



# IowaAging.gov AgingWatch

Volume 13, Issue 13 | June 28, 2013

The link to policy affecting older Iowans

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## Governor Branstad Signs HHS Budget Bill Line Item Veto Analysis

Governor Branstad signed several appropriations bills into law on Thursday, June 20. The bills signed into law include [Senate File 446](#) and [Senate File 452](#). Both bills have been monitored by and impact the Iowa Department on Aging.

[Senate File 446](#), referred to as the Health and Human Services budget bill, was signed with several line-item vetoes. The vetoes include the following:

- **Disapproval of two additional local long-term care resident’s advocate positions and corresponding funding of \$200,000 for Fiscal Year 2014 – Section 2, subsection 1.** The letter from the Office of the Governor provided the following basis for the veto: “Currently, the Department on Aging is in the process of an aging system redesign and is thoroughly reviewing state services. It is important to ensure that all new positions are consistent with the redesign so that Iowa can best serve the needs of aging Iowans.” The \$200,000 appropriation shall revert to the General Fund.
- **Disapproval of two additional local long-term care resident’s advocate positions and corresponding funding of \$100,000 for Fiscal Year 2015 – Section 132, subsection 1.** The \$100,000 appropriation shall revert to the General Fund. The basis for the veto remains the same as that provided for the disapproval of the same positions in Fiscal Year 2014.
- **Disapproval of appropriations to the Office of the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman based on imposed penalties – Section 49.** The language in Section 49 of Senate File 446 would have allowed the Office of the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman (“Office”) to use collected penalties imposed against long-term care facilities, assisted living programs, and elder group homes for purposes of administration and duties of the Office. Under current law, funds generated from these penalties would not be appropriated to the Office but would instead be placed in the General Fund. The letter from the Office of the Governor provided the following basis for the veto: “I oppose this change which uses fines to automatically fund Office of Long-Term Care Resident’s Advocate because it sets a dangerous precedent and creates a conflict of interest.”

These are the vetoes in [Senate File 446](#) that impact the Iowa Department on Aging. Additional line-item vetoes were made that may have an impact on the Aging



**AgingWatch  
Analysis:**

Governor Branstad exercises his authority to line item veto and signs the final version of the HHS Appropriations Bill into law.

Network. These vetoes include the following:

- **Disapproval of appropriations to be used to implement reductions in the waiting lists of all medical assistance home and community-based services waivers – Section 12, subsection 20.** This language would have provided \$8,715,473 to be used to reduce waiting lists. The following basis for the veto was provided: “Past history demonstrates that funding specifically earmarked to buy down the waiting list is not a successful long-term solution. Additionally, the Iowa Health and Wellness Plan will be implemented January 1, 2014. The Iowa Health and Wellness Plan will provide access for Iowans currently on the waiting list to high quality health care, including home and community based services.”
- **Disapproval of appropriations to be used to implement a mental health advocate division for Fiscal Year 2014 and Fiscal Year 2015 – Section 27, subsection 5 and Section 157, subsection 5.** This language would have appropriated \$250,000 in Fiscal Year 2014, and \$125,000 in Fiscal Year 2015, for a mental health advocate division in the Department of Inspections and Appeals. The Office of the Governor stated, “Currently, these [mental health advocates] work at the county level. In the newly redesigned mental health and disability services system, it is best for these positions to remain at the local level where services will be managed and delivered regionally.”
- **Disapproval of the establishment of a committee to examine options for designating a facility to provide care for persons who are sexually aggressive, combative, or have unmet psychiatric needs – Division XIX.** This language would have mandated that the Department of Inspections and Appeals and the Department of Human Services establish and facilitate a committee to examine options for designating a facility to provide care for persons who are sexually aggressive, combative, or have unmet psychiatric needs. The Division outlined the membership and duties of the Committee. The following basis for the veto was provided: “My administration currently has a work group that is working together to propose constructive recommendations. The work group is open to public input. An additional committee is not needed at this time.”

All other mandates within Senate File 446 that have been monitored and reported by the Department on Aging have been signed into law. These mandates include the following:

- Increase of \$600,000 to fund home and community-based services— Additional information regarding the impact of home and community-based services on the independence of older Iowans, see [page 9](#).
- Increase of \$250,000 to fund services to meet the unmet needs of older individuals
- Increase of \$20,000 to be used to implement the guardianship / conservatorship monitoring and assistance pilot project

## ***Aging Watch***

### **AgingWatch Analysis:**

Governor Branstad exercises his authority to line item veto and signs the final version of the HHS Appropriations Bill into law.

- Increase of \$100,000 for the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program
- Increase of \$110,000 for the Certified Volunteer Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program and one additional Long-Term Care Ombudsman to assist in administration of the program
- Continuation of the Elder Abuse Task Force and creation of an Elder Abuse Legislative Interim Committee
- Language that allows an employee of an area agency on aging enrolled in an alternative qualified plan to remain in the plan
- Creation of a guardianship / conservatorship monitoring and assistance pilot project in the 6<sup>th</sup> Judicial District

The Governor also signed [Senate File 452](#), the Standings Bill. There were no line-item vetoes in this bill that have an impact on the operations of the Department on Aging. The bill includes language mandating that the Area Agencies on Aging serve as Aging and Disability Resource Centers and that the Area Agencies on Aging consult with other stakeholders including organizations representing the disability community.

All legislation signed by Governor Branstad will be effective beginning July 1, 2013, with the exception of the mandates surrounding the Elder Abuse Task Force. The portions of [Senate File 446](#) that address elder abuse, being deemed of immediate importance, take place upon enactment.

## **Reduction of Area Agencies on Aging Takes Effect**

On July 1, 2013 the number of Area Agencies on Aging will change from 13 to 6. This is the final step in a process mandated by legislation passed in 2011 and 2012 (House Files 45 and 2320). The new aging network structure will facilitate efficiencies and continuity of services throughout Iowa.

The Department and the current Area Agencies on Aging have worked to assure a smooth transition without interruption to services.

Contact information for Iowa's Area Agencies on Aging beginning July 1, 2013, follows on page 4.

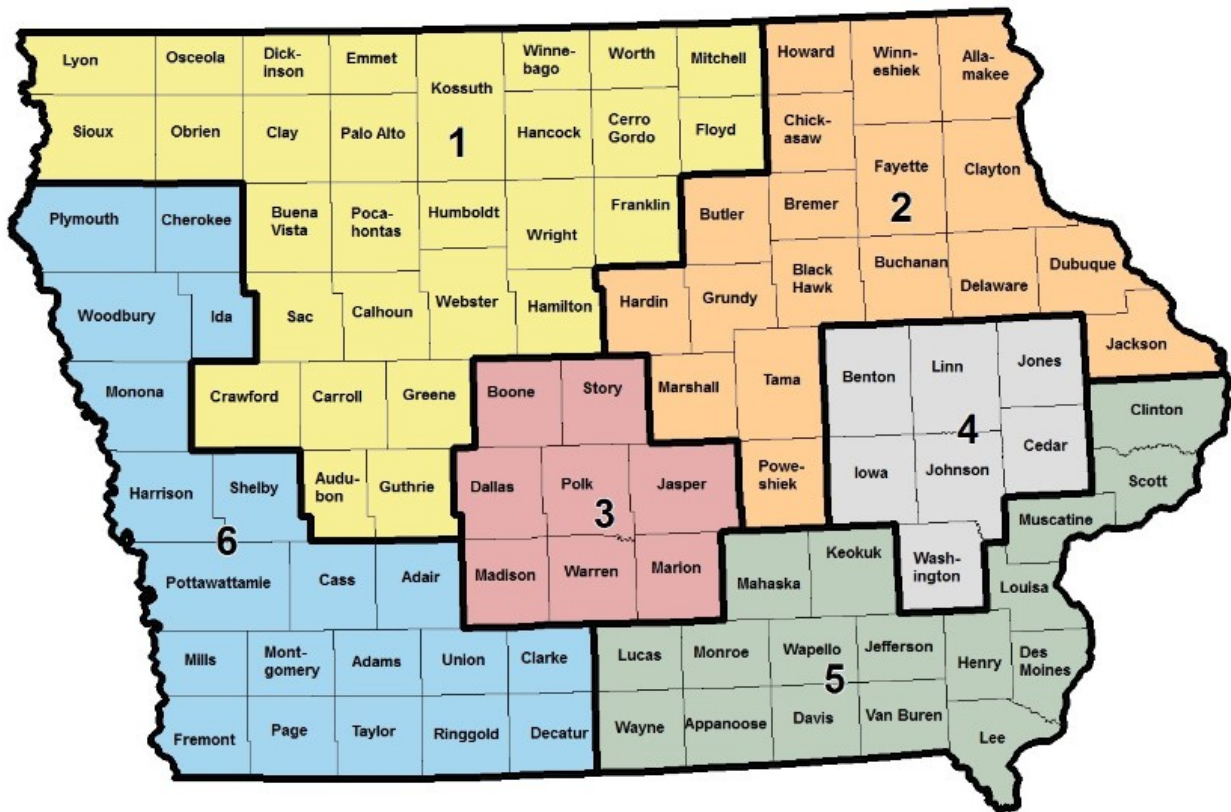
For questions directed to the Department on Aging:

Iowa Department on Aging  
510 E 12<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 2  
Des Moines, IA 50319-9025

(800) 532-3213

E-Mail: [aging@iowa.gov](mailto:aging@iowa.gov)

## Area Agencies on Aging as of July 1, 2013



PSA  
1

### Planning & Service Area 1: Elderbridge Agency on Aging

Director Mick Tagesen

Email Address: [mtagesen@elderbridge.org](mailto:mtagesen@elderbridge.org)

Web site: [www.elderbridge.org](http://www.elderbridge.org)

#### Mason City Office

*Serving Cerro Gordo, Floyd, Franklin, Hancock, Kossuth, Mitchell, Winnebago, and Worth counties*

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(641) 424-0678 or (800) 243-0678

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603 N West Street

Carroll, IA 51401

(712) 792-3512 or (800) 243-0678

Fax: (712) 792-3534

**Planning & Service Area 1: Elderbridge Agency on Aging *(continued)***

**Fort Dodge Office**

*Serving Calhoun, Hamilton, Humboldt, Pocahontas, Webster, and Wright counties*  
308 Central Avenue  
Fort Dodge, IA 50501  
(515) 955-5244 or (800) 243-0678  
Fax (515) 955-5245

**Spencer Office**

*Serving Buena Vista, Clay, Dickinson, Emmet, Lyon, O'Brien, Osceola, Palo Alto, and Sioux counties*  
714 10th Avenue East, P. O. Box 213  
Spencer, IA 51301  
(712) 262-1775 or (800) 243-0678  
Fax: (712) 262-7520

**Planning & Service Area 2: Northeast Iowa Area Agency on Aging**

Director Mike Isaacson  
Email Address: [NEI3A@NEI3A.org](mailto:NEI3A@NEI3A.org)  
Web site: [www.NEI3A.org](http://www.NEI3A.org)

**Waterloo Office**

*Serving Black Hawk, Bremer, Buchanan, Butler, Chickasaw, Grundy, Hardin, Marshall, Poweshiek, and Tama counties*  
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Fax (319) 272-2455

**Decorah, Office**

*Serving Allamakee, Clayton, Fayette, Howard, and Winneshiek counties*  
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Decorah, IA 52101  
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Fax (563) 382-6248

**Dubuque Office**

*Serving Delaware, Dubuque, and Jackson counties*  
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Dubuque, IA 52001  
(563) 588-3970 or (888) 238-0831  
Fax (563) 588-1952

**PSA  
2**

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**Planning & Service Area 3: Aging Resources of Central Iowa**

*Serving Boone, Dallas, Jasper, Madison, Marion, Polk, Story and Warren counties*

Director Joel Olah

Email Address: [agingres@aol.com](mailto:agingres@aol.com)

Web site: [www.agingresources.com](http://www.agingresources.com)

5835 Grand Avenue, Suite 106

Des Moines, IA 50312-1437

(515) 255-1310 or (800) 747-5352

Fax: (515) 255-9442

**PSA  
4**

**Planning & Service Area 4: Heritage Agency on Aging**

*Serving Benton, Cedar, Iowa, Johnson, Jones, Linn and Washington counties*

Director Ingrid Wensel

Email Address: [ingrid.wensel@kirkwood.edu](mailto:ingrid.wensel@kirkwood.edu)

Web site: [www.heritageaaa.org](http://www.heritageaaa.org)

6301 Kirkwood Blvd., SW, PO Box 2068

Cedar Rapids, IA 52406

(319) 398-5559 or (800) 332-5934

Fax: (319) 398-5533

**PSA  
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**Planning & Service Area 5: Milestones Area Agency on Aging**

Director Connie Holland

Email Address: [info@milestonesaaa.org](mailto:info@milestonesaaa.org)

Web site: [www.milestonesaaa.org](http://www.milestonesaaa.org)

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Ottumwa, IA 52501

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Davenport, IA 52807-2664

(563) 324-9085 or (800) 892-9085

Fax: (563) 324-9384

# PSA 6

## Aging Watch

### Planning & Service Area 6: Connections Area Agency on Aging

Director Barb Morrison

Email Address: [bmorrison@southwest8.org](mailto:bmorrison@southwest8.org)

Web site: [www.southwest8.org](http://www.southwest8.org)

#### **Council Bluffs Office**

*Serving Cass, Fremont, Harrison, Mills, Montgomery, Page, Pottawattamie, and Shelby counties*

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Sioux City, IA 51104

(712) 279-6900 or (800) 432-9209

Fax: (712) 233-3415

### Spotlight on the Certified Volunteer Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program

[Senate File 446](#) expanded the Certified Volunteer Long-Term Care Ombudsman program by adding an additional Certified Volunteer Long-Term Care Ombudsman. In light of this recent growth, Aging Watch would like to provide some additional information regarding the program, how it operates, and answers to common questions regarding the program.

#### **What is the Certified Volunteer Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program (VOP)?**

The program is designed to provide assistance to the Office of State Long-Term Care Ombudsman by providing volunteer advocates. The volunteers, referred to as VOP volunteers, will assist the Office of the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman in carrying out duties outlined in the Older Americans Act. These duties include speaking with residents to identify concerns or issues.

#### **What does the VOP Volunteer do?**

VOP volunteers serve as the eyes and ears of the Local Long-Term Care

Ombudsmen by conducting monitoring visits to their assigned long-term care (LTC) facility. Volunteers will be given a list of important items, developed by the Local LTC Ombudsmen, which they will check on each visit. Additionally, they will talk with many of the facility's residents to identify concerns or issues and bring them to the attention of the facility and/or Local LTC Ombudsman.

**How can I become a VOP volunteer?**

VOP volunteers must be 18 years of age or older and must undergo a series of steps to be eligible to serve. These steps include the following:

- **Complete an application and undergo a background check.**
- **Attend 8 hours of training in a nearby community to receive support from experts in advocacy, emphasizing resident rights.**
- **Attend a facility orientation to meet the administrator and your Local Long-Term Care Ombudsman.**
- **Complete one online activity or take-home exercise related to resident advocacy**
- **Take part in one Q&A session with the VOP Coordinator.**

**How are facilities assigned?**

Volunteers are asked to indicate the facility at which they would like to volunteer on the VOP volunteer application. As long as a conflict of interest is not identified at the requested facility, the volunteer will be assigned to the requested facility. If a conflict of interest is identified, the volunteer will be asked to volunteer at a facility where a conflict of interest does not exist.

**Will I be assigned more than one facility?**

No. Each volunteer will be asked to volunteer in one facility only.

**Can I volunteer for the facility AND the VOP?**

No. Certified LTC Ombudsmen serve as advocates on behalf of LTC residents, not LTC facilities. Sometimes a conflict exists between these two parties; therefore, serving both parties would prove difficult and is considered a conflict of interest. As an extension of the Office of State Long-Term Care Ombudsman, VOP volunteers are expected to serve as advocates for residents only.

**I've been a Resident Advocate Committee (RAC) member, Care Review Committee member, or facility volunteer for a number of years. Why do I have to go through the VOP training and certification process if I already know what I'm doing?**

The training requirement is mandated by law. The purpose of requiring all volunteers to go through the VOP training is to make certain that all persons who represent the State of Iowa through the VOP are consistent in their knowledge, actions, and advocacy skills. To ensure this, all volunteers must be presented

Never doubt that a small group of committed people can change the world.

Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.

*Margaret Mead*



### Aging Watch

the same information through the same method of training. Consistency throughout the VOP volunteer network will be most beneficial to the residents.

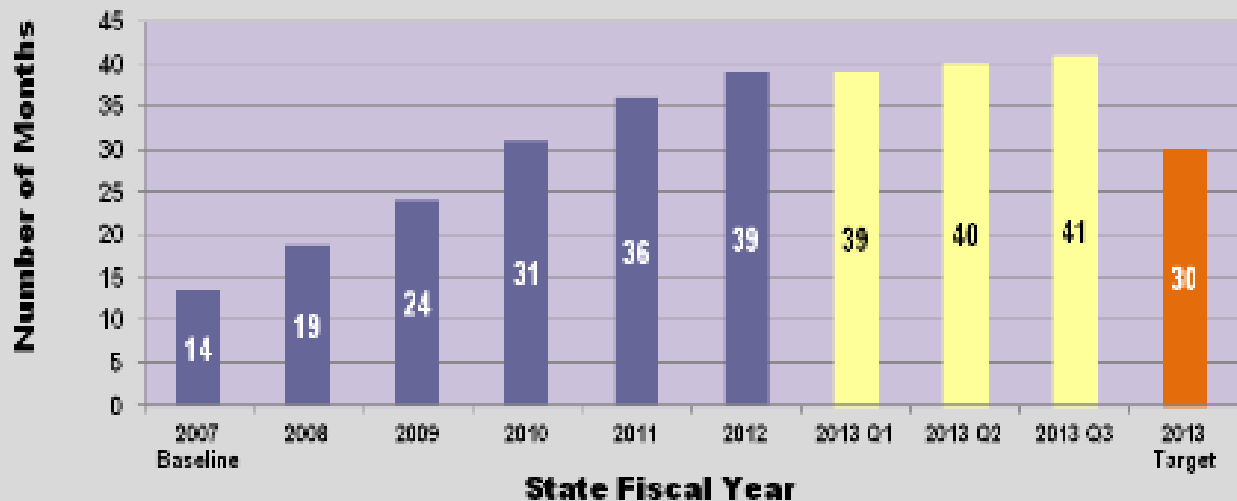
#### How do I contact the VOP?

Individuals interested in obtaining additional information regarding the VOP or interested in serving as a volunteer should contact the VOP Coordinator at:

Local: (515) 344-0052  
Toll-Free: (866) 236-1430  
E-mail: [merca.bentrott@iowa.gov](mailto:merca.bentrott@iowa.gov)

## The Impact of Home and Community Based Services On The Ability to Remain Living Independently

### Average Length of Time Independent Status is Maintained



Average number of months a client's independent living status is maintained via the Case Management Program for Frail Elders (CMPFE) prior to institutionalization or death.

Reprinted from 'Results Iowa: Accountability for Iowa' View the entire report at <http://www.resultsiowa.org/elder.html>

## **Betty Grandquist Lifetime Achievement Award**

The Iowa Department on Aging is now accepting nominations for the 2013 Betty Grandquist Lifetime Achievement Award.

The award was established in 2009 to recognize Iowans who have dedicated a part of their life to achieving excellence in the field of healthy aging and have promoted the wellbeing and independence of older Iowans and/or Iowans with a disability. The award may also recognize Iowans who have made a significant professional contribution to the fields of aging or disability. Details are contained on the home page of the Iowa Department on Aging website, [iowaaging.gov](http://iowaaging.gov).

Dates of importance:

- Deadline for nominations August 30, 2013
- Presentation of Award October 14, 2013  
(as part of the Prospects for Independent Living Conference)

## **Public Comment**

Remember, you may provide comments on aging issues at any time of the year by contacting the Iowa Department on Aging or an Iowa Commission on Aging board member.

Iowa Department on Aging  
510 E 12<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 2  
Des Moines, IA 50319-9025

E-Mail: [aging@iowa.gov](mailto:aging@iowa.gov)

## **Future Issues of AgingWatch**

The Iowa Department on Aging will not be publishing AgingWatch on a weekly basis in the interim.

AgingWatch will be publishing on a monthly basis, or more frequently as issues and events warrant.



Nomination  
Deadline for the  
Betty Grandquist  
Lifetime  
Achievement  
Award:

August 30, 2013



## Prospects for Independent Living

October 14 -15, 2013

Scheman Building

Ames, Iowa



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Please feel free to forward AgingWatch to others who are interested in issues and programs that impact older Iowans.

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*AgingWatch will be published regularly during the legislative session and monthly in the interim by the Iowa Department on Aging. Recipients of the e-mail notice of publication are encouraged to share it with others.*

*The current issue may be found on the Department's website, [www.iowaaging.gov](http://www.iowaaging.gov). Past issues are archived in the "Publications/Information" section.*



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**The Mission** of the Iowa Department on Aging is to develop a comprehensive, coordinated and cost-effective system of long term living and community support services that help individuals maintain health and independence in their homes and communities.