

This Stalemate is Getting Dangerously Stale

How long will this last and how many casualties will there be?

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After nearly **nine months** of not being paid by the State of Illinois for the contracted services we performed, Aging Care Connections recently received just a partial payment for the outstanding amount that was due. That's after nearly **nine months** of scant communications from the state regarding when payments would be issued. That's after nearly **nine months** of watching the ongoing budget impasse in Springfield take out one nonprofit after another in its destructive wake. That's after **nine months** of news stories about layoffs, pink slips, furlough days, cancellation of vital services, and the evaporation of well-established agencies and programs that are critical for children, women, families, older adults, and others in need.

While we are grateful for the monies that did come through, that has by no means alleviated the stress, concern, and unpredictability that the budget stalemate puts us in. To call our current situation precarious would be an understatement.

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Care Coordination Colleen Hill, Manager Erynn Crawford, Tracy Erwin, Julie Barrera, Glenda Campoverde, Juanita Esparza, Amanda Keenan, Yoloxochitl Martinez, Rebecca Sperling, Ashley Stewart	Aging Well Neighborhood Alana Aziz-Bradley, Project Coordinator
	Program Administrative Support Rojean Carlson, Chore Coordinator Sue Trant

Our Mission

is to enrich the quality of life for older adults and their families through a range of programs and services that enhance their well-being and independence. We do this by providing comprehensive programs and services for older adults and their families.

Please contact us to learn more about the following:

- Adult Protective Services (for those 60+ and disabled 18+)
- Aging Well
- Aging Well Neighborhood
- Alzheimer's & Related Dementia Caregivers Support Group
- ARC - The Aging Resource Center Program (Transitional Care)
- Benefits Assistance
- Caregiver Support Program
- Chore Housekeeping
- Community Care Program
- Comprehensive Care Coordination
- Congregate Meals & Home-delivered Meals
- Friday Morning Regulars
- Grandparents Raising Grandchildren
- Health & Wellness
- Information & Assistance
- Self-Neglect
- Transitional Care
- Transportation

Aging Care Connections

708-354-1323

info@agingcareconnections.org

www.agingcareconnections.org

111 W. Harris Ave 🌈 La Grange, IL 60525

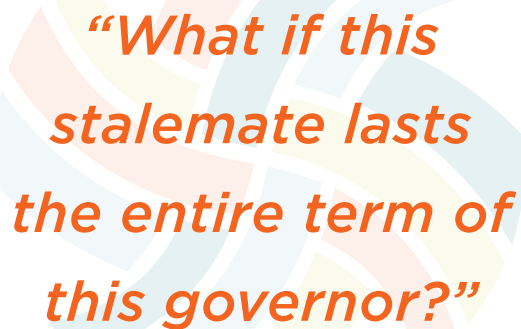
Correction:

The editorial staff would like to apologize for inaccurately listing a board member's professional position. Kathy Ruffulo is Director of Clinical Services, Community House. We apologize for the error.

This Stalemate is Getting Dangerously Stale

How long will this last and how many casualties will there be? *(continued from page 1)*

As the politics of the stalemate continue to make headlines, we believe the front page of every newspaper should include pictures of what is happening to our human service providers and their clients. Who has lost access to home delivered meals? Who can no longer receive treatment for an addiction? Who has closed their doors after decades of selfless service to those in need?



“What if this stalemate lasts the entire term of this governor?”

“I fear that this is the dismantling of the human services network that took generations to build,” said Debra Verschelde, Executive Director of Aging Care Connections. “It will be very, very difficult for agencies that are forced to close to reinvent themselves. I think it is more likely that they won’t be coming back.”

Members of our leadership team have heard conflicting opinions on when the impasse could possibly be resolved. This information has come from fellow agency leaders, elected officials, and political insiders.

And while some predicted the crisis would be over by December 2015, or by the March 2016 primary elections, others are convinced it won’t be resolved until after the November 2016 general elections.

Others think that there won’t be a budget for either 2016 OR 2017, and that this stalemate could easily extend into another fiscal year.

“What if this stalemate lasts the entire term of this governor?” Verschelde asked. “Although unacceptable, in the current environment that isn’t a far-fetched possibility.”

The grim reality is that this battle downstate could extend further than anyone has imagined. It’s also possible that news of a compromise could come out tomorrow or next week. The sobering fact is, no one knows. Regardless of your political views and position, we ask, and hope, that you will contact your legislators and demand an end to the budget impasse.

Although we are not a government agency, the reality is that in order for us to provide many of the programs and services that older adults and their families truly need, our agency relies greatly on these state funds and federal funds impacted by the impasse. Without them, and without us, aging well in the western suburbs will just get a whole lot more difficult.

NEWS

FROM THE AGING CARE CONNECTIONS COMMUNITY

Leaders Address Budget Crisis and Other Social Service Needs



On March 11, 2016, Aging Care Connections hosted a legislative breakfast in partnership with AgeOptions. The meeting brought together numerous service providers as well as a representative from Senator Christine Radogno's office. The event provided a unique opportunity for our agency and partner agencies to express concerns over the state budget impasse and the ongoing crisis it has created.

Tax Free IRA Charitable Rollover Permanently Extended

If you are age 70 ½ or older, you may now transfer any amount up to \$100,000 to Aging Care Connections by simply instructing your IRA custodian to do so. This distribution would not be included in your taxable income, would not produce an income tax deduction, and could help fulfill any minimum distribution requirements you may have.

For more information, please contact Bill Britt, Director of Philanthropy & External Affairs at bbritt@agingcareconnections.org or call 708-354-1323, ext. 243.

Locking Up Laps

Here they are! The lappingest lappers who logged the most laps through the 2015 La Grange/La Grange Park Aging Well "Walk for Health" program.



Pictured (from l-r) are Eunice Becker, Livelybottle owner, Gary Radville, who presented samples of his deliciously refreshing product, Lynn Lesher, and Walk Leader, Jim Matthews. Out lapping and unavailable for the photo are fellow lapsters Cathy Arko and Jerome Zahour.

If you want to get your laps on, Walk for Health meets every third Wednesday of the month at the Park District of La Grange, 536 East Avenue.

Thank You!

We wouldn't be able to provide the quality of service we do without the dedication of our amazing volunteers. During National Volunteer Week (April 10-16), Aging Care Connections offered our volunteers a treat at neighboring Tate's Original Old Fashioned Ice Cream Shop.



LEGISLATORS:

IMAGINE CLOSED PROGRAMS AND SUSPENDED SERVICES

Tough questions may be only hope for stalemate, officials say

How would you be affected if Aging Care Connections closed due to the budget impasse?

To us, this is a horrible question to even consider let alone ask. But it's the question legislators, their staff, and other leaders invested in the statewide and national care of older adults tell us we need to ask our clients if there's any hope of kick-starting talks between the parties at odds over the state budget.

Aging Care Connections' leadership has talked directly with senior members from both parties in Springfield, worked with AgeOptions and other agencies in advocacy initiatives, and have had conversation and counsel with numerous colleagues and community leaders. But besides the same underwhelming news of "we haven't heard anything," there's only been one piece of advice: **ask your constituents how they will be affected if you close?**

"They have to hear personal stories and, unfortunately, what they believe their lives will be like if our programs and services are either limited or eliminated," said Debra Verschelde, Executive Director. "I think that the general public doesn't realize the magnitude and gravity of what's going on because it hasn't directly affected them, their families, or others they know. But the way things have progressed, it could affect us all."

Legislators and other experts believe that if enough stories are shared with the right political leaders, there could be some movement in the budget stalemate. That only an overwhelming tide of "worse-case scenario" letters from their constituents is enough to loosen the entrenched.

HELP keep our doors open now and in the future!

Tell us how you would be affected if Aging Care Connections was unable to provide your programs and services.

Your name _____ age _____ gender _____ zip code _____

Send your comments to:
Aging Care Connections
Attn: Advocacy Program
111 W Harris Ave
La Grange, IL 60525

Our Outstanding 'Go To' Girl

Humble, unbelievable, and tireless, Joyce Schweig is recognized by the Illinois Department on Aging as Caregiver of the Year

She may be just one physical person, but the moment Joyce Schweig crosses the threshold into a client's home, she puts on many hats and becomes any number of people.

She has the politeness of a guest and the warmth of a friend. The sharp, clinical eye of an experienced service provider, and the strength of a protector; and she's not afraid to roll up her sleeves and get her hands dirty. Most importantly, Joyce also has the loyalty and tenderness of a companion.

In March 2016, the Illinois Department on Aging (IDOA) named Joyce Schweig as Caregiver of the Year for 2015.

In a press release, the IDOA provided background on their announcement:

"Joyce joined Aging Care Connections as a Chore Worker in 2008 and has since proven to be much in demand. She cares for 26 clients and is dedicated to each and every one of them.

Clients rely on Joyce not just to clean, but more importantly, to offer companionship and carry out various tasks that support an enhanced quality of life.



Joyce Schweig

She is so attuned to the participants that on several occasions, she has passed on information of medical situations or cognitive changes to Care Coordinators which resulted in more in-depth service for her clients."

"Joyce's positive attitude and clear head have made her my 'go-to-girl'," says Chore Coordinator, Rojean Carlson. "She is always ready to help

her clients with projects, following the plan of care, while still managing to get the work done in the allotted time.

"Our annual client satisfaction survey is always full of compliments for Joyce," Carlson continued. "In addition, this year I have received 24 notes from family members and clients praising Joyce and how much she helps and how grateful and thankful they are for having her as their worker."

The IDOA called Joyce's achievements: amazing!

"Individuals would never be able to remain independent and in their own homes without compassionate and wonderful caregiving from outstanding individuals such as you!"

The staff, administration, and board of directors are honored to have Joyce on our team at Aging Care Connections, and congratulate her on this well-deserved recognition.

Way to go, Joyce!

Legend Among Us



Johnny Lattner
showed us how hard work and generosity pay off

(Photo credit : Antonio Perez/Chicago Tribune/TNS)

Some of us saw him play. Some, perhaps, saw him score those legendary 20 touchdowns for the Fighting Irish back in the early 1950s. Some of us maybe even read the November 1953 issue of *TIME* magazine featuring his picture on the cover and labeled him “a bread and butter ball carrier.”

For those of us who knew him later in life, we learned just how great he was. He was a legend, a restaurateur, and businessman who shared one of sports’ highest honors with worthy causes — his Heisman Trophy.

Johnny and his wife, Peggy, often times would attend fundraising galas and events throughout the years where his Heisman Trophy was often the star of the auction.

Aging Care Connections is proud to have been one of many charitable

organizations that benefited from the kindness and altruism of this gentle father of eight.

For years, he was kind enough to share his Heisman Trophy with us at our annual Sports Ball event. To say it was consistently one of our most popular auction items, and that his contribution raised thousands and thousands of dollars, would be a major understatement.

Never one to sit still, Johnny didn’t just provide us with his Heisman Trophy. He greeted our guests, met with admirers, and would further indulge us with a live interview, making his presence, the real prize of the evening.

“He always had his wit, sharpness, his ability to inspire,” said Debra Verschelde, Executive Director. “We knew his Heisman Trophy would be

popular, but Johnny himself was always one of the most memorable highlights of the evening.”

Johnny passed away February 13, 2016, after a courageous battle with cancer. The long lines of friends, family, and admirers who attended his visitation services at his alma mater, Fenwick High School, and the numerous news stories about his life that came out following his passing are all testaments to his legend.

So many of our programs and services have benefited from his incredible contributions, and we are forever grateful.

Mr. Lattner’s selflessness and unparalleled character will truly be missed, and he will be a very tough act to follow.

events

grab a pencil and mark your calendars!



EVERY WEEKDAY - 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
DON'T MISS LUNCH AT SALERNO'S

Salerno's Pizzeria and Sports Bar
9301 W. 63rd Street, Hodgkins



The Congregate Dining program makes it easy to eat right! Adults aged 60+ and their caregivers are welcome to enjoy a delicious lunch at Salerno's.

But that's not all!

Extras include bingo, pokeno, cards, board games, helpful information from various guest speakers, and special holiday parties with raffles and prizes. Menus include lasagna with meat and cheese, pulled pork sandwiches, chicken cacciatore, so don't miss out. And please, join us as much as you'd like!

Reservations and cancellations must be made before noon the preceding business day by calling 708-354-1323. Suggested donation is \$2.00 but is not required.



Third Wednesday of Each Month - 10:30 a.m.

Walk for Health

Park District of La Grange Indoor Walking Track

536 East Avenue, La Grange

The Aging Well Walk for Health consists of a short presentation by a guest speaker followed by walking the track at your own pace and light refreshments. Call Jim Matthews at 708-308-4420 for information.

Wednesday, April 27 - 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Eating for Digestive Health: Colon Cancer Prevention & FIT Test Screening

**Countryside Senior Housing
6406 Joliet Rd, Countryside**

Speaker Amanda Robbins, registered dietitian from AMITA Health will discuss prevention and healthy eating. FIT screening process is demonstrated and kits are available for no cost. Contact Alana at 708-354-1323, ext. 259 or abradleyagingcareconnections.org.

Financial scams targeting older adults are so prevalent today that they are considered

“THE CRIME OF THE 21ST CENTURY”

Financial SCAMS Include:

- Medicare/health insurance
- Counterfeit prescription drugs
- Funerals and cemeteries
- Fraudulent anti-aging products
- Telemarketing/phone scams
- Internet fraud
- Investments
- Homeowner/reverse mortgages
- Sweepstakes & lotteries
- “The grandparent scam”

NEVER give your credit card, banking, Social Security, Medicare, date of birth, or other personal information to anyone unless you initiated the call. **DO NOT** be afraid of being rude. **DO NOT** be afraid of hurting someone's feelings. **DO NOT** be afraid to hang up the phone. If you suspect a scam, contact your local police department or Adult Protective Services at 708-354-1323.



May Older Americans Month

May is a month of fresh beginnings and also when we celebrate the perennial contributions of older adults to our community.

Monday, May 16 - Friday, May 20 Celebrating Seniors Week - Celebrating YOU! Various Locations



As part of Older Americans Month, our fourth annual, five-day celebration of and for older adults is just around the corner. As the event coordinator, Aging Care Connections is proud to once again offer a **FREE Senior Resource Guide**,

which includes a calendar of events with key dates, locations, and times. These include:

- Ballot Ready
- Cantata Best Life Breakfast Club
- Celebrating Seniors Talent Show
- Healthy Movements for Aging Well - How to Stay in Shape at Any Age
- Musicals, Marches & Lunch
- Old Time Radio and the Great American Songbook
- Powers of Attorney and Illinois Living Will Declarations
- Save Time and Money with Estate Planning
- Tai Chi and Fruit Smoothies with Mary Avila
- The Upside of Downsizing
- Use It or Lose It - Minding Your Memory
- Walk for Health
- Who's That knocking on Your Door Part 2: Staying Technologically Safe

This must-have publication, which will be available at Aging Care Connections and other locations, includes a listing of area resources, information,

and providers dedicated to serving older adults and their families. All programs, activities, and including breakfast are free, but registration is required.

For more information about the 2016 Celebrating Seniors Week Resource Guide, call Aging Care Connections at 708-354-1323, and ask for ext. 242.

Friday, September 9 - 6:00 p.m.
15th Annual Sports Ball - Fundraiser
Pinstripes
7 Oakbrook Center Drive, Oakbrook

*Save
the Date*



September 9

support you can use

Alzheimer's and Related Dementia Caregivers Support Group

This is a support group for those who care for someone who has been diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease or dementia. This group meets at Aging Care Connections at two different times per month: the **first Tuesday of the month from 1:30 to 3:00 p.m.** and the **third Thursday of the month from 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.** For more information, please contact Kathleen McKenzie at 708-354-1323, ext. 228.

Adult Protective Services

For Leyden and Norwood Park Townships, an individual trained in Adult Protective Services by the Illinois Department on Aging will be available for Adult Protective Services of suspected physical, sexual, and emotional abuse, neglect, or financial exploitation of adults aged 60+ and disabled individuals aged 18+ at the **Seniors Assistance Center, 7774 W. Irving Park Road, Norridge, every Tuesday from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.** For appointments, call 708-354-1323.

Adult Protective Services Reporting

If you suspect abuse, you can report to Aging Care Connections five days a week at 708-354-1323 or the State of Illinois 24-hour hotline at 866-800-1409

Caregiver Support Group at Gottlieb Memorial Hospital, Melrose Park

This is a support group for anyone caring for an older adult. The group meets the **third Tuesday of every month from 2:00 to 3:30 p.m. in the Professional Office Building, Lower Level, Rooms E, Gottlieb Memorial Hospital, 701 W. North Ave., Melrose Park.**

For information, please call Kathleen McKenzie at 708-354-1323, ext. 228.

Caregiver Support Group at Sharp Community Center, Melrose Park

This is a support group for those who care for an older adult. We meet the **first Wednesday of each month from 2:00 to 3:30 p.m. at CNN Proviso Township Wellness Center, Sharp Community Center, 1609 N. 36th Ave., Melrose Park.**

Call Mattie Stevenson, 708-354-1323, ext. 231.

Caregiver Support Group at the Seniors Assistance Center, Norridge

This group is for anyone caring for an older adult. It meets the **second Friday of each month, 1:30 to 3:00 p.m. at the Seniors Assistance Center, 7774 W. Irving Park Road, Norridge.**

For information, please contact Kathleen McKenzie at 708-354-1323, ext. 228.

Alzheimer's and Related Dementia Caregivers Support Group

This is a support group for those who care for someone who has been diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease or dementia. This group meets the **first and third Wednesdays of the month from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the CNN Proviso Township Wellness Center, Sharp Community Center, 1609 N. 36th Avenue, Melrose Park.** Please call 708-354-1323, ext. 231 or 708-316-7488.

Friday Morning Regulars

Support group for men who would like to discuss aging issues and current events meeting **each Friday from 8:30 to 10:00 a.m. at St. Barbara's Parish Center, 4008 Prairie Avenue, Brookfield.**

New members are welcome. Call 708-354-1323, ext. 215.

Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Support Group (South)

The group meets at the **Summit Public Library, 6233 S. Archer Rd., Summit, on the last Thursday of the month from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m.**

Contact Kathleen McKenzie, 708-354-1323, ext. 260. Special events for Grandparents Raising Grandchildren are held at **Sharp Community Center, 1609 N 36th Ave., Melrose Park.** Contact Mattie Stevenson at 708-354-1323, ext. 231.

Will and Estate Planning

Attorney Michael-Anne Peck is available the **third Thursday of the month** for **free consultations** on estate planning matters. 708-354-1323, ext. 215.

Grief and Loss Group Sessions

This multi-session course is for anyone dealing with grief and loss. We meet from **2:00 to 3:00 p.m. on the third Wednesday of the month: April 20, May 18, June 15, and July 20**. Topics include: Healing Tools; Complicated Grief; and Grief or Depression? Sessions are held at the **Sharp Community Center, 1609 N. 36th Ave, Melrose Park**. Contact Matt Stevenson at 708-354-1323, ext. 231.

Healthy Food for Veterans

The Greater Chicago Food Depository in partnership with Hines VA Hospital and AmeriCorps is providing food for those who served our country **every Thursday from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.** This on-site food pantry is located at **Hines VA Hospital, Auditorium Building 9, Building 1, Section D, past the canteen**. They provides nutritious and healthy food for veterans. Veterans will be asked to provide identification, such as: VA ID card, DD214 & photo ID, VA appointment slip & photo ID. For more information, please contact 708-202-8387, ext. 21024 or hinesvafoodpantry@gmail.com.



Tell a Friend! Help turn \$1 into \$3

Can you do us a favor?

We thought you might be willing to help.

It's a small favor, really, and it won't take long. We promise.

Here it goes...

Could you tell a friend about Aging Care Connections and encourage them to support our programs and services?

You see, if we can raise \$9,500 in new and increased giving by September 30, 2016, the Community Memorial Foundation and our board of directors will each match that amount.

That could mean a total of \$28,500 to help support our programs and services!

It isn't always easy to ask for help, but you're different. You have this newsletter because you're interested in, and care about, older adults. Maybe you're a satisfied client who wanted more information about us? Or perhaps you made a gift, attended an event, or are a community partner? Or maybe, probably, you just really like us?

You know us, and you know what we do for older adults and their families. That's why we thought that you would be the right person to advocate on our behalf!

If you know someone that would like to help older adults, please tell them that we have been leaders in the field of aging for 45 years, and we serve approximately 8,000 older adults and their families every year. Let them know that their gift will be matched, not once, but TWICE, and will have TRIPLE the impact on the older adults we serve!

Tell your friends they can contact Bill Britt at bbritt@agingcareconnections.org or 708-354-1323, ext. 243, and let them know he's an all-round good guy.

Thank You!



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La Grange, IL 60525
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info@agingcareconnections.org
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Remembered

We are sincerely grateful for all gifts we receive, but to be remembered at a time when memories can be overwhelming is a remarkable and humbling experience. Aging Care Connections is deeply honored by the following individuals who are amongst those that have made donations in memory of their loved ones.

Mrs. Delores Espinosa - In memory of Mr. & Mrs. Arthur & Viola Daugherty

Ms. Vera Schultz - In memory of Mr. Alan Reed

Mr. Sid Skidmore - In memory of Mrs. Delores Skidmore

Ms. Janet Lucas - In memory of Mrs. Bea Sysko

Statement of Non-Discrimination

Aging Care Connections does not discriminate in admission to programs or treatment or employment in programs or activities in compliance with the Illinois Human Rights Act; the Age Discrimination in Employment Act; and the U.S. and Illinois Constitutions. If you feel you have been discriminated against, you have the right to file a complaint with the Illinois Department on Aging. For information, call Aging Care Connections at 708-354-1323.