

**LAAAC**

Los Angeles Aging Advocacy Coalition

The [Los Angeles Aging Advocacy Coalition](#) is a member of [The SCAN Foundation's Community of Constituents Initiative](#), which is a statewide movement to transform the system of long-term care so that all Californians can age with dignity, choice, and independence. The Community of Constituents Includes the Sacramento-based [California Collaborative on Long-Term Services and Supports](#) and 21 county-based regional coalitions. Together, we are working to improve health care and supportive services for older adults and people with disabilities.

The purpose of this update is to give Aging Advocacy Coalition members brief highlights on what we and our Community of Constituents partners in Southern California are working on this quarter.

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## Aging Advocacy Coalition Updates

The Los Angeles Aging Advocacy Coalition seeks to build a formal and united alliance to:

- **Inform** elected and appointed officials, and policy makers on issues affecting aging adults
- **Educate** our members and community through enriched training and informational opportunities
- **Engage** in the planning, design and implementation of policy advocacy, while providing a forum to promote professional networking and cross sector collaborations that support our advocacy efforts

**Mission:** To advocate for, preserve, protect and enrich the quality of life for older persons, their families and caregivers in Los Angeles County by forging joint advocacy efforts to influence fiscal and public policy in the field of aging.

**Purpose:** To function as a common meeting ground for professionals, advocates and others interested in the field of aging.

**Guiding Principles:** The primary guiding principles of LAAAC are to **Inform, Educate, and Engage.**

### Upcoming Activities

#### **Policy Makers Roundtable**

Are you interested in developing solutions for aging in place?

Do you want a policy maker you know to champion aging issues?

Are you committed to aging advocacy?

**Contact LAAAC to get involved in a series of Policy Maker Roundtables scheduled for Fall 2017.**

#### **8th Annual Summit on Aging**

The 8th Annual Summit will be held on Friday, June 2, at the USC Tutor Center Ballroom. The theme of this year's conference will be "Living & Thriving," focusing on the personal experiences of aging in Los Angeles, as well as the Purposeful Aging LA initiative led by L.A. City Mayor, Eric Garcetti and L.A. County Board Supervisor Hilda Solis.

The Summit on Aging will feature an art exhibit depicting aging in Los Angeles, presented by KCRW and the "Going Grey in LA" series.

Additionally, two expert panels will focus on local implications under President Trump's Administration, and the importance of building alliances with nontraditional advocacy partners, such as groups focused on immigration, labor, and the faith-based community.

### Past Activities

#### **Affordable Housing**

In January, LAAAC – in partnership with LeadingAge California – hosted an affordable housing conference to educate about the need for older adult affordable housing. The 1-day conference brought stakeholders together and started conversations around the senior housing crisis. A Policy Action Team was created that will focus on working with policy makers to develop solutions. Some 180 people attended representing housing, policy makers, services, healthcare and advocates. Participants noted key statistics:

- The UCLA Center for Health Policy reported:

- 250,000 L.A. County older adults living on the edge of homelessness due to income levels and rising rents.
- 80,000 older adults with incomes levels below 200% federal poverty level.
- St. Barnabas Senior Services reported 7 out of every 10 seniors in case management have a housing related issue. They are also seeing 10 new seniors per month who will be homeless in 1 year due to rising rents, and no housing stock available at their income level.

The first Policy Action Team meeting convened on Friday, April 7. Twenty people, representing 17 organizations spanning health, housing and services have committed to: developing and executing policy advocacy; working together to create cross sector collaborations and engaging in leadership amongst older adult issues around health and housing.

### **Legislative and Advocacy Visits**

LAAAC continues to work on advancing the policy agenda through meetings with key elected officials and local stakeholders. Meetings with Congressman Adam Schiff regarding the ACA and immigration orders, Senator Kevin DeLeon's office regarding the creation of a standing Senate Committee on Aging (to replace the select committee chaired by former Senator Carol Liu of the 25th district), have been held.

Meetings regarding the affordable housing crisis were held with Supervisor Hilda Solis' office, Supervisor Sheila Kuehl's office, the Corporation for Supportive Housing, Menorah Housing Foundation, USC Housing researchers, LeadingAge California, and many others. LAAAC also continues to work with Justice in Aging (JIA) and the Coordinated Care Initiative (CCI) Communications Workgroup on CCI factsheets and trainings. We created a Benefits of Care Coordination flier, and 20,000 copies were distributed through both city and county Area Agencies on Aging congregate and home-delivered meals programs. In addition, a new health plan transportation benefit resource flier was created and distributed to stakeholders. Also, through a partnership with JIA, a CCI anti-discrimination training was held for providers.

To learn more about and/or join the Los Angeles Aging Advocacy Coalition, please visit <http://laaacoalition.org> or contact Brandi Orton at [borton@sbss.org](mailto:borton@sbss.org)



The California Collaborative for Long Term Services and Supports is a coalition of 32 statewide organizations that promote dignity and independence in long-term living for seniors and people with disabilities. Member organizations represent consumers, providers, advocates, labor and insurers.

Founded in 2011, the Collaborative convenes twice monthly to sponsor high-level discussions with experts on budget, policy and program issues that impact the system and services that supports millions of older and disabled Californians to live safely in their homes rather than in institutional settings. The Collaborative works to foster understanding among members about the importance of all of the components of the system; to educate policymakers about the needs of seniors and people with disabilities; to develop policy solutions and recommendations for improvements; and to support members in their advocacy on behalf of the programs and services that are the backbone of the system of care.

The Collaborative has been involved in the development of California's Coordinated Care Initiative since its inception, and continues to work with state and federal officials as well as the Legislature, health plans and regional advocates on this signature program. It regularly considers LTSS legislation and budget issues and has recently focused meetings on the impacts of the aging demographic, California's housing crisis, and the needs of the Alzheimer's population.

Although the Collaborative was primarily designed to impact state policy, in 2017 it has also expanded its agenda to include system-changing federal policy developments, including the repeal of the Affordable Care Act, block granting or per capita caps in Medicaid, the impact of the proposed American Health Care Act and federal budget impacts on seniors and people with disabilities. You can find more about the Collaborative and its work at [www.ccltss.org](http://www.ccltss.org) or follow the conversation on twitter @CaCollabLTSS.

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## Community of Constituents Partner Updates

[Santa Barbara Aging & Adult Network](#)

The Santa Barbara County Adult & Aging Network (AAN) is focusing on identifying and exploring coalition priorities in order to begin developing a policy agenda and communication plan. Affordable and accessible housing, mental health services, caregiver support and workforce development have emerged as top concerns, along with the need to increase the level of basic services to meet the needs of a growing senior population. AAN is also reaching out to a new health care collaborative that is beginning to mobilize efforts to improve population health and whole person care.

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### [Independent Living Workgroup of Kern County](#)

Members from the Independent Living Workgroup of Kern County will be participating in the annual Elder Abuse Conference hosted by Kern County Aging and Adult Services. The Workgroup is also in discussion with the Central Valley LTSS Coalition on efforts to improve health and quality of life for seniors and people with disabilities in the San Joaquin Valley.

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### [Central Valley LTSS Coalition](#)

The Central Valley Long Term Support and Services Coalition (CVLTSS) mission is to promote service coordination for dependent adults through multidisciplinary approach to the development of programs that directly support workers handling older adult abuse cases. It includes members from protective agencies, social services agencies, legal services, senior services, private attorneys, and advocates. CVLTSS is in discussion with the Independent Living Workgroup of Kern County on efforts to improve health and quality of life for seniors and people with disabilities in the San Joaquin Valley.

### [Inland Empire LTSS Coalition](#)

In 2016, the IE LTSS Coalition focused on strategies to increase member participation, and engage new partners. This included a partnership with the Loma Linda University Institute for Health Policy and Leadership. The Institute is providing policy training for Coalition members and supporting the development of policy-focused products and activities to help advance the Coalition's mission. This included the development of a Public Policy Committee, which finalized the Coalition's 2017 policy agenda.

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### [Orange County Aging Services Collaborative](#)

The Orange County Aging Services Collaborative (OCASC) surveyed and collected over 700 **OC Senior Living Needs surveys for 2016** from seniors that voiced their opinions on

their wants, needs, and concerns they have as they age in Orange County. In addition, OCASC hosted their **3rd Annual Leadership Forum on Aging** on April 21st, and highlighted policy in aging on federal, state, and local levels, including the **Orange County Strategic Plan for Aging** Initiative.

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### [San Diego Long Term Care Integration Project](#)

The Long Term Care Integration Project (LTCIP) in San Diego is busy preparing for changes to the Coordinated Care Initiative (CCI), including exploring how changes might impact local services and In-Home Supportive Services program recipients. In March, San Diego concluded its Community-based Care Transitions Program (CCTP), having served over 58,000 Medicare beneficiaries and reduced the 30-day, all-cause re-admission rate from 16.2% to 9.9%. Last fall, AIS was awarded a \$1 million grant to improve the dementia-capability of the local service system, including screening, respite care and training for all families.

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### [Ventura Hospital to Home Alliance](#)

The Ventura County Hospital to Home Alliance (Alliance) consists of a unique body of health care providers whose mission is to work together as collaborators instead of competitors in order to improve quality health care across the continuum. The Hospital to Home Alliance provided public testimony at the Ventura County Area Agency on Aging's Public Hearing regarding the need for behavioral health services for older adults; support for the Dementia Friendly Ventura County Initiative; and integration of long-term services and supports (LTSS) community care coordination into the health care continuum. Also, the Camarillo Health Care District, the Alliance's CBO representative, has been selected as an Early Adopter of the National Committee on Quality Assurance (NCQA) LTSS Case Management Accreditation.

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To get involved or to learn more about the [Los Angeles Aging Advocacy Network](#), visit our [webpage](#) or contact us!

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