

## LTCCC Legislative Updates: January 12, 2017

### Local:

- **Four new Supervisors sworn in to office:** Sandra Lee Fewer in District 1, Hillary Ronen in District 9, Ahsha Safai in District 11 and Jeff Sheehy in District 8. Three of the supervisors were elected in 2016; Sheehy is Mayor Lee's appointment to fill the vacancy left by now state Sen. Scott Wiener. London Breed remains BOS President.
- **Dignity Fund Legislation:** implementation legislation was introduced to the BOS by Malia Cohen in December 2016. The ordinance will be assigned to committee late January or early February.

### State:

- **Jerry Brown presents 2017 Budget:** the state is now projected to run a \$1.6 billion deficit by next summer. The \$179.5-billion plan seeks to resolve the budget shortfall by slower-than-expected growth in public school funding and by rolling back a series of expenses discussed in last year's negotiations. The budget does not take into account a repeal of the ACA; a significant impact as federal subsidies to Medi-Cal now top \$16 billion (Sacramento Bee article).
  - Governor's budget available at: <http://www.ebudget.ca.gov/FullBudgetSummary.pdf>
  - Governor's Budget lets CCI expire and with it the MOE for IHSS. Proposing to go back to a county share at 35%. Some language around "working with counties" to address financial impact. Initial impact estimates being developed but will be sizable.
  - The budget proposes to pass through an annual federal cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) based on the Consumer Price Index to the SSI portion of the grant, which is projected to equal a 0.3 percent increase in 2017, and a projected 2.6 percent increase effective January 1, 2018. In addition, the budget provides a full year of funding for the SSP-only COLA that became effective January 1, 2017 (\$73 million GF). Under the 2017 state and federal COLAs, the maximum SSI/SSP grant is \$896 for individuals (a \$6 monthly increase over 2016) and \$1,510 for couples (a \$14 monthly increase over 2016).
  - The state funding for APS training of county social workers provided in the 2016-17 budget (\$6 million total, \$3 million GF) will continue to be available to be expended over three years. Beginning in 2017-18, the ongoing state funding for APS training remains unchanged from prior fiscal years at \$176,000 total (\$88,000 GF).

- **David Chiu and others propose housing bills:** Assemblymember David Chiu (D-San Francisco) joined by Assemblymembers Ting (D-San Francisco), Caballero (D-Salinas), Santiago (D-Los Angeles), and Speaker pro Tem Mullin (D-San Mateo) announced four bills to address California’s affordable housing crisis. Bills will fund production of housing for low-income families, incentivize local governments to complete planning and environmental review and approve housing permits, fund the enforcement of existing state housing law, and provide assistance to homeless Medi-Cal recipients. See spreadsheet (attached).
  
- **CA Senior Legislature announces state and federal priority proposals:** At its annual October caucus CSL members finalized their priority proposals. Tracking Spreadsheet is attached for more details.
  
- **San Francisco Legislators Committee Chairs:**
  - David Chiu, Chair, Housing and Community Committee
  - Phil Ting, Chair, Budget Committee
  - Scott Weiner, Chair, Human Services Committee
  
- **California Welfare Directors Association Priorities:**
  - CWDA is providing direct support to a budget proposal submitted by the CWDA Adults Committee (multi-county). The proposal, APS Housing/Eviction Prevention Pilot Program, seeks funds for innovative strategies for housing/homelessness prevention for APS clients.
  - As other bills related to the aging and disability network are introduced CWDA will consider a position as recommended by the Legislative Committee.
  - CWDA federal priorities include opposition to the repeal of the ACA, reducing Medicaid funding or change to a block grant; oppose changing SNAP funds to a block grant; \$100 million for the Elder Justice Act; and oppose the end of the Social Services Block Grant

**Federal:**

- **Congress Starts to Repeal the ACA (n4a on: 01/05/17):** Republicans were quick begin the budgetary process to partially repeal the Affordable Care Act. The Senate began considering an FY 2017 budget resolution which will give legislating committees directive to create policy proposals to gut key components of the ACA. As n4a detailed in a recent Legislative Update, lawmakers are expected to use “budget reconciliation” to roll back

key provisions in the ACA. At this point it is uncertain the timeframe of a rollback or exactly which provisions will be involved.

- **Changes to Medicaid and Medicare (n4a on: 01/05/17):** Congressional leaders and the incoming Administration have floated significant structural changes to federal health care programs, Medicaid and possibly Medicare, as well as the federal tax code. FY 2018 budget reconciliation would provide the most unencumbered path to make these changes. We are preparing to see proposals to significantly restructure Medicaid and the federal tax code this summer. It is slightly less certain whether Congress would also consider major structural changes to Medicare. Currently, establishing a block grant or per-capita cap system for Medicaid seems most likely, and President-Elect Trump's nominees to lead both HHS and CMS have a track record of supporting such systems reforms. Either a block grant or per-capita cap could have major implications for Medicaid LTSS beneficiaries and AAAs who coordinate and deliver Medicaid-funded HCBS services.
- **February-October: Funding for Senior Programs (NCOA 1-9-2017):** Congress plans to finish FY17 appropriations before the current CR expires on April 28. This will provide final funding for discretionary programs such as OAA senior nutrition and supportive services, elder abuse protections, transportation support, and energy assistance. Then the FY18 budget process will begin. The incoming Trump Administration may release a broad initial budget request as early as February—and a more detailed document later—to lay out its vision for funding, savings, and revenues. Congress also will draft its own FY18 budget resolution, setting out a new blueprint for the upcoming fiscal year. Many expect the resolution to increase defense spending, and cut non-defense discretionary spending, such as OAA programs. Congress is supposed to pass FY18 appropriations by Oct. 1, but may not finalize them until the end of December.

#### Notes:

- 1) FYI: The deadline for State legislation to be filed is January 20, 2017; the deadline for a bill to be introduced is February 17<sup>th</sup>. Legislative groups will be working with legislators and staff to finalize bills and language, more or less by these deadlines. The Feb. report to the LTCCC will be more comprehensive.
- 2) LTCCC, as are many organizations, can begin developing policy statements as soon as possible. For example, since we know affordable housing is going to be an important topic for 2017, the LTCCC could develop a policy statement that then informs legislative action in the future. Other possible topics include ACA repeal and replacement, Medicaid block grant and APS Emergency Housing. A policy statement could be a short summary of the issue with a position statement.

- 3) Perhaps in February or March the LTCCC could review legislative efforts and take a position so letters and/or phone calls of support and opposition can move forward without each bill and action being discussed and voted on. For example, if the LTCCC votes to support the APS Emergency Housing budget request early in the year, letters can be sent for each committee meeting without bringing it back to the Council for a vote.