

Regional Coalition Conference Call Summary
Thursday, September 3, 2015 – 9:30 to 10:30 AM

Note: we did have a problem with a group of people talking during the call, thinking their phone was on mute. Not sure if every phone has an indicator, but please check that you are on mute. Many thanks!

Baby Boom Generation Impact – Medicare, Medicaid, and Health Care,

Wendell Primus, Office of Representative Nancy Pelosi

Wendell Primus is the senior policy advisor on health issues to Leader Nancy Pelosi. Prior to this appointment, Primus was the minority staff director at the Joint Economic Committee. Prior to that position, Primus was the director of income security for the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. He also previously served in the Clinton Administration as a deputy assistant, as the secretary for human services policy at the Department of Health and Human Services. Primus has also served as chief economist for the House Ways and Means Committee and staff director for the Committee's Subcommittee on Human Resources. He has a doctorate in economics from Iowa State University.

Wendell Primus provided a summary of his issue brief (a separate attachment to this email). The focus of his issue brief: we aren't getting ready for the retirement of Baby Boomers. The number of people 65 and older in the U.S. and the proportion of the national population of those who over 65 are going up. The current 18 to 19 percent of GDP going to taxes isn't going to sustain the current promises of Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid; the current level of taxation will not face up to challenge of long term care.

Solvency issues aren't the challenge in Medicare and Social Security, but we need to be about education and messaging. Focus on education and messaging now and Look to legislative strategies after 2016 election.

To pay for the current promises of Medicaid, Medicare, and Social Security, we need to get to a taxation of 21 or 22 percent of GDP. Primus believes that the economy can sustain this level of taxation.

There is a need for individuals at the grass roots to take on this messaging and educational effort.

Question: do you believe that savings attributed to the ACA are artificial?

Wendell Primus – I believe that provisions in the ACA, such as the focus on avoiding hospital readmissions, are changing hospital behavior. There is a true slowing of readmissions. Also, across the board, we have slowed expenses: that's a fact. The challenge now is to keep the growth rate down.

Comment and question: In Yolo County, we're doing a lot of messaging to the general public and to legislators. Can we pull data together on a city by city level – e.g. number of older adults, income levels, Medicaid numbers, etc.?

Comment: We have ideas, but are short on resources

Comment Community Care Transitions program is one model. CMS should continue those demonstrations.

Wendell Primus's response: There have been congressional conversations with CMS, and he believes the demonstrations will continue.

Question: will people believe us – from the aging and disability fields; or, do we need economists delivering these messages?

Response: do both: organizations need to speak up; also get other voices to join.

Comment: AARP has been hosting tele-townhalls during Medicare enrollment periods to answer questions. We could use the tele-townhall to sound the alarm and discuss solutions – to get people talking about it.

Comment: AAAs consider demographics in our planning, but we have not added a focus on implications for federal and state budgets.

Comment: California's Dept of Aging does have county by county breakout of basic data on older Californians.

- http://www.aging.ca.gov/data_and_statistics/
- http://www.aging.ca.gov/data_and_statistics/facts_about_elderly/

Comment: new Health Policy Analysis from UCLA includes county data breakouts.

<http://healthpolicy.ucla.edu/publications/Documents/PDF/2015/HiddenPoor-brief-exhibit5-aug2015.pdf>

Comment: also see the CHIS – California Health Interview Survey – Includes instruction on how to use

- <http://healthpolicy.ucla.edu/chis/Pages/default.aspx>

Comment: See also SHATTERED SYSTEM.

- <http://sd25.senate.ca.gov/sites/sd25.senate.ca.gov/files/AgingLong%20TermCareReport.pdf>

Coalition by Coalition Look: 2014 Accomplishments/2015 Projects
Senior Coalition of Stanislaus County, report by Erlinda Bourcier

We are a non-CCI organization comprised of 39 individuals representing 34 organizations.

We meet monthly with an agenda that includes a presentation from each Member on their organization and any updates.

We have several projects going on

1. We are currently working with Bill Haskell and Anne Hinton on our long term care integration strategic plan.
We should have a somewhat final draft to present at the Long Term Care Integration Mentoring Session at the end of October
2. We reapplied for the SCAN grant to follow through our strategic plan to implementation in 2016-2017
3. We are finishing up final planning for the 13th Annual Healthy Aging and Fall Prevention Summit (over 75 vendors and over 1000 participants-health screenings, fall prevention resources, vaccinations, educational forums, and the Older Adults Key Stakeholders Reception with Anne Hinton as introductory speaker, update on long term integration progress in Stanislaus County.
4. Joined forces with the Commission on Aging Advocacy and Legislative Committee to advance our agenda. Four coalition members are part of this committee.
5. Formed a Finance Committee with the following Coalition Members; Margie Palomino, Director of Aging and Veterans Services, Jeff Lambaren, Executive Director, Public Authority of Stanislaus (IHSS), Kathy Sniffen, President , CEO, Center for Living Forward and Dianna Olsen, Executive Director of Healthy Aging Association. Margie Palomino with the Aging and Veterans Services has committed \$5,000 to pay for a grant writer for sustainability of the coalition.
6. Jeff Lambaren, Executive Director of the Public Authority of Stanislaus (IHSS) has committed funding for the Senior Coalition to hold a Long Term Services and Support Summit in the spring of 2016

On our website seniorcoalitionofstanislaus.org (it's free) we post, policy agenda, communication plan. For Transparency agenda and minutes

Created Twitter Account @seniorcoalitionstan

New proposal will –create policy agenda, communications plan, do outreach that includes more polished handout such as a brochure. Outreach to political leaders and exploring the model of person-centered care.

Contra Costa Advisory Council on Aging, Debbie Toth reporting

CoCoCo: We are a Part A grantee in a non-CCI county.

In 2014, our focus was to write and release policy and budget briefs; also created “advocacy at a glance” and “advocacy acronyms.” We use these documents to educate volunteers and others.

In 2015, thanks to an outside grant, we put on a “Health Care Transitions Summit.” The focus was on hospitals to educate them about HCBS. ~170 attended; Region IX of HHS was represented. The summit also had a focus on the hospital readmissions challenge.

All was televised. We’re editing the video we have into a 60-minute, a 30-minute, and some short clips.

Next Up:

- In October: Service and Advocacy Coalition
- In November: San Mateo New Beginning Coalition and San Diego LTC Integration Project
- In December: Ventura County Evidence Base Health Promotion Coalition

SCAN Foundation Update

Kali: Thank you for your applications for 2016-17 regional coalition grants. TSF received a robust set of responses.

Internal review process is going on this week; external review starts next week. The TSF board will then review the applications and make decisions that will be public in early December.

At the October 28 conference, there will be an early-morning to discuss topics for a first pair of one-day regional meetings – tentatively set for February, 2016.

Collaborative Update

Oct. 28 Community of Constituents conference is taking shape. There will be a plenary session on the 1115 Waiver and a closing address by Darrell Steinberg (see www.steinberginstitute.org). Breakout groups on long term care finance,

health homes, the state budget, and other topics. Please consult your coalition leader to find out who is in your delegation.

Notes:

The next calls, first Thursdays of the month, from 9:30 to 10:30:

- *October 1, guest will be Professor Karen Davis, Johns Hopkins University*
- *November 5*
- *December 3*

Participants

Please let Jack Hailey know if this list leaves out anyone who was on the call.

Guests: Wendell Primus, U.S. Congress, Office of Leader Nancy Pelosi; Pat Blaisdell, Calif. Hospital Association; and, Blanca Castro, AARP California
Alameda County: Wendy Peterson, Tracy Murray, Flora Maiki, Reba Landry
Orange County: Christine Chow and Kristen Maahs
San Francisco: Melissa McGee and Cindy Kauffman
San Diego: Jenel Lim, Brenda Schmitthenner, Ellen Schmeding, Louis Frick, and Rogelio Lopez
Bay Area Senior Health Policy: Katherine Kelly
Riverside:
L.A.: Anwar Zoueihid
Santa Clara: Cara Sansonia and Marilou Cristina
Yolo: Sheila Allen, Pam Miller, Fran Smith, and Valerie Olsen
Chico: Sarah May and Forest Harlan
Central Valley:
Stanislaus: Dianna Olsen, Linda Lowe, Maria Profeta, and Erlinda Bourcier
Nevada County: Pam Miller
Monterey Bay: Patty Talbot
Ventura County: Sue Tatangelo and Blair Craddock
San Mateo: Cristina Ugaitafa, Michele Makino, Deborah Oton, and Shannon Morgan
Service and Advocacy: Jen Griffin, Donna _____, and Barbara Finch
Co. Co. Co.: Debbie Toth, Ella Jones
TSF: Kali Peterson
GACI: Jack Hailey