

A Message from the CEO: Celebrating Our 15th Anniversary

Fifteen years ago, representatives of California's initial PACE organizations decided their capacity to help seniors would be better served by working together in new ways. Out of that, CalPACE was created to support and expand PACE programs through education and advocacy.



As we enter 2022, we have made a lot of progress. Twenty-three PACE programs operate in California today and up to 10 more could open by the middle of next year. PACE enrollment in California now exceeds 15,000 and its potential has not yet been tapped.

What PACE offers is of increasing relevance to policymakers and to the general public. Community inclusion and whole person healthcare, key features of PACE, are embedded in California's Master Plan for Aging and CalAIM initiative. Nearly 90 percent of Californians want services like PACE so they can continue living at home as they age. Twenty-five percent of Californians will be over the age of 60 at the end of this decade and PACE growth is essential to meet the needs of this growing population.

We've established a solid foundation for policy changes to further advance PACE and help Californians who depend on it. Our focus in 2022 will include continued work to eliminate obstacles to PACE growth and access - expanding PACE awareness, extending operational flexibilities pioneered during COVID-19, and addressing growing workforce challenges.

We are excited to be celebrating our 15th Anniversary and look forward to the year ahead.

Peter Hansel
Chief Executive Officer, CalPACE

State Advocacy Priorities in Focus

Governor Gavin Newsom's [proposed state budget for 2022-2023](#) provides an exciting beginning to budget negotiations with a continued commitment to improve healthcare access, housing stability, reduce senior poverty reduction, and continue planning for age-inclusive communities.

CalPACE looks forward to supporting these important proposals, in particular.

- [The Master Plan for Aging](#), containing important data system enhancements to the state's No Wrong Door system to connect seniors and their families to programs and services including PACE.
- [Strengthening the Care Economy through a 3-year, \\$1.7 billion investment in care workforce development](#), including an emphasis on increasing the supply of critically needed caregivers including nurses and social workers, which could be transformative to California's care landscape.
- [Eliminating the Medi-Cal Assets Test by 2024](#), making it easier for elderly, low-income Californians to qualify for health coverage without having to first deplete their assets. CalPACE also supports an advocate-led proposal to increase need levels to 138 percent of the federal poverty level, creating parity with other Medi-Cal thresholds.
- [Restoring SSI/SSP Grants by 24 Percent Increase by 2024](#). During the height of the Great Recession, SSP benefit levels were cut and cost of living adjustments were suspended, pushing a generation of elderly and disabled Californians into poverty. With inflationary pressures squeezing household budgets at levels not seen in four decades, this restoration can't happen fast enough.

CalPACE will also be monitoring the following.

- [Telehealth Policy](#). When Governor Newsom vetoed CalPACE-sponsored [AB 523](#) last year, he

noted the Department of Health Care Services would convene an advisory group to make recommendations for billing and utilization management. The administration will soon release a budget trailer bill to act on these recommendations. CalPACE will be working to ensure the inclusion of PACE telehealth use for participant assessments when appropriate.

- [PACE Awareness in Medi-Cal Enrollment](#) Last year, adopted as part of the state budget, [AB 133](#) requires information about PACE to be included in Medi-Cal managed care enrollment and outreach materials. Seniors who can benefit from PACE should be informed if it is a care option in their community and we look forward to reviewing materials developed under this law.

For updates on these and other advocacy issues, please follow CalPACE on [Twitter](#) and/or [Facebook](#).

Longtime CalPACE Leader Retires

After 32 years at the helm of St. Paul's Senior Services as its CEO, Cheryl Wilson has retired.

Cheryl dedicated her career to senior care. Born and raised in Australia, she earned a nursing degree from Prince Henry's Nursing School and continued her studies in the United States with a BA and Master's Degree from the University of Redlands.



During her leadership at St. Paul's, the organization grew from a small independent living community with 25 staff serving 150 seniors to the largest San Diego based non-profit exclusively dedicated to senior care with more than 1,500 seniors served by over 650 staff members.

Cheryl was instrumental to the creation of CalPACE back in 2007 and has long shaped its work by serving on the board of directors, including service as Treasurer and Vice-Chair. Her work helped hasten the state's review of new PACE applications and provided important new regulatory flexibilities, such as an option for PACE centers to be exempted from duplicative Adult Day Health Care licensing. She has also lent her passion and expertise as a member and past Board Chair of LeadingAge California, the Doris A. Howell Foundation, the San Diego Senior Alliance, the Don't Wait Vaccinate Committee, and the Senior Services Committee of San Diego Rotary Club 33.

We wish Cheryl great happiness and fulfillment in retirement. She has left an indelible mark on the PACE community, leaving big shoes to fill.

New PACE Facilities Open in California

Innovative Integrated Health opened a new Orange County PACE center, in Anaheim, serving the communities of Anaheim, Brea, Buena Park, Cypress, Fullerton, La Palma, Los Alamitos, Irvine, Midway City, Orange, Placentia, Stanton, Villa Park, Westminster, and Yorba Linda. More information at <https://ocpace.org>.



Announcements



St. Paul's Senior Services announced Michael McHale as its new CEO. Starting in April, he returns to St. Paul's over 22 years after beginning his work in senior care at St. Paul's Nursing & Rehabilitation Center. McHale comes to St. Paul's after serving as President & CEO at TRU Community Care in Boulder, CO and Rainbow Hospice and Palliative Care in Mt. Prospect, IL. For more information, click [here](#).

On Lok tapped Dr. Ben Lui as its new Chief Medical Officer. He brings more than 20 years of clinical and healthcare leadership experience to On Lok. He first joined the organization in 2019 as a Board Member, and in 2020, became Chief Medical Informatics Officer. For further information, click [here](#).



PACE providers continue forging new care partnerships for California seniors. Construction began on a new 50-unit project in Escondido, Valley Senior Village, to serve low-income seniors and older homeless people with severe mental illness. Starting in 2024, these seniors will receive mental and medical care along with other services from Hope through Housing Foundation, San Ysidro Health/San Diego PACE, San Diego County Behavioral Health Services, and Interfaith Community Services. For further information, click [here](#).



Carol Hubbard was promoted from Executive Director of St. Paul's PACE to Chief Executive Officer of Community Eldercare of San Diego, which incorporates PACE, the Intergenerational Program, and all community-based programs. Carol Hubbard has been with St. Paul's since PACE was first brought to San Diego, in 2008. She started as a PACE Center Director and has assumed greater leadership roles. Prior to joining St. Paul's, she owned an occupational therapy and consulting practice for 20 years.

About CalPACE

CalPACE, the California PACE Association, is a 501(c)(6) association that is dedicated to the expansion of comprehensive health care services to seniors with chronic care needs through the Program of All-inclusive Care for Elderly (PACE). Through education and advocacy, CalPACE members strive to support, maintain, and safeguard the PACE model and promote high-quality comprehensive health care services to California's seniors.

CalPACE represents 23 operational PACE organizations in California. Our members and allied organizations provide and coordinate services to more than 15,000 participants through 69 PACE Centers and Alternative Care Settings in 22 counties.



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