the State Independent Living Council and the Archstone Foundation have strengthened the policy initiatives undertaken by the CCoA, as well as increased the breadth of the Commission's work.

"The California Commission on Aging has been a steady voice on critical issues related to providing for our state's older adults, and has built its credibility by producing real results for its constituents," Bruce Chernof, M.D. president and

CEO of The SCAN Foundation, said.

The Commission's focus for the year ahead includes:

- Build partnerships with prominent institutions to expand resources and influences.
- Advance research, convene authorities and conduct public outreach to help define the state's policies on aging.
- Support substantive programs for vulnerable populations, including elder justice, support for caregivers, diversity and equality, services for rural communities and affordable housing.
- Advocate for new workforce directives that respond to the needs of an aging population.
- Educate the public and policymakers on how to make our increased life expectancy a "longevity dividend," not a burden.

"The Commission envisions a robust statewide service system that supports older adults and their caregivers, provides resources for independent living, embraces diversity, and respects the aging process," Sandi Fitzpatrick, CCoA Executive Director said. "We are optimistic that the Commission's agenda 40 years from now will reflect considerable progress toward achieving the goal."

## Assembly Democrats release 2014 budget blueprint

A budget blueprint designed to “ensure stability and expand opportunity in California” is the goal of a budget outline released last month by the Assembly Democratic Caucus. The “Blueprint for a Responsible Budget” was announced by Assembly Speaker John Pérez and Assembly Budget Committee Chair Nancy Skinner and highlights the caucus’ priority areas.

“By following this Budget Blueprint we can ensure fiscal stability in California by establishing a real rainy day fund and building the state’s budget reserve,” Speaker Pérez said. “We can also expand opportunity by making prudent investments in job creation, job training, early childhood education and higher education. With the budget process officially beginning next month, we believe it is helpful to the people of California to show some of the key priorities that will be shaping the discussion.”

The Speaker and Assemblymember Skinner said they planned to work closely with their legislative counterparts and the Governor to approve a budget by the June 15 constitutional deadline. The Governor’s initial budget proposal is slated to be released by mid-January. To read the Blueprint, go to <http://asmdc.org/issues/budget-blueprint/>.

*Excerpted in part from Assembly Democratic Caucus press release “Speaker John A. Pérez, Budget Chair Nancy Skinner Unveil Assembly Democrats’ 2014-15 Blueprint for a Responsible Budget” Wednesday, 11 December 2013*

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## HHS Awards \$55.5 Million to Bolster America’s Health Care Workforce

Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Kathleen Sebelius recently announced \$55.5 million in funding awarded in FY 2013 to strengthen training for health professionals and increase the size of the nation’s health care workforce. More than 270 grants will address health workforce needs in nursing, public health, behavioral health, health workforce development, and dentistry. The grants are managed by HHS’ Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA).

A majority of the funding, \$45.4 million, will support nursing workforce development, with the remainder supporting training of doctoral-level psychologists to address the behavioral health needs of vulnerable and underserved populations (\$2.4 million); accredited residency programs in preventive medicine and public health (\$3 million); and four health workforce research centers (\$1.4 million) to improve understanding of both local and national health workforce needs. An additional \$3.1 million will help state designated dental health professional shortage areas develop and implement innovative programs to address dental workforce needs.

For a list of grant awards, go to [www.hrsa.gov/about/news/2013tables/healthprofessions](http://www.hrsa.gov/about/news/2013tables/healthprofessions). More information on HRSA’s activities to strengthen the nation’s health professions workforce is available at [HRSA Health Professions Programs](#).

*Excerpted in part from Department of Health and Human Services Press Release HHS awards \$55.5 million to bolster America’s health care workforce, December 5, 2013*

## Well-being of working family caregivers focus of new AARP report

The impact of numerous responsibilities on working family caregivers is the focus of a new report from the AARP Public Policy Institute and the United Hospital Fund (UHF). On top of their workplace obligations, working caregivers are tasked with such complex caregiving duties, as medication management, wound care, tracking glucose levels and blood pressure readings -- often with little or no training or support. The report, *Employed Family Caregivers Providing Complex Chronic Care*, highlights an urgent need for employers to recognize that their employees who are family caregivers are managing complex responsibilities both at home and on the job.

The second report on caregivers by UHF and AARP, the new report is the first to examine the stress levels brought on by the responsibilities of full- or part-time employment combined with high levels of care-related responsibilities at home. The new report finds that nearly half of all employed family caregivers perform medical/nursing tasks, and 61 percent report feeling stressed over the range of responsibilities.

To read the full report, visit <http://www.uhfnyc.org/news/880950>.

Information from ACL News & Info, *New Report Raises Concerns about the Well Being of Employed Family Caregivers*. Tuesday, December 17.

## National Highway Traffic Safety Administration Issues New 5-Year Traffic Safety Plan and Guidelines for Older Drivers and Passengers

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's (NHTSA) recently released *Traffic Safety for Older People – 5 Year Plan* includes best practices from around the country and countermeasures that can be implemented to ensure the safety of older drivers, including those who are at risk. The guidelines encourage state highway safety offices to work closely with driver license officials, state departments of transportation, medical providers, and aging services providers, among others.

“Given the increasing proportion of older people in the population, NHTSA must work in conjunction with its partners to provide evidence-based countermeasures to reduce risk to older – and all – road users,” the plan states.



Covering current work as well as future projects, the plan addresses a range of actions needed to improve the safety of older drivers, including data, vehicle, behavior and pedestrian safety. NHTSA recognized the need to define “older” in developing and executing a plan to improve the safety of older road users.

The newly-released plan recommends leveraging the current safety databases to analyze the issues detailed included in the plan. In addition, the plan recommends continuing to identify future data needs in the areas of crash causation, not-in-traffic surveillance, and adaptive equipment.

To view the NHTSA's plan, visit <http://www.nhtsa.gov/About+NHTSA/Press+Releases/NHTSA+Announces+New+5-Year+Traffic+Safety+Plan+and+Guidelines+for+Older+Drivers+and+Passengers>

Information from ACL News & Info, *New Report Raises Concerns about the Well Being of Employed Family Caregivers*. Tuesday, December 17.

**California  
Commission on Aging**

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Marian Last,  
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San Francisco

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Chico

Ed Walsh,  
Rancho Mirage

## Older Americans Month theme announced

Each May, the nation celebrates Older Americans Month to recognize older Americans for their contributions and provide them with information to help them stay healthy and active. For 2014, the Administration for Community Living (ACL) has focused on injury prevention with the theme *Safe Today. Healthy Tomorrow*.

Older adults are at a much higher risk of unintentional injury and even death than the rest of the population. Unintentional injuries to this population result in millions of medically treated injuries and more than 30,000 deaths every year. With a focus on safety during Older Americans Month, the ACL plans to use this opportunity to raise awareness about this critical issue. By taking control of their safety, older Americans can live longer, healthier lives.

Information to help your organization celebrate Older Americans Month will be coming soon!

Excerpted from *ACL News & Info*, Tuesday, December 17, 2013



## Report Examines Readiness for Care Coordination in Five States

A new report from the AARP Public Policy Institute examines adequacy of the care coordination and provider network to deliver safe, high-quality managed long-term services and supports (LTSS).

The report reviews the approach to care coordination in five states: Arizona, Minnesota, Tennessee, Texas and Wisconsin. Though each of the states has a unique approach to ensuring managed care organizations are ready to provide care to consumers in their state, several similar themes emerged: (a) the need for robust information technology systems; (b) the importance of partnering with contracted managed care organizations while, at the same time, conducting effective oversight; (c) the importance of some level of state involvement in care coordinator training; (d) the usefulness of benchmarks to measure network adequacy; and (e) the importance of ongoing state oversight.

<http://www.aarp.org/health/medicare-insurance/info-12-2013/the-readiness-review-process-AARP-ppi-ltc.html> to access the full report.

Excerpted from NASUAD Friday Update - January 3, 2014

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## Upcoming Events

January 10, Governor's 2014-15 Budget Release, Sacramento [www.dof.ca.gov](http://www.dof.ca.gov)

January 13-14, California Commission on Aging, Sacramento [www.ccoa.ca.gov](http://www.ccoa.ca.gov)

February 25 - 26, Triple-A Council of California, Sacramento [www.4tacc.org](http://www.4tacc.org)

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