



Former U.S. Senator Fred Thompson, left, confers with former U.S. Comptroller General David Walker.

Philadelphia aging summit draws on diverse expertise

Medicare has been slow to respond to preventive medicine; and Medicaid has been slow to respond to alternative care were two candid observations made by Mark McClellan, former administrator for the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, at the Aging Revolution Summit held in Philadelphia on September 25. McClellan went on to propose a series of transformative strategies to the 350 attendees of the second annual event. They included more consistent measurements to quantify and

compare care and expenses; finance reforms tied to quality of care; better coordinated support services and financing; integrated funding with

public-private approaches to reduce pressure on government funding; and, of course, better leadership.

Echoing the latter sentiment of McClellan, special guest commentator David Walker, former U.S. comptroller general who now heads the Peter G. Peterson Foundation, said "The biggest deficit this

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Former U.S. Senator Fred Thompson, the summit's keynote speaker, continued on the theme of leadership. "Until we give political cover to those who promote fixes for Medicare and Social Security, nothing will happen," Thompson warned. The sometime actor did add a bit of levity to the serious tone of the program. Getting back to business after several months on the campaign trail with politicians and the media, the former 2008 presidential candidate joked of his longing for the "sincerity and high standards of Hollywood."

The Aging Revolution is sponsored annually by Wesley Enhanced Living, a Pennsylvania-based, nonprofit organization of continuing care retirement communities.

NIC releases new senior housing construction trends report

The 2008 edition of the authoritative report on construction activity in the senior housing and care industry was recently published by the National Investment Center for the Senior Housing & Care Industry. The NIC report shows properties under construction as of March 2008 in the nation's top 100 metropolitan markets. Product types include senior apartments, independent living, assisted living, memory care, nursing care and continuing care retirement communities.

The Construction Trends Report's year-over-year comparison of construction, which tracks activity by property types by percentage of inventory, noted that the independent living sector experienced a decline of construction from 4.6 percent to 4.4 percent of inventory. As of March 31, 2008, there were 16,490 independent living units under construction, of which 12,030 were new starts begun in the previous 12 months. And of the 16,490 units under construction, the report noted, 8,121 were CCRCs – both rental and entrance fee.