

LCAO Community Services Committee Meeting
November 30, 2017 @ 10:00 a.m.
n4a (1730 Rhode Island Ave. NW, Suite 1200)

Meeting Notes

Attendees: American Association of Service Coordinators, B'nai B'rith International, Compassion and Choices, Center for Elder Care and Advanced Illness – Altarum Institute, EasterSeals, Jewish Federations of North America, National Adult Protective Services Association (NAPSA), National Alliance for Caregiving (NAC), National Council on Aging (NCOA), National Association of Area Agencies on Aging (n4a), National Association of Nutrition and Aging Services Programs (NANASP), National Association of State Long-Term Care Ombudsman Programs (NASOP), Meals on Wheels America, Medicare Rights Center, Services and Advocacy for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual & Transgender Elders (SAGE)

I. FY 2018 Budget/Appropriations Process

- Discussed a variety of items as it relates to federal funding priorities in FY18, including rumors around a bipartisan budget agreement, the need to weigh-in as a Coalition and the view that it's in the interest of both Republicans and Democrats to reach a deal.
 - Agreed a LCAO letter would be valuable and there's a need to determine/agree to what we collectively mean by "balanced approach"
- As for timing on a spending deal or omnibus, no one really knows; rumors are that there may be a CR into January.
- Discussed a number of potential threats including sequestration as a result of the Budget Control Act of 2011/statutory spending caps, as well as talks about the PAYGO law on the books and how dozens of programs would be entirely eliminated if rules are not waived for the tax bill.
 - Referenced this New York Times article:
The Tax Bill's Automatic Spending Cuts
<https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2017/11/29/upshot/paygo-medicare-cuts-tax-bill.html>
- Shared updates on two appropriations letters regarding the Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP) and the State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP)
 - SCSEP non-LCAO letter was sent to House and Senate appropriations leaders urging no less than level funding at \$400 million.
 - SHIP non-LCAO letter – deadline to sign COB December 5 – urges House and Senate appropriations leaders to at minimum provide level funding at \$47.1 million.

II. Tax Reform

- Discussed the timing of a Senate vote, as well as rumors on passage and next steps in a conference committee

- Shared challenges around grassroots messaging and rallying our networks to weigh-in on the debate due to the complexity, unknowns and the fact that it's new territory for many.
- Asked questions about ways LCAO can activate/be involved and considering reframing messages (individual rights issue, using emotional appeals to garner attention, etc.)

III. OAA Reauthorization

- Brainstormed and discussed history of past reauthorizations and LCAO's role/work in the process
 - Consensus document of 90+ recommendations
 - Title III funding formula and Senator Burr desire to make changes
- Discussed the different approaches around a simple reauthorization vs. ambitious, given the different environment in which we are operating today as compared to 2010/2011.
 - The 2018 election will likely have an impact
- As next steps, the Committee will summarize and review of what happened during the last reauthorization process, and begin to reach out to Authorizing Committee and begin inviting staff to speak to the group.

IV. Legislative and/or Other Non-LCAO Updates

- HHS Secretary Confirmation Hearings
- Transgender Older Adults National Survey of Older Americans Act Participants Letter submitted on Monday, November 27
- Nourishing our Golden Years Act introduced
<https://www.aging.senate.gov/press-releases/casey-collins-introduce-the-nourishing-our-golden-years-act>
- SNAP Simplification for the Elderly Act
<https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/house-bill/4521/cosponsors>
- Coalition on Human Needs
 - Friday Meeting – 9:00 – 10:00am
 - Sign-On Letter – Congress Needs to Act on Urgent Priorities
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdbuHOMczz_ibPWFiI36P6fqN4-iXH0EWa_EsIY_DEdnSr6jw/viewform
- NDD United Letters
 - <http://www.nddunited.org/s/NovBudgetDeal.pdf>
 - <http://www.nddunited.org/s/NDD-Tax-reformFINAL.pdf>

V. Announcements

- All were invited to an event hosted by Altarum's Center for Elder Care and Advanced Illness Tuesday, December 5 from 9am-1:30pm

Next Meeting: December 21 from 10 – 11:30am at n4a