



California Commission on Aging

AGEWATCH

*... as a citizen's voice in government...***CCoA hosts early WHCoA listening session in Sacramento**

The California Commission on Aging hosted a White House Conference on Aging (WHCoA) listening session in September, holding the second session in the state since the appointment of WHCoA Executive Director Nora Super. Super came to Sacramento for the Commission meeting and The SCAN Foundation's 2014 California Long-Term Services and Supports Summit the following day.



WHCoA Listening Sessions provide a forum for public input into both the content of the 2015 event, as well as the best conference format to reach older adults and their service providers through technology and regional events. The Commission on Aging members and audience members had the opportunity to share concerns regarding elder justice, the future of senior centers, innovative care models, and service for elders in rural areas. Super gathered input on long-term service and supports at The SCAN Foundation event.

Updates on WHCoA plans and future listening sessions is available on the WHCoA website, at <http://www.whitehouseconferenceonaging.gov/>. Visitors to the website are invited to sign up for weekly updates, explore ways to get involved, and to post information on their own listening events.



David Ishida of ACL Region IX, WHCoA Executive Director Nora Super and CCoA Chair Virgie Walker

AGEWATCH 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.

Senate Select Committee tours innovative aging programs

The Senate Select Committee on Aging and Long-Term Care focused on model programs and best practices in its *2014 Pathways Statewide Bus Tour: Innovation in Aging and LTSS* this month.

During the three-day tour, Chair Carol Liu visited innovative programs providing senior living and services in a variety of settings.

The tour included visits to the Pasadena Senior Center, a senior residence/artists' colony in Hollywood, the Veterans Home of California in Yountville, and the Institute on Aging in San Francisco, where the group toured the PACE program and learned about a partnership between IOA and the Health Plan of San Mateo.



CCoA Executive Director Sandi Fitzpatrick (L) and Commissioner Lucy Fisher visit with Senator Carol Liu (R) at San Francisco's Institute on Aging.

CMS to Strengthen nursing home rating system

The federal government has announced substantial changes to the government's five-star rating program for nursing homes known as "Nursing Home Compare," a widely used consumer tool that has been criticized for its reliance on self-reported, unverified data.

According to a New York Times report, the Nursing Home Compare ratings "relied so heavily on unverified and incomplete information that even homes with a documented history of quality problems were earning top ratings. The number of homes with above-average ratings has increased significantly since the program began: In 2009, 37 percent of homes received four- or five-star ratings. By 2013, nearly half did."

Beginning in January 2015, the ratings system, which includes self-reported staffing and quality indicators, will convert to a quarterly electronic system that allows staffing-level reports to be cross-checked against payroll data. Additionally, a nationwide auditing program will be implemented to assess the accuracy of quality measures and the percentage of patients given antipsychotic drugs will be factored into the ratings system.

A fact sheet that details changes to both nursing home and home care ratings and regulation is available on the White House Press Office website at www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2014/10/06/fact-sheet-administration-announces-new-executive-actions-improve-quality.

Information from Business Day |NYT Now, Medicare Revises Nursing Home Rating System, Oct. 6, 2014, and White House Press Release, FACT SHEET: Administration Announces New Executive Actions to Improve Quality of Care for Medicare Beneficiaries, October 6, 2014.

CFPB releases Spanish-language resources to help Hispanic elderly avoid scams

Elder financial exploitation crosses all social, economic and cultural boundaries. Older Hispanics, like other older adults, increasingly are targets of financial abuse and scams by a broad spectrum of perpetrators. A 2012 study found that 17 percent of Hispanic seniors are victims of financial exploitation, and that limited English proficiency is a factor that contributes to the vulnerability of older Hispanics.

Nearly 1.5 million – or two-in-five- older Hispanics have limited English language proficiency and speak Spanish only. Their limited access to trusted information and resources in Spanish hampers their ability to detect, respond to and report abuse.

The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) has developed Spanish versions of two resources that can help Spanish-speaking seniors, their family members and other caregivers, and the professionals and organizations that work with them:

Money Smart para Adultos Mayores (Money Smart for Older Adults) – an educational program with the FDIC that teaches older adults and their caregivers how to spot scams and frauds, and prevent financial exploitation. The translated guide can be used as a self-study guide or delivered as a training in a group setting.

Cómo Administrar el Dinero de Otras Personas (Managing Someone Else's Money) – a set of four guides for financial caregivers—government fiduciaries, agents under power of attorney, guardians of property and trustees—to help them understand their duties, and how to prevent and respond to financial exploitation.

These resources are available in English and Spanish for download and free print copies are also available.

Reprinted from the CFPB Blog, Tuesday, Oct. 7, 2014.

<http://www.consumerfinance.gov/blog/resources-in-spanish-that-could-help-thousands-of-older-hispanics-spot-financial-exploitation-and-scams/>



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New report outlines the needs and concerns of LGBT older adults

Out and Visible: The Experiences and Attitudes of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Older Adults, Ages 45-75 examines the values, needs, wants and lifestyle preferences of LGBT older people. This study explores the aging realities of LGBT people, as well as their fears, beliefs, behaviors and aspirations in areas such as healthcare, finance and retirement, support systems, housing and sources of information.

<http://www.sageusa.org/resources/outandvisible.cfm> to download the full report.
NASUAD Friday Update, October 17, 2014



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Mixed Bag So Far for Duals Program: Some Glad, Some Livid, Most Confused

In a *California Healthline* report by Rachel Dornhelm, experts discussed the promise and pitfalls of the state's rollout of Cal MediConnect, which offers 456,000 Californians who are dually eligible for Medicare and Medi-Cal a new pilot program of coordinated care through a Medi-Cal managed care plan. The state is about halfway through the passive enrollment process and, so far, about a third of participants have opted out of the program.

The report includes comments from:

Kathryn Kietzman, research scientist at the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research;
Kevin Prindiville, executive director of the National Senior Citizens Law Center;
Teresa Strauss and her dual-eligible mother Maria Salim from Los Angeles; and
Norman Williams, deputy director of public affairs at the Department of Health Care Services

To read the full report, visit <http://www.californiahealthline.org/insight/2014/mixed-bag-so-far-for-duals-program-some-glad-some-livid-most-confused>

Reprinted from California Health Care Foundation, California Healthline, October 8, 2014

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Upcoming Events

October 30, 2014. *Mental Health & Aging Conference*. Sacramento Mental Health Older Adult Coalition. Information and registration: www.sacmhac.net.

November 3, 2014. *Working together to PREVENT ELDER FINANCIAL ABUSE on the Central Coast of California*. San Luis Obispo City/County Library Community Room. www.elderfinancialprotection.org for information and registration.

November 19- 20, 2014 -- California Commission on Aging, Sheraton Gateway Los Angeles Hotel, Los Angeles. Information at www.ccoa.ca.gov

November 19, 2014 -- California Mental Health and Aging Coalition Town Hall Meeting, *Behavioral Health Care Integration under the CCI*, Sheraton Gateway Los Angeles Hotel. For information and registration, e-mail Viviana Criado at viviana.criado@gmail.com.

November 19-21, 2014, 2014 C4A Annual Meeting and Allied Conference - Sheraton Gateway Los Angeles Hotel, Los Angeles, <http://c4aregistration.info/>

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