

CCoA
California Commission on Aging

AGEWATCH

State Commission on Aging elects officers to 2nd term; Paul Downey continues as Chair and Ed Walsh as Vice Chair



CCoA Chair
Paul Downey

The California Commission on Aging last month re-elected Paul Downey to his second term as chair and Ed Walsh to serve a second term as Vice Chair. Commissioner Downey, who is President and CEO of Serving Seniors in San Diego, was appointed to the Commission in 2012 by former Assembly Speaker Toni Atkins. He currently serves on the board of the American Society of Aging, is a past president of the National Association of Nutrition and Aging Service Programs, and was a President's nominee to the 2015 White House Conference on Aging.

Commissioner Ed Walsh is a 2013 Governor's appointee to the Commission. He retired in 2012 as director of the Riverside County Office on Aging and has an extensive resume in managing an array of aging programs, including the Multipurpose Senior Service Program, Los Angeles County Integrated Care Management Project, and working as a social work consultant for older adults. He is a member of the National Association of Social Workers, the American Society on Aging, and currently serves on the board of The Joslyn Center.



CCoA Vice Chair
Ed Walsh

The Commission elected Betsy Butler, Jean Schulberg, Rita Saenz, Jane Rozanski, and Meea Kang to serve as 2017 members-at-large.

Older Americans Month 2017 Theme Announced



The Administration on Aging has announced the theme for Older American's Month 2017. The theme, *Age Out Loud*, is intended to give aging a new voice—one that reflects what today's older adults have to say about aging.

The 2017 theme gives advocates an opportunity to shine a light on many important issues and trends in the field of aging. More than ever before, older Americans are working longer, trying new things, and engaging in their communities. What it means to age has changed, and OAM 2017 is a perfect opportunity to recognize and celebrate what getting older looks like today.

In May, AoA and ACL will amplify the many voices of older Americans and raise awareness of vital aging issues across the country. Join us as we speak up and out loud for OAM! To start promoting online, use the official hashtags **#OAM17** and **#AgeOutLoud**. To learn more, click [here](#).

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

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Federal Budget decisions delayed until 2017

Congress postponed final action on a 2017 federal budget this month, instead passing a Continuing Resolution (CR) to fund the federal government into the spring. This second Continuing Resolution approved this fall maintains level funding for all Older Americans Act programs through April 28. Just like an earlier CR, the new resolution makes minimal across-the-board cuts to keep overall funding under the current budget caps, but makes a significant investment in veterans' health services. This means FY17 funding won't be finalized until 7 months into the fiscal year, when Congress should be starting the FY18 budget. These delays make it challenging for state and local organizations to make plans and deliver services efficiently to the vulnerable populations who rely on them.

To learn review the proposed 2017 federal budget figures, click [here](#).

Excerpted from NCOA Newsletter, *Watch this for some Straight Talk*, Dec. 14, 2016.

Holiday visits offer opportunity to spot signs and respond to elder abuse



The holiday season is a joyous time of the year that unites family who live at a distance. These visits present opportunities to have long overdue conversations and assess what supports our elderly loved ones need to safely age in place.

Given that 1 in 10 older Americans are abused and neglected, the National Center on Elder Abuse wants everyone to know what they should be looking for when visiting elderly loved ones to ensure that they are aging with respect and dignity.

The National Center on Elder Abuse factsheet "[Home for the Holidays](#)" provides a helpful checklist of things to consider discussing with loved ones, warning signs to keep in mind, and how to respond when loved ones are at risk of being abused.

Reprinted from NCEA's ELDERABUSE@LIST.NIH.GOV, **Subject:** [NCEAELDERABUSE] Home for the Holidays Factsheet, November, 2016.

Triple-A Council elects new officers for 2016-2017



Eileen Bostwick, TACC President

Eileen Bostwick of Ukiah and Gloria Sanchez of Menifee were elected earlier this year to lead the Triple-A Council of California (TACC). Serving as president and vice president, respectively, the two will help plan and direct the programming and discussions of the 33-member advisory body.

Administered by the California Commission on Aging, TACC is established by the Older Californians Act to provide education and training to the advisory councils serving the 33 Area Agencies on Aging. TACC meets quarterly in Sacramento. The organization is funded through contributions to the **California Seniors Special Fund (Code 400)** on your California income tax forms.



Gloria Sanchez, Vice President

New Report Previews Disability Rates for California's Older Adults

A new report from California's Legislative Analyst (LAO) predicts challenges to the state's system of long-term services and supports (LTSS) with the coming growth of the senior population and an even greater increase in their rates of disability.

With the population expected to more-than-double by the year 2060, the LAO projects that the number with functional limitations will increase by a higher rate over that same period.

"We project that the number of seniors in California with disabilities (as defined by limitations in routine activities of daily living, such as dressing or bathing) will increase from 1 million in 2015 to 2.7 million in 2060. This represents 160 percent growth in the population of seniors with disabilities, while California's overall senior population is projected to grow by 135 percent over this period. The faster growth of the senior population with disabilities is partially driven by the increasing share of seniors aged 85 and older and increasing racial diversity of the senior population."

A Long-Term Outlook: Disability Rates for California's Seniors presents the results of the LAO's projections of disability levels of California's seniors through 2060, with the goal of informing the Legislature and stakeholders about disability levels and the potential need for LTSS among California's seniors over the next several decades.

To read the full report, click [here](#).

Excerpted from the Legislative Analyst's Office publication *A Long-Term Outlook: Disability Rates for California's Seniors*. November 2016.

U.S. life expectancy dropped in 2015, according to new report from the Center for Health Statistics

A new report from the CDC's Center for Health Statistics reveals a decrease in life expectancy in 2015. The report provides information on mortality patterns among U.S. residents by variables such as sex, race and ethnicity, and cause of death. Life expectancy estimates, age-adjusted death rates by race and ethnicity and sex, 10 leading causes of death, and 10 leading causes of infant death were analyzed by comparing 2015 and 2014 final data.

According to the research, in 2015 life expectancy at birth was 78.8 years for the total U.S. population—a decrease of 0.1 year from 78.9 years in 2014 (Figure 1). For males, life expectancy changed from 76.5 years in 2014 to 76.3 years in 2015—a decrease of 0.2 years, and for females, life expectancy decreased 0.1 year from 81.3 years in 2014 to 81.2 years in 2015.

The 10 leading causes of death in 2015 remained the same as in 2014. However, from 2014 to 2015, age-adjusted death rates increased for 8 of 10 leading causes of death and decreased for 1. The rate increased 0.9% for heart disease, 2.7% for chronic lower respiratory diseases, 6.7% for unintentional injuries, 3.0% for stroke, 15.7% for Alzheimer's disease, 1.9% for diabetes, 1.5% for kidney disease, and 2.3% for suicide. The rate decreased by 1.7% for cancer. The rate for influenza and pneumonia did not change significantly. The CDC's data brief is available [here](#).

Excerpted from CHS Data Brief No. 267. [Mortality in the United States, 2015](https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/products/databriefs/db267.htm)(<https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/products/databriefs/db267.htm>). December 2016.

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December 2016

CCoA honors Gary Passmore as 2016 Senior Advocate of the Year



Gary Passmore, Vice President of the Congress of California Seniors, has been named 2016 Senior Advocate of the Year by the California Commission on Aging.

Awarded during the C4A Annual Conference in Los Angeles last month, Passmore was recognized for his tireless advocacy on behalf of California's older adults. As a long-time partner to CCoA, Passmore has collaborated on efforts to strengthen the work of senior centers, increase funding for senior meals, and to assure funds for low-income senior housing. Passmore has been a leading advocate in the fight to protect community-based programs, for fair IHSS-worker pay and nursing home reform.

New Online Resources in Elder Mistreatment and Elder Justice available from ASA

American Society on Aging (ASA) is pleased to announce two new online educational courses on elder mistreatment, offered in partnership with USC Leonard Davis School of Gerontology. *Elder Mistreatment (Part I): Understanding Abuse and Neglect* launches in January 2017 and *Elder Mistreatment (Part II): Prevention of Abuse and Neglect* launches in April 2017. Additionally, our flagship courses, Fundamentals of Gerontology and Managing Health and Chronic Conditions in Older Adults will return in 2017. Successful participants will earn a certificate of completion from USC, and CEUs are offered from select accreditation providers.

[Click here](#) for a course description and registration information. For a limited time, ASA is offering a discount on membership to those who sign up for online courses. If participants enter discount code **CCOA** when enrolling, membership will be only \$195, a \$60 discount off regular rates.

Upcoming Events

January 10 - 11, 2017. California Commission on Aging, Sacramento. www.ccoa.ca.gov for agenda and meeting information.

February 7 - 8, 2017. Triple-A Council of California, Sacramento. www.4TACC.org for agendas and information.

March 20 - 24, 2017. Aging in America Conference, Chicago. For conference announcement and registration information, [click here](#).

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