



VDA WEEKLY E-MAILING

July 28, 2015

Table of Contents

[ACL News & Information](#)

[NASUAD Weekly Update](#)

[ACL Update: UCEDDs and DD Councils: Advancing the ADA's Promise](#)

[ACL Update: The President's Committee for People with Intellectual Disabilities](#)

[ACL Update: New Rule Eases Implementation of Developmental Disabilities Act](#)

[ACL Update: Judy Heumann and Lex Frieden on ADA25 and the IL Movement](#)

[ACL Update: Celebrating 25 Years of the Americans with Disabilities Act](#)

[ACL Update: New Brain Health Resources, Online Dementia Modules Available](#)

[Older Virginian's Mental Health Month – September 2015](#)

[Regional Accountable Care Communities](#)

[National Institute on Aging Newsletter](#)

[NASUAD Friday Updates](#)

ACL News & Information

Here is a link to news & information from the Administration for Community Living (ACL):

<http://www.acl.gov/NewsRoom/NewsInfo/Index.aspx>

NASUAD Weekly Update

Here is a link to the weekly update from NASUAD:

<http://www.nasuad.org/newsroom/friday-update>

Note: The web links in this document may change over time. DARS-VDA does not attempt to refresh the links once the week has passed. However, this document is maintained on the web for a period of time as a reference. Some links may require registration.

1610 Forest Avenue • Suite 100 • Henrico, VA 23229

Office 804.662.9333 • Toll free 800.552.3402 • TTY users dial 711 • Fax 804.662.9354



July 21, 2015

UCEDDs and DD Councils: Advancing the ADA's Promise

As the 25th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) approaches, ACL is featuring guest blogs from leaders in the disability community and highlighting how ACL programs continue to advance the ADA's promise of inclusion and civil rights for people with disabilities.

DD Councils and the Four Pillars of Integration

By Donna Meltzer, CEO, National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities (NACDD)

The ADA is built upon four pillars: full participation, independent living, equality of opportunity, and economic self-sufficiency. The DD Councils, as they are called, have been highly focused on creating communities in which the four pillars of the ADA can stand tall and strong. DD Councils ensure that all people are fully included by investing in partnerships with others in their state or territory to increase equal opportunity for education, employment, recreation, housing, and more in order for everyone to live a self-determined life.

The [Georgia Council on Developmental Disabilities](#) has done seminal work in



creating inclusive communities and has inspired many other DD Councils to work similarly in their states or territories. Georgia's Real Communities initiative has served as an inspiration for our collective work in civic and community engagement and many DD Councils are now partnering with others in their home state or territory to bring people together around projects like community gardens, building houses for those in need, and ensuring all have the access and support needed to vote in elections.

[Read More](#)

UCEDDs and the DD Network: Working Toward Full Integration

By Andrew Imparato, Executive Director, Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD)

It all started in October 1962 with an idea proposed to President Kennedy by a presidential panel convened to seek solutions to support community living of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, rather than the institutions so many were placed in. The idea: Build the capacity of the community by tapping into the resources and expertise of universities to train a new generation of physicians and other professionals who can support community living of children with developmental disabilities. In 1963, President Kennedy signed a law that created university centers to support community living of individuals with developmental disabilities.

This law laid the foundation for what has become a unique national resource to



individuals with developmental disabilities, their families, and the community. Today, [University Centers of Excellence in Developmental Disabilities \(UCEDDs\)](#) continue to act as a bridge between the research and teaching and the communities of people with developmental disabilities and their families.

[Read More](#)



UPDATES

July 22, 2015

Meeting Announcement: The President's Committee for People with Intellectual Disabilities

Monday, August 3, 2015, 9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. ET; and

Tuesday, August 4, 2015, 9:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. ET

The President's Committee for People with Intellectual Disabilities (PCPID) will host a two-day meeting for its members to discuss, finalize, and approve the 2015 PCPID Report to the President. PCPID members will also begin exploring the topics for the 2016 PCPID report.

This meeting will be held in the U.S. Department of Health and Human



Services, Hubert H. Humphrey Building located at 200 Independence Avenue, S.W., Conference Room 800, Washington, D.C. 20201. As with all PCPID meetings, the public is welcome to observe in-person or via conference call.

To join the meeting by phone, dial (888) 469-0957; when prompted, enter passcode: 8955387. For more information, please view the [Federal Register Notice](#) announcing the meeting.

PCPID is a federal advisory committee which promotes policies and initiatives that support independence and lifelong inclusion of people with intellectual disabilities in their respective communities. The committee includes representatives from several federal agencies and 18 citizen members. The discussion and findings from each PCPID meeting are included in an annual report to the President.

Please visit the [PCPID website](#) for more information on its members and current activities.



July 24, 2015

**New Rule Eases Implementation of
Developmental Disabilities Act**



DD Act [Final Rule \(PDF\)](#) and [Rule Toolkit](#) Now Available.

*By Aaron Bishop, Commissioner,
Administration on Disabilities*

As we head into a weekend of events celebrating the 25th anniversary of the signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AIDD) is releasing a final rule that will strengthen critical programs that promote the independence, inclusion, and civil rights of Americans with developmental disabilities and their families.

The rule provides additional guidance for implementing the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act (DD Act). It accounts for the many changes included in the 2000 DD Act reauthorization and addresses some of the most common barriers and road blocks DD Act programs face in seeking to translate Congress' charge into programs that have a real impact. With these issues clarified, DD Act programs can devote less time and money to understanding and defending what the law allows them to do and devote more resources to supporting people with developmental disabilities and their families.

From smartphones and electronic medical records to new laws and attitudes, the world we live in has changed drastically since the last DD Act rule was released. And who knows what new changes the coming decades will bring?

In developing this rule, we paid close attention to the feedback we received from the DD network and the community it serves. For example, we have heard from



University Centers of Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDDs) concerned that a lack of clarity in the requirements for how they are structured could lead to their funding and functions being split up, which would hurt their effectiveness. And Protection and Advocacy systems investigating suspected abuse and neglect have shared stories of being forced to wage costly court battles in order to access records, despite the clear mandate of authority included in the current DD Act.

Here are just a few of the notable provisions of the rule:

- The rule explains how and when a P&A should have access to service providers, individuals, and records (including electronic communication and records) when investigated cases of suspected abuse.
- It clarifies the DD Act's requirement that UCEDDs be single interdisciplinary units within their respective university systems.
- Recognizing that Demonstration Projects conducted by State Councils on Developmental Disabilities are intended "to demonstrate new approaches," the rule sets limits on the duration of these projects while building in some flexibility and outlining when projects can exceed these limits.
- The final rule provides updated definitions for DD Act programs. For example, a flexible definition of "service provider" recognizes that how and where people with developmental disabilities receive services is constantly changing.



We look forward to working with all stakeholders to make sure that those affected by the final rule have the tools they need to ensure a smooth implementation. Over the coming weeks we will be hosting a series of webinars for grantees.

For the disability community, this is a weekend to celebrate hard-earned gains and examine the hard work that remains. Sunday, July 26, marks the 25th anniversary of a historic milestone, the signing of the ADA. The ADA provides, to quote the law itself, "a clear and comprehensive national mandate for the elimination of discrimination against individuals with disabilities" and a recognition that "physical or mental disabilities in no way diminish a person's right to fully participate in all aspects of society."

The DD Act and the ADA represent two tremendous pieces of legislation that have helped move this country forward. Because of the efforts of the disability rights movement, people living with disabilities lead very different lives than they did in 1963, when the DD Act was first signed into law. At that time, many people with developmental disabilities spent most of their lives in institutions where reports of systemic abuse and neglect were common.

Today, they have far more opportunities to live, learn, and work in the community of their choice. Because of the ADA, they have protection from discrimination on the basis of disability and a more accessible world that includes accessible buses, curb cuts, braille signs, and relay



services. And because of the DD Act, they can receive a broad range of state-of-the-art educational and medical services from UCEDDs or participate in an employment or a self-advocacy leadership program funded by a DD Council. And if they do encounter discrimination or abuse, P&As are available in every state and territory to help.

There is still much work left to be done, but we are proud of all the DD Act network has accomplished to support and empower the nearly 5 million people living with developmental disabilities in this country and their families. With this rule, the DD Act network will be in an even stronger position to continue leading the way towards a brighter, and more inclusive, future.

[View the full rule on the Federal Register Website](#) and check out the [DD Act Rule Toolkit](#) for more on the rule and the DD Act network.



UPDATES

July 24, 2015

[Judy Heumann and Lex Frieden on ADA25 and the IL Movement](#)

As part of an ongoing [ACL Blog](#) series,



disability community leaders are sharing their reflections on the 25th anniversary of the signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act as well as the efforts that made it possible.

Judy Heumann: Yes, we did! And there's more to do.

Judy Heumann is a lifelong civil rights advocate for disadvantaged people and the Special Advisor for International Disability Rights at the U.S. Department of State.

The independent living movement is intergenerational and cross-sectional. Advocates for the rights of disabled people of all ages are clearly and consistently stating that we have a right to education, employment, and social inclusion, regardless of our age, and we are not going to let go of our independence and dignity. These are principles that form the foundation of the independent living movement which began in the 1970s, but continues on to this day.

Today at the age of 67, it is very clear that the movement has benefited me and will continue to benefit me and millions of others like me. Those in the independent living movement can say 'Yes, we did', but we should also say, 'there's more to do.' This is true not only for ourselves, but for people around the world.

[Read More](#)

Lex Frieden: Celebrating Progress, Re-envisioning the Future

Lex Frieden is a disability rights activist who is regarded as a founder of the independent living movement and was instrumental in drafting the ADA.



During this season of celebration, I have an opportunity to expound on what has been achieved since that summer day, when I sat with 3,000 friends and colleagues on the White House lawn and listened to the President assert, "We will not accept, we will not excuse, we will not tolerate discrimination in America." He reassured businesses by insisting that the ADA would "unlock a splendid resource of untapped human potential." However moving, it is important for post-ADA advocates to understand that the disability movement started long before that day...

Just as early disability rights and independent living advocates combined their efforts to produce a much larger, more encompassing, and more powerful disability movement, disability advocates must now reach out to embrace the aging movement. We must merge our interests and focus collective energy on expanding options for community living and ensuring equal opportunity, full inclusion, and integration across the disability and aging spectrums.

[Read More](#)



UPDATES

July 26, 2015

Celebrating the 25th Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act



By Sharon Lewis, Principal Deputy Administrator, Administration for Community Living and Jocelyn Samuels, Director, Office for Civil Rights

Twenty five years ago today, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) was signed into law, making clear that people with disabilities should experience equal opportunity, independent living, economic self-sufficiency, and full participation in all aspects of our society. Over the past two and a half decades, our communities have become more accessible and more inclusive – in obvious ways, like curb cuts and accessible buildings, and in sometimes less recognized ways, such as the integration of people with disabilities in our schools, workplaces, businesses, and neighborhoods.

[Read more on the HHS Blog.](#)



July 27, 2015

New Brain Health Resources, Online Dementia Modules Available

Dementia – a term that includes Alzheimer’s as well as other conditions – affects 5 million people, including about 300,000 adults under age 65. And people with certain developmental and intellectual disabilities, including Down syndrome, are more likely than others to develop dementia as they age.

ACL and our grantees have several new resources for the aging, disability, and research networks on the topics of promoting brain health and coping with the symptoms of dementia:

- The New Jersey Geriatric Education Center is presenting a free, [5-module, web-based program](#) on dementia care



running from Aug. 5 to Sept. 30. The modules cover the inter-professional approach to assessment and management of Alzheimer's disease and dementia. The series is provided with funding from the Health Resources and Services Administration and in collaboration with ACL. Registration is required and some continuing education hours are available.

- [Dementia-capable States and Communities: the Basics \(PDF\)](#) is an issue brief which defines dementia-capability and explores how to create "dementia-capable" long-term services and supports at the state and local levels.
- Dementia-capability quality assurance assessment tools have been developed for both [states](#) and [community-based](#) entities.
- [Responding to the Wandering Behavior of People with Dementia \(PDF\)](#) describes the needs of people with dementia who wander and discusses how to use person-centered approaches to address the challenges of wandering.
- [IDD and Dementia](#) is a new paper by ACL's National Alzheimer's and Dementia Resource Center. The report provides a broad overview of the services and support system for persons with IDD affected by dementia, as well as their caregivers. The paper includes examples of aging and disability network partnerships and resources for improving dementia care across agencies and organizations.



Find additional resources on brain health, dementia, and brain injuries on ACL's [Brain Health Resources Page](#).

Older Virginians' Mental Health Month – September 2015

Kathy B. Miller, Director of Programs, Aging Services, on behalf of Debra Ferguson, Ph.D.

Mental health issues pose a serious risk to the health and well being of older adults, resulting in risks of increased disability, reduced independence, intensified caregiver stress, escalated mortality, and magnified risk of suicide. Depression, anxiety, and substance abuse should not be dismissed as a part of normal aging. As baby boomers age and add to the ranks of elders, the number of older adults with mental health problems will increase. Often, the stigma associated with mental health issues prevents older adults from talking about their problems and from seeking help. Social barriers that prevent older adults from seeking medical and psychiatric evaluations and from receiving treatment can be eliminated by clinical and community support workers who reach out to this age group and who are knowledgeable about older adults and their needs.

As we plan to celebrate “**Older Virginians' Mental Health Month**” in September, we want to thank you for your support and assistance that enables older adults to maintain their quality of life in their home communities. Over the past five years, multiple activities have helped raise public and professional awareness of the behavioral health needs and resources for older adults in the Commonwealth. We would like to continue this effort by asking you to plan one activity in observance of Older Virginian's Mental Health Month. Successful past events in Virginia include:

- Submitting articles in the local newspapers that focused on educating and increasing awareness of the mental health needs of older adults.
- Conducting presentations focused on the identification of risk; warning signs; prevention strategies and resource information on the topic of Elder Suicide; and
- Holding caregiver programs for families and professional caregivers addressing mental health issues faced by both caregiver and the care receiver such as depression, anxiety, anger and frustration.

You may find the following older adult resources helpful in planning events:

- Administration on Aging (www.aoa.gov)
- Virginia Association of Area Agencies on Aging (www.vaaaa.org)
- Virginia Easy Access (www.easyaccess.virginia.gov)
- Senior Navigator (www.seniornavigator.com)



- Virginia Geriatric Mental Health Planning Partnership (www.vaseniors.org)
- Virginia Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services (www.vadars.org)

The collaborative care offered by our regional private-public, and academic partners is invaluable in enabling older adults to continue to contribute in a manner consistent with the values of self-determination, recovery and empowerment. Thank you for considering planning events that promote Older Virginian's Mental Health Month this September. If you have any questions, please contact Bev Morgan at Beverly.morgan@dbhds.virginia.gov or (804) 371-0360. Also, if you hold an event, please send Bev Morgan an email in October 2015 to share what your CSB selected as your event observance.

Sincerely,

Debra Ferguson, Ph.D.
Commissioner
Virginia Department of Behavioral Health & Developmental Services



A life of possibilities for all Virginians

Regional Accountable Care Communities

Tim Catherman, Director Aging Operations

Better Care; Better Health; and Lower Costs for Your Community

BACKGROUND

The Virginia Center for Health Innovation was awarded a Round 2 State Innovation Models design grant from the U.S Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services.

The creation of Accountable Care Communities (ACCs) in Virginia is the core strategy of Virginia's State Innovation Model Design Award. Successful ACC development requires multiple public and private stakeholders to commit to working collaboratively to advance the Triple Aim (better care, better health, and lower cost) in their regions and to share the responsibility for the health of the community.

Much of what impacts our health depends on our environment, the decisions we make every day, and having access to quality, affordable healthcare. In Virginia, your zip code can predict your health status every bit as much as your blood pressure reading. To improve the well-being of our



communities, we have to reach outside the walls of a healthcare provider's office and engage non-traditional partners. Initiating these new relationships and forming new partnerships is hard work. This is an opportunity and invitation to get started in your region.

PROCESS

As a starting point, we have selected five regions in Virginia to begin the planning process. Regional meetings will be held in May, September, and November 2015. Partners in each region will work to identify existing and/or develop new regional population health improvement initiatives and corresponding payment and delivery levers that align that align with Virginia's [Plan for Well-Being](#) and the recommendations of the Lt. Governor's Quality, Payment and HIT Roundtable.

MEETINGS

Registration details for each meeting will be available in early August.

Central

Friday, September 11 | 1pm - 3pm

VCU Community Memorial Hospital, South Hill

Eastern

Friday, September 25 | 1pm-3pm

YMCA South Hampton Roads - Corporate Headquarters, Chesapeake

Northern

Tuesday, September 29, 2015 | 10am - 12pm

Kaiser Center for Total Health, Washington D.C.

Northwest

Wednesday, September 16, 2015 | 1pm- 3pm

Mary Washington Healthcare - Fick Conference Center, Fredericksburg

Southwest

Monday, September 14, 2015 | 1pm - 3pm

Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center, Abingdon

~ Tim



DIVISION FOR THE AGING
VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT FOR AGING
AND REHABILITATIVE SERVICES



Tim Catherman
Department for Aging and Rehabilitative
Services

Virginia Division for the Aging

1610 Forest Ave, Suite 100

Henrico, VA 23229

Phone: (804) 662-9309

www.vadars.org

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National Institute on Aging Newsletter

Tim Catherman, Director Aging Operations



National Institute on Aging

Eating Healthy Made Easy for Older Adults

07/20/2015

Summer travel tips for Alzheimer's caregivers

07/21/2015

e-Update

from the ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE EDUCATION & REFERRAL CENTER

a service of the NATIONAL INSTITUTE ON AGING at NIH





It's time for summer vacation! Taking a person with Alzheimer's disease on an overnight trip can be challenging, but here are some tips to make it easier:

- Keep your schedule realistic – allow lots of time for each thing you want to do.
- Plan rest periods.
- Follow a routine like the one you use at home. Try to have the person eat, rest, and go to bed at the same time they do at home.
- If the person is prone to wandering, carry a recent photo of them on the trip.

Get more useful travel information in [Alzheimer's Caregiving Tips: Traveling Overnight](#).

Share this info with other caregivers on social media with the following message:

#Caregivers: enjoy your #summer vacation! Check out tips on traveling w/ a person with #Alz. <http://1.usa.gov/1CTodPd>

NASUAD Friday Updates

Cecily Slasor, Administrative Assistant



FRIDAY UPDATES

NASUAD

July 24, 2015

In This Issue

***NASUAD: Updated State Medicaid Integration Tracker**

***NASUAD: I&R Center Webinar: Future Planning**

***NASUAD: Early Registration for HCBS Conference Ending Soon**

***HCBS Clearinghouse: How MCOs Can Reduce Costs and Improve Care for Seniors and People with Disabilities**

***HCBS Clearinghouse: True Link Report on Elder Financial Abuse**

***HCBS Clearinghouse: Medicare Advantage 2015 Spotlight: Enrollment Market Update**

***HCBS Clearinghouse: Care Coordination in Managed Long Term Services and Supports Report**

***ACL: Webinar: Identifying and Supporting People with Dementia Who Live Alone**

***ACL: Share Feedback on Draft APS Guidelines**

***CMCS: Funding Opportunity for SHIP and ADRC Options Counseling to Medicare-Medicaid Individuals**

From NASUAD

NASUAD Publishes Updated State Medicaid Integration Tracker

NASUAD has published the [July 2015 Edition of the State Medicaid Integration Tracker](#). The State Medicaid Integration Tracker is a monthly report summarizing state actions in Managed Long Term Services and Supports (MLTSS), as well as State Demonstrations to Integrate Care for Dual Eligible Individuals and other Medicare-Medicaid Coordination Initiatives.

The Tracker also includes updates on state participation in other LTSS activities, including: the Balancing Incentive Program; Medicaid State Plan Amendments under 1915(i); Community First Choice Option under 1915(k); and Medicaid Health Homes.

[Click here](#) to view this month's Tracker.

[Click here](#) for comprehensive information on each state, as well as archived versions of the Tracker.



[*CMS: Funding Opportunity for SHIP and ADRC Options Counseling to Medicare-Medicaid Individuals](#)

[*CMS: Medicare Board of Trustees Annual Report](#)

[*WHCOA: Video Recaps](#)

[*AAHD: Health Insurance Jeopardy Videos](#)

[*FRAC: Webinar: Disability, Food Insecurity, and SNAP](#)

[*Justice in Aging: A Guide of 20 Common Nursing Home Problems and How to Resolve Them](#)

[*NDI: ADA at 25: Economic Advancement and Financial Inclusion](#)

[*NQF: Home and Community Based Services Quality Comments](#)

[*PhRMA: Access Better Coverage State Reports](#)

[*Events](#)

[*Job & Internship Postings](#)

[*Friday Updates Archive](#)



[Check out NASUAD iQ!](#)

[Click here](#) to sign up for alerts on Tracker updates.

I&R Center Webinar: Future Planning

The National I&R Support Center will host a webinar on Future Planning, or creating a guide for a person with an intellectual or developmental disability to lead a good life as independently as possible. The webinar is scheduled for **Wednesday, August 5, 2015, from 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. ET.**

Join our presenters from The Arc - Robin Shaffert, Senior Executive Officer, Individual and Family Support, and Jenny Sladen, Program Manager, National Initiatives - to learn about The Arc and its Center for Future Planning. Future Planning is creating a guide for a person with an intellectual or developmental disability (I/DD) to lead a good life as independently as possible. A plan is important throughout all stages of life and especially in the future after the parent or caregiver is no longer able to provide support. The Arc's Center for Future Planning aims to provide support and resources to adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD); their families, including parents or caregivers who are aging; and professionals who support them.

No pre-registration is required to participate in the webinar.



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To join the meeting, go to <https://join.me/nasuadwebinar>

On a computer, use any browser with Flash. Nothing to download. On a phone or tablet, launch the join.me app and enter meeting code: nasuadwebinar

To join the audio conference:
Dial 888-346-3659
Access Code 33688#

[Click here](#) to join the I&R Center's distribution list.

The HCBS Conference- Early Bird Discount Ends **July 31- Register Today and Save \$100!**

Join us for the [National Home and Community Based Services \(HCBS\) Conference](#) held in Washington, DC, **August 31-September 3**. This year we will be hosting a movie screening of the Glen Campbell documentary: *I'll Be Me*, in the evening of Wednesday, September 3rd.

In 2011, music legend Glen Campbell set out on an unprecedented tour across America. They thought it would last 5 weeks; instead, it went for 151 spectacular sold out shows over a triumphant year and a half across America. What made this tour extraordinary was that Glen had recently been diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease. He was told to hang up his guitar and prepare for the inevitable. Instead, Glen and his wife went



public with his diagnosis and announced that he and his family would set out on a "Goodbye Tour." The film documents this amazing journey as he and his family attempt to navigate the wildly unpredictable nature of Glen's progressing disease using love, laughter and music as their medicine of choice.

The Early Bird Discount ends July 31, 2015, so register today!

[Click here](#) to learn more about the conference and register!

HCBS Clearinghouse E-Clips

This section of Friday Update highlights reports that have been added to the HCBS Clearinghouse within the past week. Visit www.nasuad.org/hcbs for more information.

How MCOs Can Reduce Costs and Improve Care for Seniors and People with Disabilities

Direct Course released a white paper that examines the impact that managed care organizations can have on cost and quality of care for older adults and people with disabilities. The National Council on Disability found that MCOs can lower the costs of services for these populations. However, MCOs must face the challenge of training staff on person-centered planning and competency for the quality of care to genuinely increase. This paper provides an analysis of the positives and negatives of MCOs and where to move from here.



[Click here](#) to access the report and findings.

True Link Report on Elder Financial Abuse

True Link released a report on elder financial abuse that found seniors lose \$36.48 billion each year to financial abuse. This startling number is broken down into the categories of financial exploitation, criminal fraud, and caregiver abuse. While many victims of financial abuse are seniors with cognitive and memory problems, the study found that seniors who are financially sophisticated, educated, and friendly also fall prey to abuse. The study also examines the sources of risk, exploitation progression, and non-financial effects.

[Click here](#) to access the report and findings.

Medicare Advantage 2015 Spotlight: Enrollment Market Update

The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation released an issue brief reviewing the national and state level Medicaid Advantage enrollment trends as of March 2015. It was believed that the reductions in payments to Medicare Advantage plans would reduce enrollments, but it has actually increased by 5.6 million. Medicare Advantage enrollment has grown and increased this year. One key finding showed that "almost one in three (31%) of people on Medicare (16.8 million beneficiaries) were enrolled in a Medicare Advantage plan in March 2015-- up by more than one million beneficiaries from 2014."

[Click here](#) to access the reports and findings.



Care Coordination in Managed Long Term Services and Supports Report

The AARP Public Policy Institute released a new report conducted by Truven Health Analytics. The two part study examined Medicaid Managed Long Term Services and Supports program contracts in 18 different states for older adults and people with physical disabilities and case studies of new care coordination models in Ohio and Illinois. The findings indicate that states need care coordination and that these care coordinators provide crucial support for consumers and their family caregivers.

[Click here](#) to access the reports and findings.

From the Administration

[Administration for Community Living](#)

Webinar: Identifying and Supporting People with Dementia Who Live Alone

The National Alzheimer's and Dementia Resource Center is holding a Technical Assistance (TA) webinar on **Thursday, July 30, 2015, from 3:00 to 4:00 p.m ET**. The webinar will provide information about prevalence and characteristics of people with dementia who live alone, signs of self-neglect and intervention strategies, and the experiences of people with dementia who live alone. The presenters will be Dr. Phyllis "Penny" Braudy Harris, Ph.D, ACSW, LISW, Professor and Chair of the Sociology and



Criminology Department, and Director of Aging Studies at the John Carroll University and Dr. Michael Lepore, Ph.D, Senior Health Policy & Health Services Researcher at RTI International and Adjunct Assistant Professor of Health Services, Policy, and Practice at Brown University.

[Click here](#) to view details and register.

Share Feedback on Draft APS Guidelines

There are no federal guidelines for Adult Protect Service Agencies to follow, rather each state adheres to their own guidelines. The Administration for Community Living (ACL) seeks to create national guidelines, rooted in strong federal leadership, to create a set of principles and expectations to increase consistency in APS agencies across the country. ACL formed a set of draft guidelines using the most current science on what works in APS and other similar systems in the United States. ACL is now looking for feedback from the public in order to refine and finalize the draft guidelines. Their goal is to facilitate the creation of the guidelines to ensure they are consensus-informed and field driven. All comments must be submitted by **Tuesday, October 13, 2015.**

[Click here](#) to read the full draft guidelines.

[Click here](#) to submit comments.

[Click here](#) to participate in a listening session.



Centers for Medicaid & CHIP Services

Office of Management & Budget Circular A-87 Time Extension and Cost Allocation

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) released a letter with additional guidance for the states on the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Circular A-87 cost allocation exception. The letter provides a one-time extension through **December 31, 2015**, that offers an additional 3 years to the timeline originally provided in 2011. The cost exception and time extension are intended to give states the opportunity to leverage their investments and provide consumers with better service for their needs.

[Click here](#) to view the letter.

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

Funding Opportunity for SHIP and ADRC Options Counseling to Medicare-Medicaid Individuals

On July 16, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) announced the funding opportunity:

Affordable Care Act SHIP and ADRC Options Counseling for Medicare-Medicaid Individuals in States with Approved Financial Alignment Models. The Financial Alignment Initiative is a federal-state partnership to test aligning the service



delivery and financing of the Medicare and Medicaid programs to better serve dual-eligible individuals. The funding opportunity will provide financial assistance to State Health Insurance Assistance Programs (SHIPs) and Aging and Disability Resource Centers (ADRCs) to provide options counseling to dual-eligibles to ensure that these individuals have access to an unbiased and consumer friendly source of information and counseling to help them make informed decisions about options they have for receiving their Medicare and Medicaid benefits.

Following an initial funding opportunity for five states with approved financial alignment demonstrations, this second funding opportunity is intended to support options counseling in other states which have signed Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) as well as give current awardees an opportunity to request additional funding. Funding under this announcement is only available to states that have signed MOU with CMS to participate in the Financial Alignment Initiative through implementation of a CMS-approved model. The current closing date for applications is **Friday, August, 14, 2015**.

[Click here](#) to view more information about the funding opportunity.

[Click here](#) to view more information on approved state financial alignment demonstrations.



Medicare Board of Trustees Annual Report

The Medicare Board of Trustees released their annual report to Congress on the financial operations and actuarial status of Medicare on July 22, 2015. The report included a projection indicating that the trust fund will remain solvent until 2030, which is 13 years longer than the 2009 prediction. Medicare covered 53.8 million people last year and the report provides a break down of the expenditures of each individual part of Medicare and its overall cost.

[Click here](#) to access the report and findings.

White House Conference on Aging

White House Conference on Aging Video Recaps

The White House Conference on Aging (WHCOA) took place on Monday, July 13, 2015, in Washington, DC. The conference featured panels with distinguished experts from various fields, remarks from President Barack Obama, and the release of several new initiatives from his administration. C-SPAN uploaded videos of the Discussion on Caregivers panel, Obama's remarks, and the Financial Planning and Retirement Savings panel.

[Click here](#) to view the videos.

From Other Organizations

[AARP Public Policy Institute](#)



Blog Post: Changing the Pace for Caregiving Families

The AARP Public Policy Institute has released a new blog post on the need to accelerate the pace of change for caregiving families. Despite some recent policy advances at the federal and state levels, more needs to be done to adapt to the changing and more complex care needs of family caregivers. Lynn Friss Feinberg writes that it's time to hold a national conversation on the role of family care and meaningful public policy and private sector solutions.

[Click here](#) to view the blog post.

American Association on Health and Disability

Health Insurance Jeopardy Videos

The American Association on Health and Disability (AAHD) released a Health Insurance Jeopardy video series. The series includes topics on prescription drugs, medical devices, rehabilitation and habilitation benefits, Medicaid eligibility, the summer of benefits and coverage, and mental health. These videos provide consumers with information on the right questions to ask when shopping for healthcare.

[Click here](#) to view the videos.

Food Research & Action Center

Webinar: Disability, Food Insecurity, and SNAP

The Food Research & Action Center (FRAC)



is hosting a webinar to address the needs of Americans with disabilities that face food insecurity. A distinguished panel of experts will speak about the current status of food insecurity among this population, the role of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) for people with disabilities, and offer recommendations for strengthening SNAP benefits. The release of the new FRAC Report, SNAP Matters for People with Disabilities, will accompany this webinar. The webinar will take place on **Tuesday, July 28, 2015 from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. ET.**

[Click here](#) to view details and register.

Justice in Aging

A Guide of 20 Common Nursing Home Problems and How to Resolve Them

Many common nursing home practices are, in fact, illegal. In order to receive the best possible quality of care, a resident or resident's family member should be familiar with the protections of the federal Nursing Home Reform Law, and understand how to use the law effectively.

Here is a resource that can help consumers and advocates alike navigate the legalities of nursing home practices, and offer practical tips on how to resolve issues that come up. Our friends at Justice in Aging have updated their guide, 20 Common Nursing Home Problems and How to Resolve Them, and they are making it available for free download to anyone who needs it.



[Click here](#) to request a copy of the updated guide.

National Disability Institute

ADA at 25: Economic Advancement & Financial Inclusion Summit Recap

The National Disability Institute hosted the ADA at 25 Economic Advancement and Financial Inclusion Summit this past Wednesday in Washington, DC. The event brought together 150 leaders from all disciplines of the disability community from self-advocates to policymakers. An agenda was created at the summit to highlight the changes that must be made to promote financial inclusion.

[Click here](#) to view highlights from the summit.

National Quality Forum

Home and Community Based Services Quality Comments

The National Quality Forum (NQF) is holding a stakeholder committee to develop recommendations for the improvement of quality measurements in home and community based services (HCBS). NQF released the interim report, "Addressing Performance Measure Gaps in Home and Community Based Services to Support Community Living- Initial Components of



the Conceptual Framework," to guide the changes of future quality measures. NQF encourages individuals to view the report and make comments by **5 p.m. on Monday, August 17, 2015.**

[Click here](#) to view the report and make comments.

Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America

Access Better Coverage State Reports

The Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America (PhRMA) released new state resource reports on their Access Better Coverage website. The reports include information on how states can improve coverage and facts on state exchange plans including deductibles and cost sharing.

[Click here](#) to view the reports.

Events

Financial Management Services Conference

The National Resource Center for Participant-Directed Services (NRCPPDS) is excited to announce that registration for the 6th Financial Management Services (FMS) Conference from **November 9-10, 2015** in Baltimore, MD is now open! Early registration is effective now- **August 31, 2015.** Additional information about registration, the preconference workshop on participant



direction in managed care, and a schedule for the full conference are available [here](#).

Are you interested in sponsoring the 2015 FMS Conference? There are various sponsorship levels available, as well as customized sponsorship opportunities. More [information about sponsorship](#) is available.

[Click here](#) to view the conference information.

Job & Internship Postings

Area Agency on Aging Director

The River Valley Regional Commission is seeking applicants for the position of Area Agency on Aging Director. The director will be responsible for managing contracts with the Georgia Department of Human Services Division of Aging Services and area providers. Qualified applicants will have a minimum of a Bachelor's Degree in Gerontology and/or a related field and five (5) years of experience in health and aging services. Master's Degree preferred.

[Click here](#) to view the full posting.

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