



Week's Worth

September 17, 2010

Last week we spoke too soon! Late this week we learned that **the Candidates Forum has been cancelled**. During the past week the planning committee was advised that key candidates could in fact not attend. Instead, the planning committee is preparing a list of questions for the Gubernatorial and U.S. Senate candidates to help us understand their position on issues of concern to seniors. At this time the plan is to compile all responses and send them to members just prior to the ballot mail date in October so that you may share the information with your residents/clients.

Earlier this week we received a document from AAHSA detailing proceedings from a Housing with Services Summit they hosted earlier this year. AAHSA, in partnership with Enterprise Community Partners, Inc., convened the National Summit on Affordable Senior Housing and Services on May 25, 2010 in Washington, DC. This "invitation only" meeting brought together nearly 100 experts, including policy officials from the U.S. Departments of Health and Human Services (HHS) and Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the Office of Management and Budget (OMB); state aging, health and housing agencies; senior housing providers; health and aging services providers; foundations; academic researchers and aging and housing advocacy organizations.

The summit had the following four objectives:

- To bring together for the first time housing and long-term care policymakers from all governmental levels, low-income senior housing and long-term care services providers and other key stakeholders to begin a national conversation about the role of affordable senior housing and services models in helping low- and modest-income older adults to "age in place" safely and cost effectively in their apartments and communities;
- To share ideas, promising practices and current or planned policy initiatives designed to help develop and foster a range of programs linking affordable senior housing and supportive and health-related services;
- To identify the financing, regulatory and other barriers to the development of affordable senior housing plus services models and to explore strategies for mitigating these barriers; and
- To identify next steps for formalizing the network of stakeholders gathered at the summit to jointly develop, test, disseminate and replicate successful programs.

Participants discussed next steps to pursue following this summit to continue advancing the development and expansion of successful housing with services models. There was agreement that the field needs more evidence-based research on the various models to inform policy development and practice. Many also agreed that well-designed, rigorous demonstrations and evaluations could help to elevate this issue among stakeholders who are not aware of the tremendous potential that housing with services programs have for helping elderly and younger disabled people to remain in the community efficiently and cost effectively. For a copy of the report contact us at CAHSA at 303-837-8834 or Karen@cahsa.org.