

Director Lora Connolly

California Department of Aging

On April 3, 2012, Governor Brown appointed Lora Connolly as Director of the California Department of Aging (CDA).

CDA administers programs funded primarily through the federal Administration on Aging, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid, and the Department of Labor. These programs are authorized under the federal Older Americans Act, the state Older Californians Act, and the Medi-Cal program.

This array of federal and state programs and services includes: information and assistance, congregate and home-delivered meals, supportive services, community service employment, health insurance counseling, caregiver support, and the Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program. The Department also has program oversight for approximately 247 Community Based Adult Service (CBAS) Centers and administers the Multipurpose Senior Services Program, a Medi-Cal waiver serving over 9,000 nursing home eligible older adults throughout the state. The Department of Aging has approximately 120 staff and an annual budget of \$200 million.



Ms. Connolly previously served as the Department's Chief Deputy Director from 2002-2012 and, at various points, also served as the Acting Director. From 2000-2002, she served as an Assistant Secretary at the California Health and Human Services Agency and between 1993 and 2000, Ms. Connolly held several positions within the California Department of Health Services (DHS), including Chief of the Office of Long Term Care. She began her state career with the Assembly Office of Research as a consultant on aging and long term care issues and was involved in the development of the CA Partnership for Long Term Care Insurance Program.

Ms. Connolly holds a Masters of Science in Gerontology with an emphasis in public policy and administration from the University of Southern California (USC). She frequently writes and speaks on a variety of aging, health promotion, and long-term service and support issues, including strategies for increasing access to services among diverse and underserved older adults, persons with disabilities, and family caregivers. Ms. Connolly also currently serves on the Board of Directors for the National Association of States United for Aging and Disability. Like many Californians helping loved ones to remain at home, she has had hands on experience as a family caregiver over a fifteen year period.

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