



## CALIFORNIA REGIONAL COALITIONS Webinar Summary

**January 5, 2017**

**9:30 am – 10:30 am**

*Note: if you did not access the meeting via webinar platform (call-in only), please send your name and the name of your coalition to [crista@GACInstitute.org](mailto:crista@GACInstitute.org) so that we may record your participation.*

**Materials and an audio recording of this webinar can be found [here](#).**

Password: RCLTSS2016 (case sensitive)

### **I. Veterans Protection Benefit Program**

**[Shawna Reeves](#)**, Director, Elder Abuse Prevention Program, Institute on Aging

**[Prescott Cole](#)**, Senior Staff Attorney, California Advocates for Nursing Home Reform (CANHR)

- We have a situation wherein veterans and their attorneys are being contacted by companies promising services to them. The program is called “Aid and Attendance.”
- For background information and some details, see slide show [here](#).
- The benefit is available to veterans who meet criteria including serving during a time of war and meeting a means test. The slides include details about the means test and the benefits available.
- Calculating the benefit seems complicated so scammers promise to help with the process.
- Because people don’t know about this benefit, scammers tell veterans to buy an annuity to shield their assets in order to appear

as impoverished.

- It is against the law in California to sell an annuity or charge a fee to prepare an application for the VA Aid and Attendance benefit.
- Also against the law for a nongovernmental entity to imply that they are from the government or endorsed by the government.
- Slides detail the problems that the scam can cause to the veteran.
- The VA and the county veterans service organization do not charge to assist people to get the benefit.
- Slides include a set of links to information: note typo in one:  
[www.benefits.va.gov](http://www.benefits.va.gov)
  - Sue North notes that, aside from the scam, this benefit has the potential to assist our constituents. In addition to being on the lookout for the scam, regional coalitions should share information with their members as to the existence of this benefit.

#### **Questions:**

- Does spousal income count?
  - Yes, it's total household income. People should talk to their county veteran's service office. Shawna can help you find the right person in your county if you need help.
- What is the penalty?
  - Can be a fine or jail time. California is unique in having laws to protect seniors.
- Besides newspaper ads, how else is the scam promoted?
  - Some centers advertise, radio show, internet ads.

## **II. Reports/ Updates from Regional Coalitions**

- **Aging and Disability Coalition of Lake and Mendocino Counties**  
[Corrina Avila](#)  
[Tanner Silva](#)
  - Where do we go from here? Focusing on outreach. Thinking about focus groups, with perhaps a focus on Latino clients.

- **Bay Area Senior Health Policy Coalition**

[Katherine Kelly](#)

- Our focus is a senior health policy forum every two years. Our fifth forum will be in November or December of 2017. Working on venues. The planning committee and coalition membership is growing. This is a multi-county (Bay Area-wide) event. The wide breadth of topics include financial planning for seniors.

- **Yolo Healthy Aging Alliance**

[Sheila Allen](#)

- Dementia/Alzheimer's is a focus this year – working with Alzheimer's Association; three public programs are already on the calendar. Including a video for first responders on how to respond to a person with dementia. Also just met with their member of Congress and will be meeting with their new State Senator. They have also asked Senator Dodd if he would be interested in the Senate Select Committee on Long Term Care.

- **Sue North reminds all of us about using the Google Group to share information about local conversations.**

### III. **Measures Management System (MMS)**

[Kristen Borokowski](#), MPP, Program Analyst, Division of Quality Measurement, Quality Measurement and Value-Based Incentives Group, Center for Clinical Standards and Quality, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services

[Theodore G Long](#), MD, MHS, Division of Quality Measurement, Quality Measurement and Value-Based Incentives Group, Center for Clinical Standards and Quality, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services

- Quality measures are tools that help measure or quantify healthcare processes, outcomes, patient perceptions, and organizational structure and/or systems that are associated with the ability to provide high-quality health care and/or that relate to one or more quality goals for health care. In response to an increasing demand for quality measures, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) developed a standardized system for developing and

maintaining the quality measures used in its various accountability initiatives and programs. Known as the Measures Management System (MMS), measure developers (or contractors) are encouraged follow this core set of business processes and decision criteria when developing, implementing, and maintaining quality measures. Best practices for these processes are documented in the manual, A Blueprint for the CMS Measures Management System (the Blueprint).

- The office is working now with clinicians about which quality items should be focused on. The office is soliciting groups to assist with this project. There are upcoming webinars on a host of topics. The first and third Wednesday of every month at 11 a.m. Pacific (2 pm Eastern).
- Comment: Please look at person-centered care, particularly for clients with chronic conditions. It's a challenge to measure "person centeredness," but please try to measure it – how are people engaged in decision-making for their own health care.
  - Response: Person-centered care is important for us. We have patients, advocates, and family members are on our national panels. Please send suggestions to us about how to focus on person-centered care.

#### IV. The SCAN Foundation Update

[Kali Peterson](#), Program Officer, The SCAN Foundation

- **Administrative reminders:**
  - Q4 reports for Part A and Part B are due 1/15/17; the annual report from Part A Only grantees is also due 1/15/17. Any questions, ask Kali. [kpeterson@thescanfoundation.org](mailto:kpeterson@thescanfoundation.org)
  - All monthly webinars are on the first Thursday of each month (except for the two months when there is no webinar).
  - If you are not in the Google Group and want to be, send a note to [mariya@gacinstitute.org](mailto:mariya@gacinstitute.org)
  - Agenda includes the dates of February, April, and May webinars and the two in-person regional meetings (February 23 in NorCal and March 27 in SoCal).
  - Any advice on including Native American

communities/advocates/providers?

- Value of multi-county events: talk to Katherine Kelly [see information above]
- If you are having success engaging newly elected representatives (federal, state, and local), please share that on the Google Group.

**V. Announcements:**

- The Collaborative is hosting a meeting for key legislative staff in February. We will include information about regional coalitions in our briefing packet. Please send us anything you would like us to include. We hope to do a good amount of grass roots.
- Topic for February meeting: what's in the governor's budget proposal (2017-18) in the realms of LTSS, aging, and disability. Sarah Steenhausen, from The SCAN Foundation, will present.

**Participants (48)**

<b>Coalition</b>	<b>Representative(s)</b>
Aging and Disability Coalition of Lake and Mendocino Counties	Tanner Silva-Parker Corrina Avila
Aging Services Collaborative of Santa Clara County	Wendy Ho Marilou Cristina
Bay Area Senior Health Policy Coalition	Katherine Kelly Cassandra Chan
Adult and Aging Network	Jennifer Griffin Barbara Finch Eduardo Medel
Central Valley LTSS Coalition	Donald Fischer
Community Living Implementation Council of Nevada County	Ana Acton
Contra Costa Advisory Council on Aging	Gerald Richards Debbie Toth Ella C Jones

Diversability Action Network (Chico)	Sarah May Forest Harlan
Independent Living Workgroup of Kern County	Jan Lemucchi
Inland Empire LTSS Coalition	Renee Dar-Khan Paul Van Doren Terry Lee
Los Angeles Aging Advocacy Coalition	Brandi Orton
Monterey Bay Aging and Disability Resource Coalition	Elsa Quezada Patty Talbott Margaret Huffman
San Mateo County New Beginning Coalition	Cristina Ugaitafa Deborah Owdom
Orange County Aging Services Collaborative	Cynthia Okialda Christine Chow
Placer County Aging and Disability Resource Coalition	Eldon Luce Gina Barringer
San Diego Long Term Care Integration Project	Jenel Lim
San Francisco Long Term Care Coordinating Council	Valerie Coleman Mark Burns
The Senior Coalition of Stanislaus County	Erlinda Bourcier Barry Smith
Senior Services Coalition of Alameda County	Wendy Peterson Patricia Osage
Ventura County Hospital to Home Alliance	Bonnie Subira Sue Tatangelo Lynette Harvey
Yolo Healthy Aging Alliance	Sheila Allen
The SCAN Foundation	Kali Peterson Rene Seidel
GACI	Susan North Casey Young Jack Hailey Mariya Kalina Crista Nicholas