

MAKING THE DIFFERENCE TOGETHER

Taking Stock of the Aging Policy Landscape for 2021

Making the Difference Together
Taking Stock of the Aging Policy Landscape in 2021
Friday, January 29, 2021 - 8:30am-12:15pm

PRIZES TO KEEP OUR EYES ON
SLIDE CONTENT and Background

1) Nicole Howell, Executive Director, Ombudsman Services of Solano, Contra Costa and Alameda Counties

Prize:

\$5 million state investment in the Healthcare Career Pathway as featured in the Master Plan on Aging, Local Playbook (Strategy B/Good Jobs Creation under Goal 4/Caregiving that Works). This program allows students with addressable barriers to enter the allied healthcare field through an innovative, student centered training model that is designed to provide Certified Nursing Assistant students wrap around support services to help them succeed and well prepared to care for their next generation of older adults.

2) Cynthia Carter Perrilliat, Co-founder and Executive Director of the Alameda County Care Alliance Collaborative

Prize: The Alameda County Care Alliance Collaborative seeks partners and allies, and assistance in identifying other health plans and/or health systems that recognize the need for Bridging the Gaps, Addressing Disparities and Advancing Equity in and for communities of color and our underserved community members.

The work of the Alameda County Care Alliance Collaborative is to hire and train Community Care Navigators to provide support, resources and empowerment to persons dealing with advanced illness and their Caregivers. Our Prize is a deep and impactful partnership with health plans and health systems so that members can access free support services that address social needs like transportation, food assistance and housing, advance care planning that aligns with what Seniors really want, spiritual and caregiving support that is driven by their own personalized advance illness care plan. ACCAC is thrilled to begin this work with their first health care system partner, Kaiser Permanente Oakland next month.

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ACCA Advanced Illness Care Program™ Five Cornerstones



Series of 5-12 meetings between the Care Navigator and Person Needing Care or Caregiver over approximately 6 months

Program is personalized to individual participants' needs

 Spiritual Needs Prayer, support group, and church ministry recommendations	 Health Needs Empowerment, medication lists, provider communication, referrals
 Planning for Advance Care Understanding preferences for advance care planning	 Social Needs Transportation, meals, housing, socialization
 Caregiving Needs Respite care, support groups	

Identify needs, provide trusted referrals/resources, empower individuals with tools & training

3) Dr. Jim Mittelberger, Center for Elders' Independence

Prize: Integrate PACE assessment and referral into the current intake and assessment processes used by Alameda County's AC3, by nurse case managers in Public Health, information and assistance workers in Adult & Aging and other County agencies, and by Alameda Health System. This would ensure that every frail elder would get the information and support they need to get on the best health and social care benefit for them. The system should ensure everyone understands their options fully.

Currently, the system of resources for vulnerable elders in our communities is so complex that most fall into the cracks. Medical care is separated from social care. Multiple resources are poorly organized and separated into a confusing set of silos. There is no incentive for providers to ensure that a patient gets what is best for them.

PACE is the Program for All-encompassing Care for the Elderly. It is an extraordinary health and social care benefit and delivery system for frail elders. PACE allows for a comprehensive care plan with a tremendous array of health and supportive services and covers transportation. It is designed to keep people in their homes and in their community.

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4) Corinne Jan, Family Bridges

Prize: A successful legal challenge to the Trump Administration's August 2020 rule which eliminated translated notice and tagline requirements on significant communications from Medicare and other healthcare services. Not only does this rule prevent LEP access to services but further distances them from understanding their rights to free language services. To help us gain this Prize, please contact Denny Chan at Justice in Aging.

This correction is still elusive because of discriminatory and racist roots. Our distinguished colleagues at Justice in Aging are seeking plaintiffs to bring legal action to reverse the rule. Our immediate tasks should be to seek plaintiffs to this end and continue to promote long term justice seen in equal access to healthcare for all older adults.

5) Alex Boskovich, Alameda County Community Food Bank

Prize: Pass state Senate Bill 107 authored by Senator Scott Wiener. This common sense legislation would simplify the CalFresh application for older adults and people living with disabilities, and make it easier to complete the CalFresh application and other forms over the phone.

It's no secret that the pandemic is severely impacting older adults and people living with disabilities both in terms of infections and access to food. We need CalFresh, our most direct and effective anti-hunger program, now more than ever. But because the process of enrolling in CalFresh is far more complicated than it has to be, only a fraction of older adults who qualify are actually able to take advantage of its benefits.

By simplifying the application and making it easier to apply over the phone, state Senate Bill 107 would take us one step closer to an equitable CalFresh program that is inclusive to all who need it.

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6) Wendy Peterson, Senior Services Coalition of Alameda County

Prize:

Extend the APS Home Safe program beyond the sunset date of June 2021 and invest \$10 million new state GF over two years so that elders facing homelessness as a result of abuse will have the support they need to stay safely housed.

The Home Safe Program supports the safety and housing stability of individuals involved in Adult Protective Services (APS) by providing housing-related assistance using evidence-based practices for homeless assistance and prevention. Twenty-four counties, including Alameda and Santa Clara Counties, are participating in the Home Safe program and each county program is tailored to its community. Many referrals to APS are older and disabled adults who are victims of abuse, fraud, and neglect. Since Home Safe's implementation in 2019, over 1,000 older adults and dependent adults with disabilities have received intensive case management services and modest financial assistance to help them retain their housing and continue to live safely in the community. Current funding and authorization for the program is set to expire in June 2021. The Governor's January Budget recommends extending the program but does not include any new funding.

Prize

Promote digital inclusion and connections to technology for seniors and other low-income communities by expanding existing programs to extend broadband connectivity to affordable housing and publicly subsidized housing communities following the Governor's August 2020 Executive Order.

34 percent of older Californians do not use the internet, despite its importance for employment, health, public safety and community connection. A primary reason that so many older adults lack connections to technology is that they do not have access to broadband, which would enable video visits with doctors, friends and family. Broadband access is particularly difficult for Black, Native American and Hispanic households, who are more likely than white households to live in low-income housing communities.

Acknowledging the state's digital divide, on August 13, 2020, Governor Gavin Newsom issued an executive order directing the California Department of Housing and Community Development and the California Housing Finance Agency to provide recommendations to the CPUC to increase free or low-cost broadband connectivity at all publicly subsidized housing communities for residential units.

Detailed Recommendation

Build on the Governor's August EO and any initial recommendations to the CPUC by prioritizing low-income older Californians. Expand the language of the California Teleconnect Fund to include senior housing communities and senior centers. Change the language in the California Advanced Services Fund from "unserved" to "underserved."

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7) Marty Lynch, CEO Emeritus, LifeLong Medical Care

Prize:

California must establish a state office of Medicare Innovation and Integration (as recommended in the Master Plan for Aging) to assure that services for the Medicare and MediCal eligible are fully coordinated and that we take full advantage of new chronic care services available under Medicare for older adults in the state who are covered by Medicare only, Medicare Advantage, or Medicare and a private supplemental policy.

Slide: The California Legislature must commit to a timeline to establish first dollar long term services and supports (LTSS) social insurance coverage for older Californians supported by a minimum payroll tax and bridging the gap between the onset of disability and future catastrophic coverage provided either privately or through MediCal.

8) Margaretta Lin, Founding Director, Just Cities

Prize:

The Alameda County Board of Supervisors must pass a north star Fair Chance Housing policy that would remove racially discriminatory housing barriers for older adults impacted by the triplet pandemics of mass incarceration, homelessness, and COVID.

Just Cities is a racial justice planning and public policy organization. Just Cities worked with political leaders in the cities of Oakland and Berkeley to pass the Ron Dellums and Simbarashe Sherry Fair Chance Housing laws in 2020, and they are looking forward to getting this done in Alameda County in 2021.

9) Claire Ramsey, Senior Staff Attorney, Justice In Aging

Prize:

Expand Medi-Cal to undocumented older adults 65 and over and increasing the Medi-Cal asset limit. Both these actions will help ensure older adults, especially immigrants and people of color, have equitable access to Medi-Cal. Having comprehensive, free health insurance and access to Home and Community-Based Services could not be more critical during the pandemic.

Prize:

Pass SB 56 authored by Sen. Durazo, which will expand access to Medi-Cal for undocumented older adults. Also pass Assemblymember Carrillo's bill, which doesn't have a bill number yet, to increase the

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Medi-Cal asset limit. Both these may also be budget items and we need strong support to make sure people have the health care they need.

10) Sharon Cornu, Executive Director, St. Mary's Center

Prize:

Ensure that Alameda County Measure W will provide services to unhoused neighbors and prevent homelessness. Vigilance and engagement is needed to make sure money is targeted the right way at the right time, and focused on needs that reflect the experience of people who can contribute critical insights: those with lived experience of homelessness and worked experience of providing services.