

From: info=justiceinaging.org@mail.salsalabs.net <info=justiceinaging.org@mail.salsalabs.net>
To: Kester, Tonykester@aging.sc.gov
Date: 10/18/2016 10:33:38 AM
Subject: Good News For Class Members in Suit Against SSA

Kevin Hart

Settlement Agreement in Class Action against the Social Security Administration (SSA)

We've reached a proposed settlement with SSA on behalf of approximately 6,500 California residents, who may have had their disability claims denied on the basis of faulty medical reports. If approved by the

court, the settlement will offer class members the chance to have their disability claims reevaluated. The San Francisco Chronicle [featured our lead plaintiff](#) in a story about the proposed settlement. You can also [read more about the case in our press release](#).

The National Center on Law and Elder Rights

Justice in Aging is pleased to announce the future launch of the National Center on Law and Elder Rights (NCLER). The new national center will provide the legal services and aging and disability communities with the legal tools and resources they need to serve older adults with the greatest economic and social needs. Justice in Aging will administer the NCLER through a contract with the Administration on Community Living's Administration on Aging. Stay tuned for more information and an official launch of the NCLER website in early 2017! In the meantime, **contact Fay Gordon at fgordon@justiceinaging.org** with any questions.

Nursing Home News

Last week brought big changes in nursing home regulations. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) released revised nursing home regulations that depart dramatically from previous regulations, and will impact the lives and care of nursing home residents for years to come. Justice in Aging Directing Attorney Eric Carlson is co-presenting with [ABA](#) and [Consumer Voice](#) two webinars on the topic in the coming weeks. Stay tuned for in-depth issue briefs on this topic from Justice in Aging and our partners. As part of the new rule, nursing homes are now prohibited from including binding arbitration clauses in their admission agreements with residents. Prior to this change, nursing home residents were required upon admission to sign away their right to sue for neglect and abuse. "It prevents nursing facilities from taking advantage of people on the front end and having them sign things when they're thinking about everything other than arbitration," said Justice in Aging attorney Eric Carlson [in a story about the new rule in the Epoch Times](#).

New CCI Advocate's Guide plus Evaluation Results

Justice in Aging has led a training and advocacy effort on California's Coordinated Care Initiative (CCI) since it launched five years ago. We recently released [Version 5 of our Advocates Guide to the CCI](#) with descriptions of all new and updated policies, additional advocacy tips, and some of the first evaluation results. Regarding evaluation results, we published a blog, [Cal MediConnect: A Long Way to Go](#) last month with our assessment of the evaluation results, in which we highlight what's working and call out what's not.

Working to Stop Balance Billing

We continue to hear about cases of Balance Billing, in which healthcare providers illegally bill dual eligibles for the balance of charges not covered by Medicare. We've been working to stop this practice through advocacy and also by educating both providers and beneficiaries. Last month Justice in Aging partnered with Neighborhood Legal Services (NLS) in Los Angeles to produce a Teletown Hall for consumers and advocates. Justice in Aging attorney Denny Chan presented information to nearly 1,500 listeners and took live questions. Nearly 40% of those polled said they had been balance billed. NLS is

providing many with in-depth assistance. This year we also created a toolkit with model letters that both consumers and advocates can use to help them resolve balance billing issues. It can be [accessed here](#).

Racial Justice Statement

Last month we released a statement in support of Racial Justice. We assert that, as we continue fighting for the rights of poor older adults, we must also acknowledge that, because of systemic bias, racism, and discrimination, poverty disproportionately impacts Black people and other people of color. Our work of fighting senior poverty through law must include efforts to help dismantle the systemic inequalities that make health and income disparities in certain communities pervasive. [Read the entire statement](#).

Don't forget to attend our upcoming forum in Washington DC, Dignity for All: Ensuring Economic Security as America Ages. [More information and registration](#).

Connect with Us

Justice In Aging
1444 Eye Street, N.W., Suite 1100
Washington, DC 20005

1330 Broadway, Suite 525
Oakland, CA 94612

3660 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 718
Los Angeles, CA 90010

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