

Master Plan for Aging Recommendation Form

California Department of Community Living

Issue Statement: People experience difficulties accessing services and supports needed to age with dignity and independence. Much of this challenge can be attributed to the fragmented arrangement of state and federal funded LTSS programs across multiple state departments, with little data sharing and policy development focused on the needs, priorities, and experiences of older adults and families. This fragmentation impacts the ability to:

1. Plan and deliver services in a coordinated, streamlined fashion to individuals and their families, limiting access to necessary services and supports
2. Identify population needs and prioritize and plan services

MPA Framework Goal:

- **Goal 1: Services and Supports:** We will be able to live where we choose as we age and have the help we and our families need to do so.
- **Goal 2: Livable Communities and Purpose:** We will live in and be engaged in communities that are age-friendly, dementia- friendly, and disability-friendly.
- **Goal 3: Health and Well-Being:** We will maintain our health and well-being as we age.

Outcome: Older adults, people with disabilities, and caregivers are able to easily identify and access a range of services and supports that best meet their needs and goals.

Recommendation: Reorganize the state-level administration with a new California Department of Community Living (replacing the Department of Aging) to promote coordinated, integrated person-centered care.

Target Population and Numbers: State policy makers, older adults, people with disabilities and caregivers.

Detailed Recommendation: The Department of Aging should outline a plan for the state-level restructuring of federal and state-funded LTSS programs serving older adults and people with disabilities through creation of a new Department of Community Living (DCL). The DCL would replace the current California Department of Aging, providing leadership in the delivery of home- and community-based LTSS with a goal of enabling all Californians, regardless of income and need, to age with dignity and independence. The structural reorganization would focus on coordinated, integrated service delivery to provide the leadership needed to implement system change that puts the person first and considers the whole system, rather than silos of existing programs.

Examples of local, state or national initiatives that can be used as an example of a best practice: Examples of such restructuring include: Federal Administration for Community Living,

[Vermont's Department of Aging and Independent Living, Nevada Aging and Disability Services Division, Washington Aging and Long-Term Support Administration](#)

Implementation:

- **State Agencies/Departments:** The California Health and Human Services Agency will work with the Department of Aging, in partnership with the Departments of Health Care Services, Public Health, Rehabilitation and Social Services, to develop a plan for reorganization.
- **State Legislature:** The State legislature will provide statutory authority for the restructuring.

Person-Centered Metrics: The extent to which state and federal LTSS programs are organized within one department with a shared vision that influences planning, budgeting and implementation.

Evaluations:

- **Short-term (by 2020):** Plan for restructuring in place
- **Mid-term (by 2025):** New department structure in place and operational

Data Sources: Not applicable

Potential Costs/Savings: Unknown.

Prioritization: High

Name of person(s)/organization submitting recommendation: Sarah Steenhausen, The SCAN Foundation

Email for person(s)/organization submitting recommendation:
ssteenhausen@thescanfoundation.org

Date of submission: 12/13/19