

# Aging and People with Disabilities

A message from Director Ashley Carson Cottingham



**May 2, 2016**

**To: All APD Stakeholders**

**From: Ashley Carson Cottingham, Director APD**

Dear APD Stakeholders:

Three important topics to share today:

- Join us for an APD Budget Note Discussion on May 12<sup>th</sup>
- New guides for financial caregivers available to help Oregonians
- Celebrating Older American's Month

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## **APD Stakeholder Discussion**

The May Legislative Session is just around the corner (May 23<sup>rd</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup>). We'd like to invite you to a follow-up conversation from our March 23<sup>rd</sup> discussion. As a reminder, the budget report for House Bill 5026 (2015), contained a budget note directing the agency to report, during the 2016 legislative session, on ways to ensure program sustainability.

On May 12<sup>th</sup>, we'll preview the discussion we expect to have at the Emergency Board, share the work we've been preparing, and continue to gain your feedback on what is expected of us by the legislature.

**Who:** APD Stakeholders

**What:** Budget Note Discussion (round table information sharing session)

**When:** May 12, 2016 2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

**Where:** 3406 Cherry Ave Room 123. This is the building located on the South side of the parking lot (known as the old Fish and Wildlife building). Parking is free in any open unmarked spot.

**Why:** We want your input!

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## **New guides for financial caregivers available to help Oregonians**

Recently I participated, along with Attorney General Ellen Rosenblum and Fred Steele – our State Long Term Care Ombudsman, at the launch of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau's new guide books tailored specifically with

information for Oregonians. These resources help with information on being someone's power of attorney, court appointed guardian, trustee or someone appointed to manage a senior's income benefits, and much more. They are specific to Oregon Laws and help everyone understand their responsibilities when helping Oregon seniors.

This is important to Oregon. Financial exploitation for older adults living outside of a long-term care facility is the most common type of elder abuse in our state. For residents who live in long-term care facilities, it is the second-most common form of abuse, after neglect. We also know that financial exploitation is under-reported. Most people think about scammers when they think about financial exploitation, but most cases involve a friend, a family member or a caregiver.

You can find the guides here, <http://www.consumerfinance.gov/managing-someone-elses-money/> and I encourage you to share broadly to help us protect vulnerable Oregonians.

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### **Older Americans Month 2016: “Blaze a Trail”**

Older adults are a growing and increasingly vital part of our country. The contributions they make to our communities are varied, deeply rooted, and include influential roles in the nation's economy, politics, and the arts. Older adults are blazing trails in all aspects of American life- such as 69-year-old NASA Administrator Charles Bolden, Jr., 84-year-old actress Rita Moreno, and 83-year-old Ruth Bader Ginsberg, who took her seat as a Supreme Court Justice at age 60.

In 1963, we began to acknowledge the contributions of older people by using the month of May to celebrate Older Americans Month (OAM). Led by the Administration for Community Living, which includes the Administration on Aging, the annual observance offers the opportunity to learn about, support, and celebrate our nation's older citizens. This year's theme, "Blaze a Trail," emphasizes the ways older adults are reinventing themselves through new work and new passions, engaging their communities, and blazing a trail of positive impact on the lives of people of *all* ages.

While DHS Aging and People with Disabilities provides a variety of services and supports to older adults year-round, we will use OAM 2016 to focus on how older adults in our community are leading and inspiring others, how we can support and learn from them, and how we might follow their examples to blaze trails of our own.

**Throughout the month, I encourage you to share stories with me about how you, your colleagues, our program and partners are "Blazing a Trail" and making a difference for Oregonians. At the end of the month, I'd like to share snippets of all of the great things you're doing!**

Discover Older Americans Month: Visit <http://acl.gov/olderamericansmonth>

— Ashley