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Date: 12/8/2016 3:04:37 PM
Subject: Attend our Dignity Forum Virtually

Kevin Prindiville, Rep. Schakowsky, and Jennifer Goldberg

Attend our Dignity Forum Virtually

Last month, we held a Dignity Forum in Washington, DC that brought together researchers, service providers, and advocates to explore how we can ensure economic security for older Americans and their families at a time when the population is aging and few Americans are prepared for a secure retirement. You can [attend the Dignity Forum virtually on the event page](#)—where you can watch the recordings of the panels and opening comments, view the photos, and download the slides.

Fighting for Justice in Aging

As a new administration in Washington sparks discussions of cuts to the social safety net programs low-income older Americans and their families rely on, our work is more important than ever. We commit to defending those programs when we have to, improving them when we can, and working closely with our partners to advance a vision of Justice in Aging that will benefit older Americans and their families across the country. [Read our full statement on the election.](#)

Non-Emergency Medical Transportation

Nearly 7.1 million Americans—including many low-income older adults—rely on Medicaid’s non-emergency medical transportation (NEMT) benefit for transportation to and from medical services. Yet every year, an estimated 3.6 million Americans miss or delay health care because of difficulty accessing these critical services. Last month, in partnership with Community Catalyst’s Center for Consumer Engagement in Health Innovation, we published an issue brief and hosted a webinar that outline the importance of NEMT and offer recommendations for improving the program. [Read the full brief](#), get an overview on [our blog](#), or [view the webinar](#).

SSI Basics for Advocates

In case you missed it, earlier this fall we presented a webinar on SSI Basics for Advocates attended by over 750 people. [Supplemental Security Income \(SSI\)](#) is a critical safety net program administered by the Social Security Administration (SSA) that provides a very basic income to older adults and people with disabilities who have no or only limited other income and resources. The rules and eligibility requirements of the program are complex. This webinar was designed for advocates who are new to the field, and for legal services professionals with little knowledge of SSI. We’ll be hosting this webinar again in 2017 but you can [access the slides or watch the recording here](#), any time.

Systemic Denti-Cal Problems Lead to Financial Abuse and Hardship

Most low-income older adults in California who qualify for Medi-Cal have some dental coverage through Denti-Cal, but the coverage is not comprehensive, and providers are difficult to find due to the low reimbursement rates and cumbersome billing processes. Many older adults seeking coverage are counseled to take out high interest dental credit cards to pay for their care, with the hope of receiving reimbursement once the dentist is able to submit the claim and receive payment through Medi-Cal. Unfortunately for many seniors, promised reimbursements never come, leaving older adults saddled with huge bills for both the dental care and the credit card interest. Increasing covered services, and fixing low reimbursement rates and billing problems would protect seniors from financial abuse. [Read Linda’s story on our blog](#).

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