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If you would like to be more involved with the CCOA . . .

Be sure to regularly check the website at:

www.CoalitionAgingCT.org

Please feel free to contact our President

John Hogarth at JHogarth@ci.meriden.ct.us

You can contact our Secretary

Sharon Garrard at

sgarrard@hebronct.com

CT Coalition on Aging 2011-2012 Board Members

John Hogarth,

Director of the Meriden Senior Center. **President, CCOA**

Jeanne Franklin

SWCAA serving on Boards_of:

CT Commission on Aging, Board of Directors of

Southwestern CT Agency on Aging, Stamford Mayor Pavias Multi-Cultural Council, Senior Nutrition Program Advisory Council, Retired Founding Executive Director-Stamford Senior Center. **Vice President, CCOA**

Ned Skinnon

Director of the West Hartford Senior Center, **Treasurer, CCOA**

Sharon M. Garrard

Senior Services Director/ Municipal Agent for the Elderly Town of Hebron, **Secretary, CCOA**

Sharon Gesek

Director of Senior Services, Town of Southbury, CT Commission on Aging

Kathi Liberman

Resident Services Coordinator at the Wethersfield Housing Authority and co-chair of CARSCH CT Association of Resident Service Coordinators in Housing

Jean Pudlo

Senior Resources – Agency on Aging, Norwich, Community Planner

Chuck Oakes

Certified Aging in Place Specialist, member of the Committee on Aging and the Communications Coordination Committee at the United Nations.

Helen Raisz

Adjunct faculty member at the University of Hartford, and CCSU.

Jean Rexford

Executive Director CT Center for Patient Safety

Marlene Schempp

RSC/supervisor Faith Asset Management

Cecelia Sullivan, MS Ed., HTP

Care Partner & Family Advocate, Healing Touch Practitioner

CT Coalition on Aging, Inc.

The Commission on Aging: Working Today for a Brighter Tomorrow

The Connecticut Commission on Aging (CoA) is an independent, nonpartisan office of the Connecticut General Assembly working on many fronts—through research, policy, and education -- to improve the quality of life of older adults of today and tomorrow.

The CoA leads statewide efforts to prepare Connecticut for a burgeoning population of older adults. Our state's baby boomers (those born between 1946-1964) represent a third of Connecticut's population and are 1 million strong.

Created in 1993, the commission is comprised of a 21-person (unpaid) board, four professional staff, including Executive Director Julia Evans Starr.

Based at the State Capitol, the CoA fills a unique role within state government. The CoA builds bridges, opens dialogue and seeks solutions between influential groups including the legislative and executive branches of state government, municipalities, the business community, local organizations, and older adults and persons with disabilities.

Among its top priorities, the Commission leads efforts to “rebalance” Connecticut's long-term care infrastructure to give people choice in how and where they receive long-term care services and supports. The Commission estimates that in addition to promoting choice and independence, rebalancing the long-term system could save Connecticut approximately \$1 billion a year in Medicaid costs.

In this effort, CoA professional staff fill key leadership roles within committees and organizations helping to shape public policy including co-chair of the Money Follows the Person (MFP) Steering Committee; chair of the MFP Workforce Development Subcommittee; and co-chair of the state's Long-Term Care Advisory Council. The CoA also created, chairs and manages the Connecticut Elder Action Network, which provides a strong, cohesive voice on public policy issues affecting older adults and persons with disabilities. (The Coalition on Aging is a founding member of CEAN.)

To learn more about the full scope of the CoA's work, visit its website at www.cga.ct.gov/coa and/or to track its fast-paced activities follow the Commission on Facebook.

Established in 1974, the purpose of the Connecticut Coalition on Aging is to promote actions that improve the quality of life of Connecticut's older adults.

2011/2012 SURVEY OF STATE LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

Name _____ Street _____ Town _____
ZIP _____ Phone () _____ e-mail (print clearly) _____

You can help CCOA identify and address the issues related to aging that YOU feel are most critical, on behalf of its members and CT Seniors. Please **CHECK FIVE of the ISSUES** you would like CCOA to advocate with legislators in the next legislative session.

- A. _____ Provide greater access to prescription drugs, and reduce drug costs
- B. _____ Improve support for dental care
- C. _____ Support funding and access for hearing aids and glasses
- D. _____ Provide comprehensive universal health care for all
- F. _____ Expand home and community-based program/service expansion, including Adult Day Care
- F. _____ Improve access to transportation services for seniors and disabled adults (Easy Access, etc)
- G. _____ Address End of Life issues
- H. _____ Expand resource and program options: information, referral, health and social services access
- I. _____ Provide tax credits and funding assistance for family caregivers
- J. _____ Provide property tax reform
- K. _____ Maintain State Funding for municipalities
- L. _____ Recognize the need for housing (owned and rented) improvements for seniors and disabled
- M. _____ Improve funding of mental health services for seniors
- N. _____ Ensure adequate support for Grandparents Raising Grandchildren
- O. _____ Improve training and fair salaries for healthcare workers

What other issues are of concern to you? (Use reverse for additional comments)

Are you over age 65? ___ under 65? ___ Are you an individual respondent? Yes or No
Are you a provider, volunteer or paid, of services to elderly? Yes or No
If Yes, Name of agency _____

For more information about the Connecticut Coalition on Aging visit our website at www.coalitionagingct.org

PLEASE RETURN BY NOVEMBER 30, 2011 TO

CCOA, c/o SWCAA, 10 Middle Street, Bridgeport, CT 06604, or respond through the website.

Oral Health - by Adele Gordon

It is a fact that we are all living longer and that an aging population has inherent issues with which to deal. Oral health is one such issue. If oral health is not maintained there is an increase of disease. Oral disease is associated with chronic diseases such as chronic cardio and cerebrovascular diseases, diabetes and oral cancer.

Older adults are retaining teeth longer. Poor hygiene and lack of care can cause disease and loss of teeth that result in pain and affect quality of life. Older adults may be on multiple medications that can cause cavities and dry mouth and affect gums and the mouth. If preventive care is not available, restorative care becomes more complex.

Cost and access inhibit senior adults from obtaining the necessary dental care that they require. The Federal Government has provided funding to help communities throughout the United States open primary care clinics. Most have dental clinics as well. There are many Federally Qualified Health Centers in Connecticut. These clinics accept state insurance, Medicare for medical patients and have a sliding fee scale for patients without insurance.

The company that I am affiliated with, Community Health Center, Inc. has health centers located in 14 cities. CHC, Inc. is building a world class primary health care system, that is committed to caring for special populations and that is focused on improving health outcomes for our patients as well as building healthy communities. We are designated as a Primary Centered Medical Home by the National Committee for Quality Assurance because we provide comprehensive integrated care for our patients. The dental electronic health records are integrated with the patients electronic medical record. Therefore one has to be medical patient in order to receive dental care. One exception for seniors is the grant from The Southwestern Area Agency on Aging. Those seniors who meet grant guidelines are accepted into the dental practice.

Our standards are very high. We are inspected by state and federal agencies and adhere to strict guidelines for and professional staffing. infection control. Equipment is "state of the art". Every dentist has completed, at a minimum, residency training and most have years of experience. Visitors frequently comment on the cheeriness and cleanliness of the dental offices.

Marlene Gaylinn, a 77 year old adult wrote: *"The whole experience at Norwalk Smiles was indeed an unexpected pleasure. The area of dental care is generally neglected when it comes to social services for senior citizens. Medicare does not cover treatment and preventive measures. Private insurance is out of the question because of cost. If seniors have rotting teeth, it can affect overall health and shorten life span"*

Adele Gordon, Site Director –
Fairfield County Community Health Center, Inc.

WEB sites:

www.institutefororalhealth.org,

www.CHC1.com

www.ct.gov/dph/cwp/view.asp?A=3294 Report from Task Force on Oral Health for Older Adults F.A.C.T.S

Oral health report