February 13, 2015

From NASUAD

NASUAD Publishes Updated State Medicaid Integration Tracker

NASUAD has published the February 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.
Click here to sign up for alerts on Tracker updates.

HCBS Conference Call for Sessions

The National Association of States United for Aging and Disabilities (NASUAD) has announced the Call for Sessions for the 2015 National Home and Community Based Services Conference (HCBS), **August 31-September 3, 2015**, in Washington, DC. The conference offers a unique blend of policy, program and practice issues for professionals interested in home and community based services for individuals of all abilities and in all settings. Proposals are currently being accepted for one hour workshops.

The HCBS Conference is quickly becoming the "go-to" conference for learning in the expanding field of home and community based services. Don't miss the opportunity to be a part of this important conference.

Presenting provides an unparalleled opportunity to share new ideas or highlight noteworthy projects, research, and practices with your peers and other professionals.

The Call for Sessions for the 2015 HCBS Conference will be open until March 20th.

Click here to learn more and submit your session.

HCBS Clearinghouse E-Clips

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

Medicaid Third-Party Liability Report

A recently released report from the Government Accountability Office (GAO) provides findings on the extent to which Medicaid enrollees have private insurance and recommendations for how CMS can improve monitoring and guidance to states on third-party liability (TPL) efforts.

The report details various initiatives taken by states: improvement of coverage identification; enrollment of eligible enrollees with third-party coverage into Medicaid managed care in which states can delegate TPL activities to contracted health plans; and programs to oversee plans' TPL recoveries.

Click here to access the report.

Disability Beneficiaries Before & After the Great Recession

A new issue brief from Mathematica Policy Research describes how the employment, work expectations, and economic well-being of Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) beneficiaries changed following the Great Recession, which began in December 2007 and officially ended in June 2009. The authors examined changes in beneficiary employment and household income over this period compared with nonbeneficiaries and found that beneficiaries as a group experienced a significant drop in labor force participation and employment from 2006 to 2010, but earnings were less dramatically affected among those who worked.

Click here to access the brief.

EEOC & Federal Partners Produce Resource Guide for Employers

At the Summit on Disability and Employment on February 3, the White House announced a new guide for employers that compiles key federal and federally-funded resources related to the employment of people with disabilities. The resource guide, *Recruiting, Hiring, Retaining, and Promoting People with Disabilities*, provides employers with plain language technical assistance tools in an easy-to-use question-and-answer format.

"This resource guide underscores the EEOC's commitment to conduct proactive outreach and education to help businesses strengthen efforts to recruit, hire, retain, and promote people with disabilities," said EEOC Chair Jenny R. Yang.

Click here to view guide.

From the Administration

Administration for Community Living

Final LTC Ombudsman Regulation Released

On February 10, ACL released the Long-Term Care (LTC) Ombudsman Final Rule on the Federal Register. The final rule specifies implementation for LTC Ombudsman programs across the country and will not be effective until July 1, 2016, in order to give states time to make changes. The rule addresses:

- Responsibilities of key figures in the system, including the Ombudsman and representatives of the Office of the Ombudsman;
- Responsibilities of the entities in which LTC Ombudsman programs are housed;
- Criteria for establishing consistent, person-centered approaches to resolving complaints on behalf of residents;
- Appropriate role of LTC Ombudsman programs in resolving abuse complaints; and
- Processes for identifying and remedying conflicts of interest so that residents have access to effective, credible ombudsman services.

Additionally, ACL set up a dedicated email account (LTCOmbudsman.Rule@acl.hhs.gov) to respond to questions and requests for assistance.

Click here to view final regulation.

Expanding Business Acumen Technical Assistance Program

After a successful pilot project, ACL is expanding its Business Acumen Targeted Technical Assistance Program to 11 aging and disability community-based networks. The networks will form a learning collaborative to receive training in marketing, contracting, and pricing the services they provide to older adults and individuals with disabilities. Tip sheets and webinars from the pilot project are openly available to other community-based organizations, and more tools will be added over time.

Click here to access the pilot project resources.
Click here for details on the TA program.

Senior Medicare Patrol Funding Opportunity

ACL has announced a new funding opportunity for the Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP) Program project cooperative agreements. The SMP program disseminates fraud prevention and

identification information and assists beneficiaries to access their Medicare benefits. ACL plans to award a three-year cooperative agreement to each of the 54 service areas to support individual state SMP project activities.

ACL will host a conference call for potential applicants on **Wednesday, March 4 at 3:00 p.m. ET**. The deadline for applications is **April 14 by 11:59 p.m. ET**.

Click here to view the grant details.

Social Security Administration

Funding Opportunity for WIPA Projects

The Social Security Administration (SSA) has announced a funding opportunity for cooperative agreements for Work Incentive Planning and Assistance (WIPA) projects. WIPA projects are community-based organizations that provide counseling and support to disabled beneficiaries of the Social Security and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) programs. A key purpose of these projects is to disseminate accurate information to beneficiaries with disabilities, including transition-to-work aged youth, about work incentives programs and issues related to such programs.The ultimate goal of WIPA projects is to assist SSA beneficiaries with disabilities succeed in their return to work efforts. WIPA cooperative agreement awardees will provide services across the country through July 31, 2020, pending availability of funds over a five-year period of performance. The deadline for applications is **March 30, 2015**.

Click here for more details and to access the grant posting.

From Other Organizations

Mathematica Policy Research

Forum & Webinar: Early Findings from the Benefit Offset National Demonstration (BOND)

The Social Security Administration's Benefit Offset National Demonstration (BOND) is testing an innovation that allows Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) beneficiaries to earn more while keeping part of their disability benefits. The earnings rules being tested replaced the "benefit cliff"-the complete loss of benefits when earnings exceed a maximum amount for a sufficient period-with a "benefit ramp" that reduces benefits by $1 for every $2 of earnings over the limit. Beneficiary enrollment in BOND began in 2011, and the demonstration will continue into 2017. A team from Abt and Mathematica is conducting the evaluation.

The Center for Studying Disability Policy (CSDP) will host an in-

person forum and online webcast highlighting the early findings on **Thursday, February 26, from 11:45 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. ET** at Mathematica's Washington, DC, office or by webinar. Lunch will be provided.

The speakers will provide background on the demonstration; describe its structure and summarize the plan for the evaluation; present findings from the first two years' process and impact analyses; and discuss potential policy and research implications of the midstream results.

Click here for details and to register.

Forum & Webinar: The SGR Fix: A Pathway to Fundamental Physician Payment Reform?

Many lawmakers seek to discard the sustainable growth rate (SGR) formula, which adjusts Medicare physician fees to limit spending. Their goal is fundamental reform of physician payment, shifting away from traditional fee-for-service reimbursement to other payment models that enhance the quality and efficiency of care. The 2014 "SGR fix" proposal provides a framework for how payment reform in Medicare could be used to help transform the organization and delivery of health care.

In a new publication set for release in March, Mathematica senior fellow James Reschovsky unpacks the details of the proposed SGR replacement, including the new Merit-Based Incentive Payment System and several other payment models encouraged in the legislation. The Center on Health Care Effectiveness (CHCE) will host an in-person forum and online webcast featuring Dr. Reschovsky and a panel of experts to discuss these value-based models. The panel will describe the opportunities and challenges involved in permanently repealing the SGR formula and moving away from traditional fee-for-service models. The forum and webinar will take place on **Wednesday, March 11, from 11:45 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. ET** at Mathematica's Washington, DC, office. Lunch will be provided.

Click here for details and to register.

National Alzheimer's and Dementia Resource Center

Webinar: ID/D and Dementia: Experiences of a Family Advocate & Promising Practices

On **Thursday, February 26 from 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. ET**, the National Alzheimer's and Dementia Resource Center (formerly the ADSSP National Resource Center) will host *Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities and Dementia: Experiences of a Family Advocate and Promising Practices*. This webinar will provide participants with information on personal experiences, advocacy efforts, and helpful practices for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (ID/D) and dementia. Presenters will speak to personal experiences as a

guardian and an advocate for family members and people with ID/D and dementia as well as speak about promising practices of how to work with people with ID/D and dementia.

Click here to view details on the webinar.

National Center for Mobility Management

Healthcare Access Mobility Design Challenge

The National Center for Mobility Management (NCMM) seeks community-based, multidisciplinary teams to participate in its six-month Healthcare Access Mobility Design Challenge. Eight teams will receive grants of up to $25,000 and one-on-one technical assistance to take potential solutions from concept to impact.

Each team will develop, test and prepare ready-to-launch healthcare transportation access solutions to challenges in one of the following four areas: access to preventive/primary care and/or health education opportunities; access to ongoing dialysis treatment; access to post-hospitalization appointments; and access to behavioral health treatment. The Center will host an informational webinar regarding the challenge on **Friday, February 13 at 2 p.m. ET**. Click here for webinar details.

Click here to view the challenge details and access the application. Applications from teams are due **March 27, 2015**.

National Council on Aging

RFP: Senior SNAP Enrollment Initiative

NCOA has released a Request for Proposals for its initiative to help seniors enroll in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). Through its Senior SNAP Enrollment Initiative, NCOA will award $1,150,000 to community-based organizations and agencies to assist low-income older adults in applying for and enrolling in SNAP and other benefits.

NCOA seeks proposals for two categories of grants: A) Underserved Senior SNAP Access Grant ($25,000) and B) SNAP Enrollment Center Grant ($50,000). An online application for proposal submission is available here. Letters of Intent to Apply are due **February 13**, and applications are due **March 6**.

Click here for additional details on the grants.
Click here to access the RFP.

Webinar: Help Your Clients with Medicare Stay Healthy

NCOA will host a webinar regarding the range of services and benefits available to help keep people with Medicare healthy. The webinar will be held on **Thursday, February 26 from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. ET**. Presenters Melissa Simpson with the Center for Benefits Access at NCOA and Cora Plass with NCOA's Chronic Disease Self-Management Education Resource Center will address: which preventative services are covered under Part B; details of the Annual Wellness Visit; and how to arrange for health promotion programs as part of person-centered benefits counseling.

Click here to view webinar details and access registration

National Task Group on Intellectual Disabilities & Dementia Practices

Caring for Adults with Intellectual Disabilities and Dementia Workshops

NTG has announced its next workshop, a two-day interactive, *Dementia Capable Care of Adults with Intellectual Disability (ID) and Dementia*. The workshop is designed for caregivers and staff of aging-related agencies. The workshop will be held in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, on **March 31-April 1**. The workshop provides 12 hours of educational credits. NTG also offers other courses, webinars, and curriculum related to dementia and ID advocacy, support, and services. Click here to view their training offerings.

Click here to view details on the workshop.

State Coverage Initiatives

Webinar: Overview of Medicaid Marketplace Premium Assistance Waiver Programs

On **Friday, February 13 at 1:00 p.m. ET**, State Coverage Initiatives and the State Health Reform Assistance Network will host a webinar on new Medicaid expansions through private market-based coverage. Recent models of State Medicaid expansion offer viable alternatives for covering previously uninsured populations while addressing those states' concerns about some of the budgetary, political, and market challenges associated with traditional Medicaid expansion.

In the webinar, Manatt Health Solutions will provide an overview of Medicaid Marketplace Premium Assistance and outline the authorization vehicles through which a state may establish a program. The presentation will also detail the federal requirements for and the operational implications of implementation with respect to: eligibility for the program, benefits and network adequacy, premiums and cost-sharing,

shopping and enrollment, and interagency cooperation. Additionally, John Selig, the Director of the Arkansas Department of Human Services, will offer Arkansas' experience with implementation of their program.

Click here to view details on the webinar.

Events

Set Sail for the Future: 12th Annual Show Me Summit on Aging & Health

The Missouri Association of Area Agencies on Aging (ma4) has announced that the "Set Sail for the Future," 12th Annual Show Me Summit on Aging and Health will take place **August 17-19, 2015**, in Lake Ozark, Missouri. Ma4 has opened a call for presentations and requests that applications be submitted by March 15.

Click here to view details of the Summit and the Call for Presentations.

Job & Internship Postings

Public Policy Intern at NASUAD

The National Association of States United for Aging and Disabilities (NASUAD), membership organization of the agencies in state government that manage programs for older people and adults with physical disabilities, seeks a public policy intern. The paid position is for 10-15 hours per week.

Responsibilities include analyzing aging and disability data, developing and/or maintaining databases, assisting with project management, and conducting legislative and policy research.

Candidacy for a Master's Degree in Public Policy, Public Administration or Public Health is a preferred qualification. Hours are flexible to accommodate classes.

NASUAD is committed to providing equal opportunities for all applicants for employment. To apply, please send a resume and cover letter to bproctor@nasuad.org.

Click here to view the full job description.

ASPE Federal Trainee Research Positions

The Office of Health Policy in the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation (ASPE) will be establishing Federal trainee research positions similar to Post Doc type fellowships in academia. These positions will be focused on health policy, economics, and/or other behavioral sciences and the application of these tools in federal policy making. The positions will be for a one year term appointment in the Federal government, with an option to renew. The ideal candidates include individuals who

have recently completed doctoral training within the last five years and who seek to gain experience that will enable them to be successful in gaining close knowledge of Federal health policy and the policy making process. Qualified applicants will have a strong background in health policy research and experience analyzing large data sets; possess strong analytic and empirical skills; and demonstrate proficiency in oral and written communication. U.S. citizenship is required.

More detailed information on how to apply will be announced at a later date. Interested candidates should contact Angela Barbour-Rawlings at angela.barbour-rawlings@hhs.gov for more information about the program and application process.

Click here to view the position details.

Summer Fellowships in Disability Policy Research

Mathematica Center for Studying Disability Policy and the Social Security Administration's Disability Research Consortium areaccepting applicants for their 2015 Summer Experiential Learning Fellowship program. The opportunity is open to graduate students interested in disability policy. Fellows will receive a $6,500 stipend for the eight-week fellowship program, which runs June 1 to July 31.

Applications are due Friday, **February 13, at midnight**. Click here to view the application and program details.

National Institute on Aging Summer Internship

NIA's Intramural Research Program is accepting applicants for an 8-10 week intensive research internship this summer. The research experience is open to students in high school, college, medical school, and graduate programs, and the number of students accepted varies each year based on the applications received. The opportunity is a part of the broader National Institutes of Health Summer Internship Program in Biomedical Research.

Summer interns perform research alongside intramural investigators and postdoctoral fellows, and students are provided an opportunity to present their research to NIA leadership as part of a competition for the Barbara A. Hughes Award of Excellence.

Click here to view the program details. To apply, click here. After submitting an application, students can email Arlene Jackson to notify the NIA of submission. Applications are due by **Sunday, March 1 at 11:30 p.m. ET**.

Communications Associate with Gerontological Society of America

The Gerontological Society of America is seeking a communications associate to lead an aggressive program of both online and offline communications, including both strategy and tactics to increase the engagement of individuals in an online community. The Change AGEnts Initiative is an interprofessional effort to leverage the John A. Hartford Foundation's powerful

network, help its scholars and grantees learn from and support one another, and work directly on changes in practice and service delivery that improve the health of older Americans. The Communications Associate will be responsible for overseeing the coordination of communications across all facets of the Initiative including an online platform, website, list serv, press releases, newsletters, and blogs, as well as preparing regular reports regarding these activities.

Click here to view the full job posting.

Friday Update Archive

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