



Jessie Parker Building
510 E 12th Street, Ste. 2
Des Moines, IA 50319
515.725.3333 | 800.532.3213
www.iowaaging.gov

IOWA DEPARTMENT ON AGING UPDATES

September, 2016

- The US Department of Labor notified the Department that its Senior Community Service Employment (SCSEP) program topped Region 5 (States of Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan, Ohio, Nebraska, Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas and Missouri) for Program Year 2016. This means Iowa led Region 5 in placing Iowans at 125% of poverty or less in job training and unsubsidized jobs.
- IDA will be submitting proposed legislation to the Governor's office by November to further clarify the scope of services provided by the OSDM and the role of the Attorney General's office. Currently, the Office of Substitute Decision Making (OSDM) has the largest scope of service in the USA, but does not yet have statewide funding. The proposed legislation will remove the OSDM from the provision of Powers of Attorney (in which case the OSDM would not be necessary) and will provide additional flexibility in the role of the OSDM administrator and Attorney General's office.
- The Falls Prevention grant ended on August 31. Iowa Department of Public Health has been awarded a two year grant to continue the work of falls prevention and to seek methods of sustainability. IDA is a partner in this grant and the Falls Prevention Website will be housed on the IDA website. An event will be held on October 22 to recognize the importance of taking steps to prevent falls.
- Veterans Directed Home and Community Based Services (VD-HCBS) has opened through the Iowa City Veterans Administration Medical Center and NEI3A. IDA continues to work with the Veterans Hospital in Des Moines to expand the areas served. Senator Ernst has assigned staff to work with IDA staff to advocate on this issue.
- Donna testified before the Senate Judiciary Committee on the topic of financial exploitation of older adults at the invitation of Senator Grassley:
<http://www.judiciary.senate.gov/meetings/protecting-older-americans-from-financial-exploitation>

- The network of area agencies on aging nationwide are facing the retirement of many long-standing leaders. In Iowa, three of the six area agencies on aging are facing new leaders: Connections (Council Bluffs, Creston, Sioux City) will celebrate the retirement of Barb Morrison at the end of the year after nearly 40 years of serving elders in Iowa and Nebraska; NEI3A (Waterloo, Decorah, Dubuque) will hire a new director as Mike Isaacson assumes the director position of the AAA in Tampa/St. Petersburg, FL; Elderbridge (Fort Dodge, Mason City, Carroll, Spencer) has begun the process of hiring a full time director to move from a co-directorship of Shelli Sindt and Donell Doering (while this has worked well, they believe it is better to have a sole director).

- IDA is in the process of preparing our state plan on aging due to ACL in July 2017. The steps we will be taking in the next few months include:
 - Developing a new template in collaboration with other team members who participated in the Lean Event last year;
 - Providing technical assistance with the AAAs to utilize the new area plan template and complete it with their information
 - The area plan information will align with, and be incorporated into, the state plan;
 - A public hearing on the plan will occur in March 2017
 - A progress update will be provided to the Commission at their next meeting.