

## Newsletter

### March 2009

#### In This Newsletter

- CoA and PCSW Present Research on Elder Economic Security
- CoA Hosts Round-Table Discussion on Direct Care Workforce Shortage
- CoA's Legislative Work
- Earth's Elders Exhibit Returns to the State Capitol
- CoA Responds to the Governor's Budget Proposal
- CoA in the News
- Hot Topic: 2009 Economic Stimulus Package

#### CoA and PCSW Present Groundbreaking Research on Elder Economic Security

The CoA is proud to be part of a new initiative that seeks to build economic security for older adults.

Washington-based, Wider Opportunities for Women (WOW) has launched the Elder Economic Security Initiative™ Program, and has selected to work with the Permanent Commission on the Status of Women, in partnership with the Commission on Aging.

This initiative is a national campaign to ensure that all older Americans are able to age in place with dignity, independence and economic security, whether they have the capacity to be self-reliant or are in need of certain public supports.

A newly released report details the costs of living in various parts of Connecticut for older adults and evaluates existing programs and services that help older adults with basic needs, such as food, energy and housing costs.



Representative Susan Johnson reviews the Elder Economic Security Index with the CoA's Legislative Director, Deb Polun. (photo: Lisa Smith-Overtton)

*Click to learn more...*

- [CT Elder Economic Security Initiative Research Brief](#)
- [Elder Economic Security Initiative Standard Index for Connecticut](#)
- [CT Elder Economic Security Initiative Fact Sheet](#)

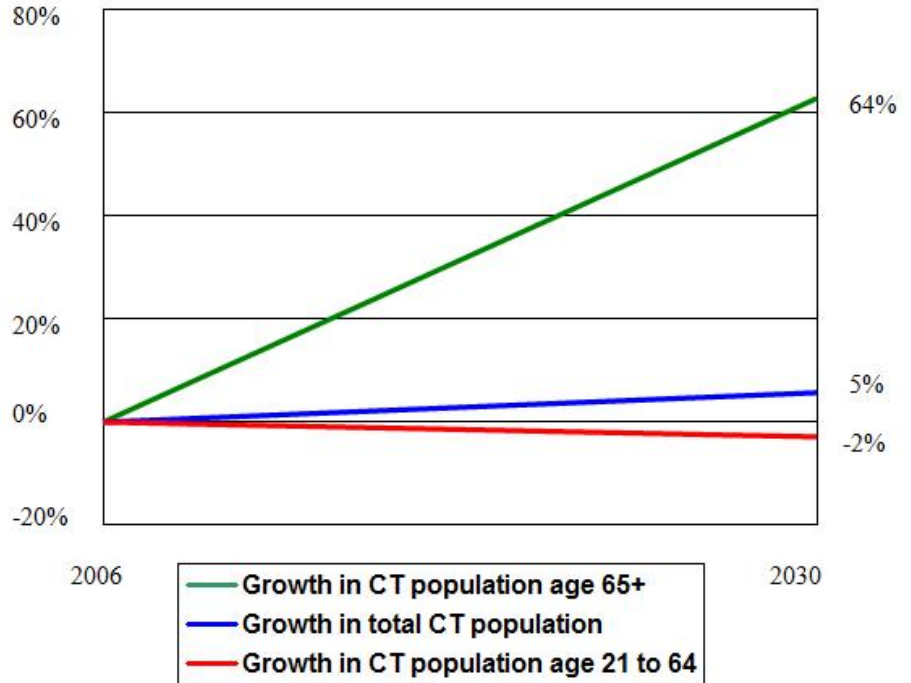
## CoA Co-Hosts Roundtable Discussion on the Direct Care Workforce Shortage with the Money Follows the Person (MFP) Steering Committee

Over 70 partners -home care providers, nursing schools, caregivers, hospitals, etc- participated in a roundtable discussion on February 23rd. Stakeholders proposed low-cost solutions to address the direct care workforce shortage. Their input will help inform the MFP Workforce Strategic Plan. Stay Tuned!

*Money Follows the Person is a \$56 million demonstration funded by the federal government that is intended to assist with rebalancing Connecticut's long-term care system so that individuals have the maximum independence and freedom of choice about where they live and receive services. The CoA is an active member of the MFP Steering Committee and chair of the workforce development subcommittee.*

According to [Connecticut's Long-Term Care Needs Assessment](#) by 2030 the number of people over the age of 65 is expected to grow by 64%. Conversely, the population aged 21 to 64 is expected to decrease by 2%. This will

further compound the already existing workforce shortage. In illustration, the demand for home health aides is the fastest growing occupational need in the nation. It is expected to grow by over 50% by 2014.



## CoA Legislative Work ~ Turning Research into Action

### CoA Readies Connecticut to Reform its Long-Term Care System

Armed with the data from the LTC Needs Assessment coupled with the enormous potential of MFP, CT is poised for major reform. At the heart of this movement is honoring the choices and rights of older persons and persons with disabilities to decide how and where they are to receive long-term care services. Building the home and community-based infrastructure is critical.

Data and strategies from the CoA's Redefining Retirement Years reports: [Productive Engagement of the Older Workforce](#) and [Workplace Flexibility Initiatives by State](#) were translated into action by introduction of [SB 1144](#). The premise of the bill is to allow older workers the opportunity for flexibility and to better ensure their economic security, while meeting the state's workforce needs.

CoA brings forward national data, best practices and trends to the newly created [Commission on Enhancing Agency Outcomes](#) to help inform their work to streamline state systems.



Click to learn more...

- [CoA's 2009 Legislative Strategies](#)
- [CoA's 2009 Testimony before the General Assembly](#): CoA has testified to more than 40 aging-related bills this session.

- [Break Down the Silos!](#) CoA created this graphic representation of CT's fragmented Medicaid Long-Term Care home and community-based system. CoA works to develop a system that is less fragmented and easier to access.
- [Long-Term Care Advisory Council Responds to the Governor's Proposed Budget Cuts.](#) The LTCAC, co-chaired by CoA Executive Director Julia Evans Starr and Representative Peter Villano, is comprised of consumers, providers, and advocates for older adults and persons with disabilities.
- Redefining Retirement Years: [Fact Sheet on Workplace Flexibility; Reports](#)
- A message from the [Medicare Part D Coalition](#)

February Session Highlight: "ConnPACE Plus" passes both chambers during the February Deficit Mitigation Session. The CoA participated in Representative Schofield's press conference announcing this innovative legislation.

## Earth's Elders Exhibit Returns to the State Capitol!

The Capitol was abuzz once again as 25 striking, larger-than-life photos of the "Super Centenarians"-- the oldest people on earth-- graced the walls of the concourse between the Legislative Office Building and the Capitol from February 16-27.

The photos were taken by Earth's Elders Foundation Chairman Jerry Friedman, who traveled the world interviewing and photographing these amazing people-- each at least 110 years old.

The Commission on Aging and Earths' Elders Foundation are partners on a project that offers schools an entire curriculum based on Mr. Friedman's work--free of charge.

"Too often in our country those who are long lived become isolated and forgotten," said CoA Executive Director Julia Evans Starr. "By starting with our youth, CoA uses a

grassroots approach to bring about a major paradigm shift in how we in society view people of advanced years and include them in our lives."



Children view the Earth's Elders Exhibit at the State Capitol.

Click here for more information about the [CoA's Earth's Elders Initiative.](#)

In addition, the wall of the concourse featured an exhibit that detailed the Commission's Results Based Accountability work, special projects, recommendations to the General Assembly, data and demographic trends.

## CoA Responds to the Governor's Budget Proposal Regarding Elimination of the Commission

Supporters of the legislative commissions turned out and filled the rooms at the GAE Public Hearing on March 16th and the Appropriations Public Hearing on February 11th. The Commission on Aging is immensely grateful to all who continue to provide such powerful, timely and compelling support at this critical time in the Commission's history.

### CoA is Part of the Solution!

*click to learn more...*

- [CoA Response Statement](#)
- [CoA Fact Sheet](#)
- [Support for the CoA](#)

## CoA in the News

- CoA and PCSW held a press conference in Norwalk on the Elder Economic Security Initiative. [Norwalk Hour, New Haven Register, Channel 12 TV, WICC Radio](#)
- Julie Evans Starr and Julie Robison appeared on CT Newsmakers with Tom Monahan on March 1, 2009.
- CoA Communications Director, Robert Norton, is quoted in the [New London Day](#) on February 25th about CoA's Redefining Retirement Years Initiative.
- [Commission on aging receives support in the papers](#) (click to learn more)
- Julie Evans Starr invited Teresa Younger from the Permanent Commission on the Status of Women to appear on WTIC-1080's Living Well CT on February 18th to talk about the Elder Economic Security Initiative. Glenn Cassis, Executive Director of the African American Affairs Commission also was also a guest. CoA friend and colleague Joe Stango will be our guest on the WTIC radio show on March 22nd.
- CoA presented its Results-Based Accountability (RBA) framework to the RBA and legislative management subcommittees of Appropriations on March 10th.

## Hot Topic! 2009 Stimulus Package

- How the [2009 Stimulus Package](#) affects older adults.
- Information about the [Social Security economic recovery](#) one time payments.
- [State Maintenance of Effort Requirements for Enhanced FMAP](#)

## About the Commission on Aging

*Working at the State Capitol and beyond to ensure a brighter future for our state and for older adults of today and tomorrow.*

The Connecticut Commission on Aging  
210 Capitol Avenue, Room 509  
Hartford, CT 06106

Phone: (860) 240-5200  
Fax: (860) 240-5204  
Website: [www.cga.ct.gov/coa](http://www.cga.ct.gov/coa)  
Email: [coa@cga.ct.gov](mailto:coa@cga.ct.gov)

### CoA Commission Members Represent Volunteerism at Its Best!

Don Dimenstein, New Haven  
William Eddy, Simsbury  
Sharon Gesek, Seymour  
Raymond Guenter, West Hartford  
Nancy Sullivan Hodkoski, Torrington  
Judith M. Jencks, Lisbon  
Gerard J. Kerins, New Haven  
Waldo C. Klein, Storrs  
Mary Ellen Klinck, East Haddam  
Christine M. Lewis (Chair), South Windsor  
Patricia Mayfield, Waterbury  
Richard Memmott, Sr., West Haven  
Carol Tillman Parrish, Hartford  
Jim Pellegrino, Meriden  
Penny Young, New Canaan  
Carolyn Thornberry, West Hartford  
Gerd Weindling, Trumbull



CoA Staff Team: Deb Migneault, Julia Evans Starr, Rob Norton, Deb Polun (photo: Bob Caroti)

[Ex Officio Members](#) - please click here for a list of CoA's ex officio non-voting members

## Visit us on the Web!

[www.cga.ct.gov/coa](http://www.cga.ct.gov/coa)

Looking for information about long-term care services and supports?

Visit CT's Long-Term Care Services and Supports website - [www.ct.gov/longtermcare](http://www.ct.gov/longtermcare)