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August 22, 2014

## In This Issue

- \*Ellen Goodman Speaking at the National HCBS Conference
- \*ACL: President's Committee for People with Intellectual Disabilities
- \*CMS: Beneficiary Engagement, Incentives, and Behavioral Insights RFI
- \*CMS: Webinar: Geriatrics-Competent Care: Geriatric Assessment
- \*CB: Report on 65+ in the United States
- \*HHS: Compliance with Federal Regulations for Reporting Abuse Allegations
- \*ODEP: ODEP Releases Joint Memorandum
- \*ODEP: Workforce Recruitment Program Seeks Federal Recruiters
- \*SSA: Social Security's Vision for 2025
- \*Congress: August Recess
- \*AARP: How to Help Families Provide Chronic Care for People with Cognitive Issues
- \*CBPP: Review of Medicaid Expansion Waivers
- \*EARN: Opening the Doors of Small Business to Employees with Disabilities
- \*KFF: Report Examines Trends In Medicare Part D Plan Marketplace
- \*LEAD: July Policy Update
- \*NCOA: Webinar: Troubleshooting Applications and Handling Appeals
- \*NEHEP: Webinar: Educating Older Americans About Their Aging Eyes
- \*PEW: Stateline Reports on Senior Financial Exploitation
- \*Events

## From NASUAD

### Ellen Goodman Speaking at the National HCBS Conference

This year, the National HCBS Conference will include a number of exciting plenary speakers and presentations. On Wednesday, September 17, Ellen Goodman, co-Founder of [The Conversation Project](#), will address the audience on the topic of making sure that every person's wishes for end-of-life care are expressed and respected.

Ellen Goodman has spent most of her life chronicling social change and its impact on American life. As a Pulitzer Prize winning columnist, she was one of the first women to open up the oped pages to women's voices and became, according to Media Watch, the most widely syndicated progressive columnist in the country.

The Conversation Project offers people the tools, guidance and resources they need to begin talking with their loved ones, around the kitchen table, about their wishes and preferences for their end-of-life.

[Click here](#) to learn more about the agenda.

[Click here](#) to register for the conference.

## From the Administration

### Administration for Community Living

### Notice of Meeting of the President's Committee for People with Intellectual Disabilities (PCPID)

On **September 3, 2014**, the President's Committee for People with Intellectual Disabilities (PCPID) will start a three-day meeting to swear in new committee members and discuss possible topics for the Annual Report to the President. The

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meeting will be held at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) in the Hubert H. Humphrey Building in Washington, DC.

PPID was established in 1966 and aims to ensure the right to a "decent, dignified place in society" for people with intellectual disabilities. The PCPID's duties include advising the President and Secretary of HHS regarding a broad range of topics including educational opportunities, home ownership, workplace integration, transportation, and increased access to community living and assistive technology. The meeting is open to the general public.

[Click here](#) for more information about the PCPID meeting.

[Click here](#) for additional programmatic information on PCPID.

## Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services

### Beneficiary Engagement, Incentives, and Behavioral Insights Request for Information (RFI)

On August 15, 2014, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) released a [Request for Information \(RFI\)](#) to seek input from stakeholders on the possibility of the Innovation Center testing innovative models. These models hope to increase the engagement of Medicare beneficiaries, Medicaid beneficiaries, dual eligible beneficiaries, and/or Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) beneficiaries in their health and health care. Comments must be received on **September 15, 2014 by 11:59 p.m.**

[Click here](#) to send questions or concerns.

[Click here](#) to view the Additional Beneficiary Engagement information.

### Webinar: Geriatrics-Competent Care: Geriatric Assessment

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) is holding a webinar entitled, *Geriatrics-Competent Care: Geriatric Assessment*, on **August 28, 2014, 12:00 p.m. to 1:15 p.m. ET**. The webinar will focus on a rapid geriatrics screen that can be accomplished in a busy clinical setting, to identify target areas where a more in-depth assessment is needed to develop a comprehensive, coordinated care plan. The webinar will also address home assessment and identifying community services available to help meet assessed needs, and how to communicate effectively with older adults and their families.

[Click here](#) to register for the webinar.

## U.S. Census Bureau

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## Report on 65+ in the United States

Last month, the U.S. Census Bureau issued a report, entitled 65+ in the United States. This report examines a range of topics concerning the population aged 65 and older in five chapters. The report also expands on the discussion of long-term care and nursing homes and includes an assessment of the impact of the December 2007 to June 2009 recession on older Americans. The chapters titles include:

- Growth of the Older Population
- Longevity and Health
- Economic Characteristic
- Geographic Distribution
- Social and Other Characteristics

Data used in this report draw heavily from the 2010 Census, nationally representative surveys such as the Current Population Survey, the American Community Survey, and National Health Interview Survey, the national vital statistics system, and recent population projections for the United States and other countries.

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

## Health and Human Services

### Nursing Facilities' Compliance with Federal Regulations for Reporting Allegations of Abuse or Neglect

On August 21, 2014, the Office of Inspector General (OIG) of the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (HHS) released a new study entitled, *Nursing Facilities' Compliance with Federal Regulations for Reporting Allegations of Abuse or Neglect*. The study included a:

- review of sampled nursing facilities' policies related to reporting allegations of abuse or neglect
- review of sampled nursing facilities' policies related to reasonable suspicions of crimes, and
- survey of administrators from those sampled facilities

The study also includes an examination of a random sample of allegations of abuse or neglect identified from the sampled nursing facilities, and a review of documentation related to those sampled allegations of abuse or neglect. According to the study, 85 percent of nursing facilities reported at least one allegation of abuse or neglect to OIG in 2012. Also, 76 percent of nursing facilities maintained policies that addressed Federal regulations for reporting both allegations of abuse or neglect and investigation results.

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

## Office of Disability Employment Policy

## ODEP Releases Joint Memorandum

On August 7, 2014, the Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP) and the Office of Financial Empowerment in the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) issued a joint memorandum entitled, *Promoting Financial Capability of Workers with Disabilities*. The memorandum discusses the commitment of both agencies to promote the financial capability of Americans with disabilities, and describe their collaborative activities in this area. The memorandum also provides information on available federal financial capability resources and assistance that workers with disabilities can use to promote their financial security and economic advancement.

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

## Workforce Recruitment Program Seeks Federal Recruiters

The Workforce Recruitment Program (WRP) is seeking federal employees to conduct phone interviews with students this fall. WRP is the primary pipeline bringing college students and recent graduates with disabilities into federal employment. Through the WRP, federal employers can have a personal impact on the hiring of people with disabilities.

[Click here](#) to learn how to be a WRP recruiter.

## Social Security Administration

### Social Security's Vision for 2025

The Social Security Administration (SSA) is seeking ideas and suggestions to help write their Vision for 2025. The Administration is relying on organizations and professionals to provide input and give new perspectives that will enable SSA to continue to deliver excellent customer service to the American public for the next 10 to 15 years. From now until **October 1, 2014**, SSA invites organizations and professionals to share their creative and innovative ideas about how they see Social Security serving the public in 2025 and beyond. Please help to spread the word by letting members, associates, and colleagues know about this opportunity to make their voices heard.

[Click here](#) to share ideas and vote on other ideas.

[Click here](#) to view the agency's current short-range plan.

## From Congress

### August Recess

The House and Senate have adjourned for the August recess. Both chambers will reconvene on Monday, **September 8, 2014**.

# From Other Organizations

## AARP

### **How to Help Families Provide Chronic Care for People with Cognitive Issues**

The AARP Public Policy Institute has released the third in a series of papers on caregivers providing chronic medical care. The paper, *Family Caregivers Providing Complex Chronic Care to People with Cognitive and Behavioral Health Conditions*, reports on results from a national survey showing that caregivers of family members with challenging behaviors were also likely to perform medical/nursing tasks, such as managing medications. The paper is based on additional analysis of data extracted from a national survey of 1,677 family caregivers, 22 percent of whom were caring for someone with one or more challenging behaviors. While family caregivers often must provide such care for family members with challenging behaviors, there is little or no instruction or guidance on how to do this important work. This paper offers recommendations for assisting family caregivers who play this dual role.

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

## Center on Budget and Policy Priorities

### **Review of Medicaid Expansion Waivers**

The Center on Budget and Policy Priorities (CBPP) released a report that examines State proposals to expand Medicaid using demonstration waivers. The analysis includes reviews of policies that the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has approved as well as proposals that were rejected. CBPP notes that:

- Although some benefit modifications have been permitted, CMS has not waived a number of core Medicaid requirements such as EPSDT (Early Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment).
- Expansion adults cannot be subjected to higher cost sharing requirements than other Medicaid beneficiaries.
- CMS has rejected proposals that would establish work requirements as a condition of Medicaid eligibility.

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

## Employer Assistance and Resource Network

## Opening the Doors of Small Business to Employees with Disabilities

The Employer Assistance and Resource Network (EARN) has released a report entitled, *Opening the Doors of Small Business to Employees with Disabilities: Critical Concerns and Strategies for Success*. The report addresses the concerns that small business leaders have expressed about employing people with disabilities. The report also explores extensive research demonstrating that hiring people with disabilities can improve an organization's productivity, work quality, and more at little or no additional cost, while improving the workplace for all employees.

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

## Kaiser Family Foundation

### Report Examines Trends In Medicare Part D Plan Marketplace

The Kaiser Family Foundation released a new comprehensive report on Medicare Part D in its ninth year. The report analyzes key trends that have shaped the Medicare Part D marketplace since the program launched nine years ago (2006-2014). The report also provides a detailed assessment of changes in plan availability, enrollment, premiums and cost sharing in both private stand-alone drug plans, and Medicare Advantage drug plans. According to the report, premiums and cost sharing for drugs have been relatively stable since 2010, after a period of steady increases. In 2014, Medicare beneficiaries enrolled in stand-alone Part D plans typically paid \$40 for a 30-day supply of a preferred brand-name drug, up \$12 or 43 percent since 2006, and \$85 for a 30-day supply of a non-preferred brand-name drug, up \$30 or 55 percent since 2006. [Click here](#) to view the report.

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## LEAD Center

### July Policy Update

The LEAD Center recently released the July 2014 Policy Update. The Policy Update includes articles on new Medicaid enrollment data released by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), an issue brief on Olmstead's role in community integration, AARP's long-term services and supports scorecard, Olmstead violations in Ohio, and much more. The Policy Update, *Employment, Health Care and Disability*, is a monthly update focusing on the intersection of disability, employment and health care policy.

[Click here](#) to view the Policy Update.

## National Council on Aging

## Webinar: SNAP for Seniors: Troubleshooting Applications and Handling Appeals

The National Council on Aging is holding a webinar entitled, *SNAP for Seniors: Troubleshooting Applications and Handling Appeals*, on **August 27, 2014, 3:00 p.m. ET**.

This webinar is intended for new advocates in the field of SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) and those who want additional information about SNAP troubleshooting and appeals. The webinar will:

- Discuss common pitfalls that delay the application determination.
- Explain consumers' rights, and the process by which counselors and clients can appeal a benefits decision.
- Walk through scenarios that illustrate how to be proactive when challenges arise.

[Click here](#) to register for the webinar.

## National Eye Health Education Program

### Webinar: Educating Older Americans About Their Aging Eyes

The National Eye Health Education Program (NEHEP) of the National Eye Institute (NEI) are holding a webinar entitled, *Educating Older Americans About Their Aging Eyes*, on **September 10, 2014, 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. ET**. This webinar will focus on why vision health is a growing public health concern and how participants can help older adults in their community protect their vision. The topics of discussion will include:

- The growing prevalence of age-related eye diseases and conditions.
- What older Americans know about eye health.
- Common vision changes people experience as they age.
- An overview of the most common age-related eye diseases and conditions, including macular degeneration, cataract, diabetic retinopathy, glaucoma, dry eye, and low vision.
- The importance of comprehensive dilated eye exams and other behaviors in protecting vision.

[Click here](#) to register for the webinar.

## The PEW Charitable Trusts

### Stateline Reports on Senior Financial Exploitation

Stateline, a production of The PEW Charitable Trusts, posted an article discussing the threat of financial scams that target senior citizens. The article notes that such instances are likely under-

reported and that there is no central repository for tracking occurrences. However, the reporters note that state legislatures are increasingly introducing and passing legislation that addresses these issues. According to the article, this type of legislation was introduced in over half of the states during 2014.

[Click here](#) for more information.

## Events

### **DRC Annual Research Meeting**

The National Bureau of Economic Research is hosting the Disability Research Center (DRC) Annual Research Meeting on **October 30-31, 2014**. The meeting will feature disability policy and program experts who will highlight findings from a new research sponsored by the Social Security Administration (SSA) through the DRC. The meeting will take place at the National Press Club in Washington, DC. Admission is free but space is limited. Pre-registration is required.

[Click here](#) for more information as it become available.

## Funding Opportunities

### **Mary E. Switzer Research Fellowships**

**Full Title:** OSERS: NIDRR: Research Fellowships Program

**Issuing Agency:** Department of Education

**Eligible Applicants:** Individuals must have seven or more years of research experience in subject areas, methods, or techniques relevant to rehabilitation research and must have a doctorate, other terminal degree, or comparable academic qualifications.

**Funding Level:** \$125,000,

**Close Date:** September 2, 2014

**Funding Opportunity Number:** ED-GRANTS-072814-002

**CFDA Number:** 84.133

**Description:** The purpose of the Research Fellowships Program is to build research capacity by providing support to experienced, highly qualified individuals, including those who are individuals with disabilities, to perform research on the rehabilitation of individuals with disabilities. Fellows must conduct original research in an area authorized by section 204 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 which allows research, demonstration projects, training, and related activities. The goals are to develop methods, procedures, and rehabilitation technology that maximize the full inclusion and integration into society, employment, independent living, family support, and economic and social self-sufficiency of individuals with disabilities, especially individuals with the most significant disabilities, and to improve the effectiveness of services authorized under the Act.

[Click here](#) for more information on this grant opportunity, and to apply.

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