

From: info=nsclc.org@mail.salsalabs.net <info=nsclc.org@mail.salsalabs.net>

To: Kester, Tonykester@aging.sc.gov

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Subject: NSCLC In Review - January 2015

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NSCLC WEBINAR:

**The California
Coordinated Care
Initiative: What
Advocates Need to Know
- Santa Clara County**

**Thur., Jan. 22, 2015
10 - 11 AM PDT**

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NSCLC Leads Conversation on Senior Poverty

Two recent NSCLC blog posts highlight the struggles of older women in poverty and the need to update SSI.

[The Faces of Senior Poverty Are Likely Women of Color](#), posted to TalkPoverty.org, illustrates the human struggles of senior poverty, highlighting the four women, Sandy, Dollie, Lidia, and Myrtle, that we [featured in this video](#). This post was picked up by [Bill Moyers](#) and reposted, along with the video, to his news site Moyers and Company, reaching thousands more people via social media channels. It was also reposted by [Common Dreams](#), a leading progressive news site.

Another blog, [Current SSI Levels leave Low-Income Seniors Out in the Cold](#), posted on the politics blog of Huffington Post, illuminates the connection between seniors' ability to make ends meet and necessary updates to SSI.

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50th Anniversary of Medicare and Medicaid

Signed into law in 1965, 2015 marks the 50th Anniversary of the Medicare and Medicaid programs. Fifty years later, it's important to recognize that these programs are still vital today and that proposals that would cut or weaken them must be rejected. Introducing a [recent resolution](#) on the senate floor to commemorate the anniversary, [Sen. Ron Wyden \(D-Ore\)](#) said:

"When President Johnson submitted his message to Congress 50 years ago, fewer than half of America's

elderly even had health insurance. [...] It's worth remembering how far we've come. Today, I ask my colleagues to use this anniversary as a vivid reminder of the difference Medicare and Medicaid make in the daily lives of Americans, and also the health care advances that have occurred as a result. [...] As this new Congress begins, I hope we can use that 50-year-old spirit to strengthen, protect, and improve Medicare and Medicaid to keep the guarantee strong and ensure health care to those who need it most."

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New House Rule Threatens Disability Insurance Program

Last week the House of Representatives approved a rule that prohibits any legislation that would reallocate funds between the Social Security Administration's Old Age and Survivors Insurance (OASI) and its Disability Insurance (DI) programs. NSCLC has serious concerns about this rule because it would lead to sharp cuts in benefits by the end of 2016 for DI beneficiaries, including older adults with disabilities, and could set the stage for cuts to the overall Social Security program.

[Read our full statement here.](#)

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California Dual Eligibles Update

With large numbers of California's dual eligibles, (beneficiaries who receive both Medicare and Medicaid), facing automatic enrollment in Cal MediConnect on January 1, NSCLC's California health team attorneys had a busy December helping advocates get ready to assist clients with questions and problems. We prepared [this Fact Sheet](#) on January Enrollment to help advocates prepare the individuals they serve. In addition, the team conducted dozens of in-person trainings and webinars that reached more than 500 direct service providers in Riverside/San Bernardino, Los Angeles, and San Diego counties. With other California counties poised to enter the demonstration in 2015, the team's work will be broadening outside of Southern California.

On January 1, Santa Clara County became the sixth county to move forward with the Coordinated Care Initiative and Orange County is slated to begin implementation in July 2015. [A webinar for advocates in Santa Clara County](#) will be led by NSCLC staff attorney Amber Cutler on Thursday, January 22, 2015.

In Review is a monthly publication of the National Senior Citizens Law Center. [Vanessa Barrington](#), editor, [Katrina Cohens](#), design & circulation. The National Senior Citizens Law Center is a non-profit organization whose principal mission is to protect the rights of low-income older adults. Through advocacy, litigation, and the education and counseling of local advocates, we seek to ensure the health and economic security of those with limited income and resources, and to preserve their access to the courts. We have offices in Los Angeles and Oakland, CA and in Washington, DC. For more information, visit our Web site at www.NSCLC.org. To contact us, write info@nsclc.org.

National Senior Citizens Law Center

1444 Eye Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005

NSCLC staff are available to help advocates with answers to questions about program rules and requirements, reviewing and analyzing pleadings, commenting on proposed litigation, assisting in the formulation of strategies, drafting opinion letters and providing memoranda, articles and other written materials. NSCLC is a member of the [National Legal Resource Center](#) that provides legal support to the Aging Advocacy Network.

You are subscribed to this organization's email list as kester@aging.sc.gov.

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