

LCAO Community Services Committee Meeting
March 23, 2018, 10:00am – 11:30am
n4a (1730 Rhode Island Ave. NW, Suite 1200)

Meeting Notes

Attendees: Alzheimer's Foundation of America (AFA), Consumer Voice, Easterseals, Jewish Federations of North America (JFNA), Justice In Aging, Meals on Wheels America, Medicare Rights Center, National Adult Protective Services Association (NAPSA), National Alliance for Caregiving (NAC), National Association of Area Agencies on Aging (n4a), National Association of Nutrition and Aging Services Programs (NANASP), National Council on Aging (NCOA), National Senior Corps Association (NSCA), and National Association of States United for Aging and Disabilities (NASUAD)

1. Older Americans Act Reauthorization

Guest speakers

- **Curtis Vann, Health Research Assistant, Majority, Senate HELP Committee**
 - Recapped a very busy 2018 so far and noted the passage of S. 1091, the Supporting Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Act the night before.
 - **Maddie Pannell, Legislative Aide, Minority, Senate HELP Committee**
 - Summarized a few recent bills the committee had taken up over the past weeks, but indicated they were indeed turning to OAA this year. Didn't indicate major priorities ahead of OAA, but reassured that the committee has not yet started on this effort. Wants to hear from advocates/grassroots about outstanding issues that were not addressed during the last reauthorization and respond to issues, such as the opioid epidemic (e.g., grandparents raising grandchildren), that have become priorities since the reauthorization. Are there opportunities to address this and other issues in the reauthorization that could secure more widespread support?
 - Noted that advocates' feedback is instrumental as the committee takes up the issue and also that the LCAO initial timeline sounds right.
 - **Question:** What would be helpful as advocates for us to do?
 - Sharing resources is important, feedback on implementation
 - Eventually education for committee staff around Sept/Oct 2018
 - **Question:** Last time we started the reauthorization process, it was pretty ambitious. Do you have a sense of how ambitious your bosses want to be on this issue? Or are they looking for those bipartisan wins (not that they are mutually exclusive)
 - Not sure – opioids/aging
 - Want to keep bipartisan drumbeat for OAA
 - Potentially working within the caregiving/VA space?
 - Creative ways to build off of team-based models
 - Rural access as priorities for our bosses
 - **Question:** What are you all working on now (Curtis)
 - **Curtis/Maddie also interested in:** Quality measures of congregate/home-delivered, nutrition is a good, measure what we deliver, do we know enough about population needs/assessments/tools, good area to get creative
- Samantha Koehler, Policy Assistant, Minority, Senate Aging Committee**
- In the beginning stages of OAA reauthorization process priorities on the Special Committee on Aging. Keeping conversations at a group level, but indicated enthusiastic interest in talking to groups about reauthorization. Senator Casey

and his staff are also going to be spending a lot of time at the state level talking to stakeholders. Expect the funding formula may be a big issue this time, as well. Also mentioned caregiving senior nutrition, and grandparents raising grandchildren in opioid epidemic as key areas of focus. The Aging Committee may do another hearing on OAA, however, that is TBD.

- **Question:** Should we keep an eye out for work force issues/disabilities?
 - Yes, this will likely be a focus. Michael McCormick is a resource on the committee
 - **Question:** Is there anything else we should be aware of
 - Nourishing Our Golden Years Act
 - Farm Bill Reauthorization
 - Grandparents Raising Grandchildren bill
 - Transgender population/removal of transgender questions from OAA (Administration's removal)
 - Senior Spotlight Emails (Thursdays)
2. **Community Services Review of Draft Reauthorization Timeline and Process** (see attached/handout)
- Committee reviewed and approved the initial timeline document—to be shared with the full LCAO for Wednesday meeting. Developing a consensus document and then determining if certain priorities rise to the top as a coalition platform.
 - We also need to identify the process for approving priorities.
 - Encourage orgs that don't typically participate in CS to be engaged in the process.
3. **FY18 and FY19 Appropriations**
- Omnibus discussion
 - Significant increases for many programs in FY 2018 omnibus. Avoided program elimination that had been proposed for SHIP and cuts to SCSEP, Elder Justice, etc.
 - LCAO grassroots thank you effort discussed, including a possible LCAO Chairs Letter
 - Reinforcing again during Older Americans Month, please continue support through FY19.
 - FY 2019 update and new asks
 - Need an FY19 letter, reflecting new asks following the levels provided in the FY18 Omnibus.
 - Dear Colleagues recap: House Dear Colleague focused on FY19 OAA Title III letter, 102 cosigners, we know Senate is taking more time. Also a SCSEP and SHIP letter.
4. **Other Legislative Activity**
- Senior Corps—recapped House discussion on relocating Senior Corps to ETA. Doesn't seem to be gaining traction.
5. **Next Meeting: April 26 @ 10:30 a.m. @ n4a**
- For Review - Minor updates to the LCAO OAA Fact Sheet and Aging Network Issue Brief. Goal is to receive final approval by the full LCAO at the April 4 meeting.