



## NASUA ANNOUNCES NAME CHANGE

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WASHINGTON, DC - In keeping with its mission to design, improve, and sustain state systems delivering home and community based services and supports for the elderly and individuals with disabilities, the NASUA membership voted overwhelmingly in support of a proposal to change the name of the association to the **National Association of States United for Aging and Disabilities, NASUAD**.

The change was made, in part, to accurately reflect the evolving role of state aging agencies in the delivery and administration of long term services and supports, and to streamline the coordination and provision of these services across the continuum of care. Current NASUA President, and Commissioner of the Alabama Department of Senior Services, Irene Collins, applauds the members' decision, "Through this meaningful step forward, the association welcomes the opportunity to build relationships and enhance the capacity of the state agencies to provide long-term services and supports to both older Americans and individuals with disabilities."

When first established through the Older Americans Act (OAA), state units on aging were primarily responsible for the administration of OAA services within the aging network. Recently, federal legislation, increased reliance on additional funding sources, and the economic downturn have dramatically impacted and increased the scope of services states are called upon to provide, and their ability to do so. As the need for long-term services has expanded, so has the role of the state aging agency, with nearly 65 percent of the states serving both seniors and individuals with disabilities as of October, 2009. James Toews, NASUA Vice President and Assistant Director of the Oregon Department of Human Services, Seniors and People with Physical Disabilities, recognizes the significance of the name change, saying, "This is a pivotal time in our nation's history. As an organization, we are looking forward to working with members of the aging and disability communities to emphasize the importance of a comprehensive long-term care system." NASUA's Executive Director, Martha Roherty, echoes these sentiments, "We welcome collaboration with our partners in the aging and disability communities as we work to further strengthen relationships at the national, state and local levels."

This transition will be phased-in over the coming months. In the interim, please visit [www.nasua.org](http://www.nasua.org) for additional information.

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**National Association of State Units on Aging**, founded in 1964, represents the nation's 56 officially designated state and territorial agencies on aging. The Association's principal mission is to support visionary state leadership, advance state systems innovation and articulate a national policy on home and community based services for older adults and individuals with disabilities. <http://www.nasua.org>