

## CICA Statewide Call

January 21, 2015

### Notes

Roll Call (names I got prior to start of meeting):

Michelle Geving	Felicitas Connelly
Randi Bardeaux	Christine Loomis
Lisa Brown	Bonnie Newman
Dotty Clemente	Janie Whiteford
Paula Herman	Michelle Rousey
Louise Osejo	Jodi Reid
Karen Keesler	Timothy Cooper
James Farrow	Diane Hall
Gabe Taylor	Phan Vu
Mark Beckham	Michael Connelly
Joey Riley	William Reed
Jannetje Vrieze	Tim Z
Doug Weir	Cindy Calderon
Rich Simonson	Leoma Lee
Sean (Orange Co.)	Charlie Bean

If your name was missed and it needs to be noted for our job please email me at [info@cicaihss.org](mailto:info@cicaihss.org)

California Association of Retired Americans (CARA), Jodi Reid: Spoke about Medicare and Social Security and activities CARA is doing for these two programs. Concern expressed about Congress attaching Social Security shared, a fund claimed not going broke and is separate from the federal budget. It was stated that the Social Security Funds has over \$3 trillion in it and this covers several different programs such as old age pensions, disability, survivors' benefits, and etc. There is a commission of 40 individuals who manages the Social Security funds. Congress is working on Social Security Disability (SSD) and needs to transfer funds from the Social Security fund to the SSD to cover current needs.

At the Federal level CARA is asking the transfer of funds to go through and point out the funds are there – consumers are asked to call Congress, their representative to tell them about the need to transfer funds and the overall fund is not broke. One of the groups advocating for Social Security is called “[Social Security Works](#).” A book was published by two authors Nancy Altman and Eric Kingson, title: [Social Security Works!: Why Social Security Isn't Going Broke and How Expanding It Will Help Us All](#) (just for reference), release January 21, 2015. It shares how the Social

Security program works and how it can be made stronger in simple language; an example of strengthening Social Security could be by increasing the dollar amount Federal Insurance Contribution Act (FICA) is charged against – currently after an employee earns \$114K FICA is no longer taken out. By increasing this amount Social Security could be strengthened. There has been legislation for this but it has failed to be passed.

Individuals are encouraged to contact their Congress Representative to encourage them to support improving Social Security and Medicare. Find your Congress representative [here](#).

CARA is encouraging individuals to print a 4-part card to strengthen Medicare. Do not cut the page up and distribute to your friends and family. To learn more the link is [here](#).

Looking for individuals to distribute the cards to their Congress representative after they have been collected.

At the State level CARA joined a new coalition to improve SSI/SSP. SSI is the Federal contribution and SSP is the State portion. When the State added to the SSI the State supplement it made those on SSI/SSP ineligible for Food Stamps (SNAP). This new group is working on changing the SSI/SSP to restore the yearly COLA and possibly increase the State contribution. At the same time this group is working on changing the eligibility for Food Stamps and because it is a Federal Program Congress needs to do this, it cannot be done at the State level.

St. Anthony's has a petition to Support CA Seniors & People with Disabilities on SSI/SSP. You are encouraged to sign on to this petition [here](#).

Check out CARA [here](#) on other activities!

Question asked about how this affects SSDI? This is what was referred to on the National level requiring funds to be transferred from one account to another. It is an easy fix, but it was being blocked by the GOP using it as a maneuver claiming Social Security is going broke and trying to undermine the program – definite need to contact your Congress.

CAPA, Karen Keesler: On the FLSA the federal judge made a decision not to allow overtime to be paid. The State also decided not to be done in California. It was noted that the new timesheets would be used, but there will be sections blacked out.

It is expected the DOL will appeal the decision of the federal court and it is expected to be in federal court over a year.

It is expected in the May budget the governor to remove the funds plans earlier for covering the overtime, travel time and wait time. There are a few organizations (UDW, Home Care Workers) trying to ask the State to go ahead with the overtime, but this is still being debated.

Good news is the 7% yearly cuts is being proposed to be reversed beginning July 1, 2015. It will take bi-partisan work to pass this. They will need a 2/3 vote on a tax Managed Care Organization pay and the Federal government matches it. It is \$215 million as a state share that needs to be approved to remove the 7% cuts.

The Coordinated Care Initiative (CCI) has bad news where only 80% have opted out of participating in the program. This will change much in how the State's budget is figured and there is a chance the CCI is cancelled in 2017. This will affect the county MOEs and other state changes planned as a model under the CCI.

SEIU/UHW tried to legislate training through a ballot initiative and it failed due to not enough signatures. The state needs to reapply for the 1115 waiver program and included in the application is medical and clinical training needed by care providers is needed as well as care to be managed. CAPA is concerned about this proposal and CICA has signed onto this letter ([click here](#) to view letter).

Question about halting the CCI and how it affects the MOE each county has in regards to the social workers hired? Some counties have hired additional staff because they would be paid for by the new CCI. What would this do to the Managed Care Tax? They can still do this to eliminate the 7% cuts – there are two parts to this tax – there is uncertainty in getting a change in the managed care tax to allow the 7% cut to be eliminated – both parties are needed to get this through.

Question about the new timesheets usage – they printed 6 million and they will be used with parts of the timesheet related to the proposed changes being blackened out.

Concerned expressed about the mandatory training included in the UCSF Medi-Cal 1115 Waiver Workforce Work Group, December 31, 2014 document by a consumer on the call.

What is the idea of the training for IHSS compared to Nursing and Skilled Nursing Homes, what is the expected outcome? Are there any studies to show the value or advantage? None known of.