



James Firman, Chair

Minutes
October 4, 2017
1625 L Street, NW

1. Guest Speaker: [Lance Robertson](#) - Assistant Secretary for Aging and Administrator, Administration for Community Living
 - Joined by Mary Lazare and Edwin Walker
 - Outlined pillars:
 - Supporting family caregivers
 - Improving access to info about services
 - Ensuring Aging Services Network can survive in complex health care environment
 - Protecting against/prevent elder abuse
 - Also noted current efforts focused on nutrition services, emergency response, and serving minorities.
 - Three clinical priorities at HHS:
 - Mental illness
 - Opioid misuse
 - Childhood obesity
 - Older Americans Act reauthorization: Wants done in meaningful way, bold and visionary.
 - Ongoing outreach to various groups. Plans to fully engage LCAO. Reviewed LCAO issue briefs and priorities. Continued help needed to package what Aging Service Network does, what gaps are filled, what value is provided, what improvements could be made and what unites us.
 - Q&A:
 - Building relationship with CMS, importance of emphasizing HCBS
 - Need for outreach with HUD, meeting already planned
 - How rebuild network, restore services for seniors in disaster areas, especially Puerto Rico: Funding sent to Texas and Florida at the end of the fiscal year, now looking at Puerto Rico and USVI. Reaching out to OMB, other federal agencies, grantees, regional offices.
 - Meeting planned soon to discuss serving LGBT elders, will continue to focus on underserved populations.
 - Elder justice developments: Elder Justice Coordinating Council meeting later this month, innovative areas identified around reporting, work with NAPSA to develop gold standard with guidelines for states to adopt (rather than mandates).
 - Importance of Business Acumen related to health care pillar, but also educating other agencies about network already in place that could be tapped. Need to build more TA into state to build capacity.
 - Data needed that isn't just about outputs and who's served, but shares return on investment, impact, stories. Should assist each other on how to package data and stories with a focus on systems and how they have an impact, how lives transformed, what's new/innovative.
2. Approval of the Minutes
 - Approved by voice vote

3. Committee Reports

- Community Services
 - Letter drafted to respond to FY18 bills that notes Rep. McSally amendment that increases III-B funding, areas where Senate level-funded where House cut.
 - Working on another round of appropriations Hill visits on appropriations. Meeting with Sen. Alexander's new HELP Committee staffer scheduled.
 - FY18 budget process: CBPP webinar this afternoon, House and Senate action this week.
 - Care Corps letter: Reviewed July notes and now circulating as non-LCAO letter. Some edits received, and will share for sign-ons soon; looking for help circulating to other organizations. Reps. Lujan Grisham and Ros-Lehtinen special order scheduled for Oct. 11 on need to increase support for caregivers; will share Dear Colleague.
 - OAA issue briefs now online.
 - Next meeting – follows regular schedule of last Thursday of month at 10am.
- Health
 - Section 1557 sign-on letter (Aaron Tax of SAGE): Protections in Section 1557 could be removed. Would like to wrap up letter this week but may spill into following week if necessary.
 - Patient Choice and Quality Act sign-on letter: Health Committee currently reviewing. Will circulate to larger LCAO for input and hopefully wrap up soon.
 - Graham-Cassidy opt-out letter: Letter sent, and next steps include touching base with Finance and HELP Committee staff. Tentatively considering drafting letter on bipartisanship, regular order to stabilize marketplace and leave Medicaid alone.
 - Extenders letter: Thank you for sign-ons. Best guess is that LCAO priorities will be in end of year package. House pay-fors not bipartisan, and include upper income Medicare beneficiary cut, Medicaid lottery issue (was in independent bill), Prevention and Public Health Fund. Energy & Commerce also marking up some extraneous Medicare bills.
 - Income-related premium proposal is a concern – Slippery slope creating incentive for healthy/wealthy to drop out and impact risk pool, and bad precedent in making Medicare cuts to pay for non-Medicare provision. AARP will share their letter.
 - Briefings in works: Medicaid waivers and Rx pricing with Public Citizen.
 - Puerto Rico Medicaid disaster relief LCAO Chair's letter proposal (Linda Bennett, AFSCME): Half of residents on Medicaid. Need to waive match as been done in past disasters. Will share CBPP information and earlier LCAO letter on Puerto Rico. Chair letter to be circulated for vote soon.
 - Next meeting: Tuesday, October 24th at 3:30pml; location and call-in TBD.
- Income Security
 - Presentation on Consumer Financial Protection Board (CFPB) issues by National Consumer Law Center, Americans for Financial Reform, and US PIRG. US PIRG to issue report on older consumer complaints to CFPB, and looking for organizations to help promote. Will circulate details. Information intended to prepare for any future effort for LCAO to help defend CFPB and its Office of Older Americans.
 - SSI cut (Kate Lange, Justice in Aging): Proposal to cut SSI related to 'fugitive felons' as pay-for in MIECHV reauthorization. Passed House with 21 Democrats voting yes. Doing outreach to members, most with background as prosecutors. Cautiously optimistic in Senate because no freestanding bill on SSI, bipartisan MIECHV reauthorization crafted.
 - DACA: Will revisit discussion, potential LCAO action.
 - Next meeting: TBD since co-chairs out of town last week of October.

4. Budget and Tax Reform Discussion
 - Background shared: LCAO 2012 principles and recent CCD Principles and Recommendations on Tax Reform
 - Co-Chairs talked about enlisting working group on tax reform.
 - Need to address budget issues in addition to tax concerns. Still threat to ACA, Medicare, Medicaid. Reducing needed revenues for aging population.
 - Tax cut concerns: SALT deduction elimination, medical deduction elimination, possible charitable deduction changes.
 - Will also need to weigh in on budget caps and sequestration.
 - Recommendations: Co-Chairs reconvene to discussion next steps on bigger picture and organize working group on tax reform.
5. Announcements
 - Stacy Sanders leaving Medicare Rights Center to join Senate Special Committee on Aging as Minority Deputy Staff Director.
 - Elder Abuse Prevention and Prosecution Act to be signed into law; includes guardianship provision advocates wrote.
 - Ruth Nadel passed away at 103, obituary to be shared in News & Notices.

Next Meeting: November 1, location TBA