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From NASUAD

NASUAD Visits Iowa

NASUAD Executive Director Martha Roherty and Deputy Executive Director Camille Dobson spent three days in Iowa at the invitation of Donna Harvey, Director of Iowa Department of Aging and NASUAD member. While in Iowa, Ms. Roherty and Ms. Dobson provided managed long-term services and supports (MLTSS) training for the aging and disability state employees. NASUAD remains ready to provide similar technical assistance to any of our members.

NASUAD Executive Director Martha Roherty and Deputy Executive Director Camille Dobson with Donna Harvey, Director of Iowa Department on Aging and NASUAD Member

[Click here](#) for more information on the enhanced technical assistance options.

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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.

Building the Business Case

Following up on their symposium at the 2014 American Society on Aging conference, the National Coalition on Care Coordination (N3C) has released an issue brief "Building the Business Case: Community Organizations Responding to Changing Healthcare Environment for Aging Populations." The brief presents insights and actionable approaches to help close the gaps in fragmented care delivery systems.

[Click here](#) to access the brief.

Public Awareness Cancer in America

PublicHealth.org recently published a summary report of the state of cancer in America. The online report provides statistics on the most common cancers in the United States and predicts future trends of cancer diseases. The guide aims to increase public awareness of the state of cancer in America and to educate the public on preventive measures to limit risk of cancer. The report includes a short video clip highlighting the major findings.

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

From the Administration

Administration for Community Living

ONC Federal Advisory Committee Seeks Applicants

Applications are being accepted for the Office of the National Coordinator (ONC) for Health Information Technology Federal Advisory Committee. The ONC is looking for experts who can represent a variety of sectors and issue areas including long-term care experts, health exchange experts, providers, researchers, and technology vendors. The application deadline is **Friday, March 6**.

[Click here](#) to view application details.

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.

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

Rating System for Nursing Homes Strengthened

CMS has strengthened the *Five Star Quality Rating System* for Nursing Homes on the [Nursing Home Compare website](#) to provide families with more precise and meaningful information on quality. CMS rates nursing homes on three categories: results from onsite inspections by trained surveyors, performance on certain quality measures, and levels of staffing. As part of the new strengthened rating system, nursing home star ratings will: include use of antipsychotics in the calculation of ratings; have improved calculations for staffing levels; and reflect higher standards to achieve a high rating on the quality measure dimension on the website.

[Click here](#) to view a fact sheet on *Nursing Home Compare* 3.0.

Proposed 2016 Payment & Policy Updates for Medicare Plans

CMS released proposed changes for next year for the Medicare Advantage and Part D Prescription Drug Programs. The proposed policies include a proposal to continue refining the star rating system and a change in payments that will affect plans differently depending on a number of factors. The proposed Advance Notice and Draft Call Letter have been made available for comment, and comments must be submitted by **March 6**. The 2016 Final Rate Announcement and Call Letter will be published on Monday, April 6, 2015.

[Click here](#) to access the Advance Notice and draft Call Letter.

Medicaid & CHIP December 2014 Eligibility & Enrollment Data Released

The December 2014 eligibility and enrollment data on state Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) has been released by CMS this week. Beginning from October 2013, CMS publicly releases data collected through the Medicaid and CHIP Performance Indicator Project through a series of monthly reports.

[Click here](#) to view the full December 2014 report.

Health and Human Services

Committee Report of 2015 Dietary Guidelines Open for Review

The "Scientific Report of the 2015 Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee" has been released. The edition is open for public review and comment. The report describes findings from the Advisory Committee's review of the scientific evidence on diet, nutrition, and health, and will help inform the next edition of the Dietary Guidelines, expected to be released by the end of 2015. The Dietary Guidelines are updated every five years and directly affect all federally-funded nutrition programs.

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and the Department of Agriculture (USDA) will host a public meeting on Tuesday, **March 24** to receive public oral comments on the report. Written comments may be submitted to the Committee until Wednesday, **April 8**.

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

U.S. Access Board

Proposed Update to ICT Accessibility Requirements

The U.S. Access Board has released a [proposed rule](#) updating the accessibility requirements for information and communication technology (ICT) in the federal sector covered by Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act. Public comments on the rule and a preliminary assessment of its estimated costs and benefits are due in 90 days. In addition to public hearings on the rule in San Diego and Washington DC on March 5 and 11, respectively, the Board will also conduct a public webinar on March 31 to review the proposal.

[Click here](#) to view the press release.

[Click here](#) to access a summary of the proposed rule.

White House Conference on Aging

Elder Justice Webinar Materials Available

The White House Conference on Aging has posted the presentation and a recording of their February 11th webinar on Elder Justice. A transcript of the presentations will be made available on the site soon.

[Click here](#) to access the materials.

From Other Organizations

Heldrich Center for Workforce Development

Workforce Development Survey

The [John J. Heldrich Center for Workforce Development](#) at Rutgers University is conducting a survey to help identify gaps in employment and training research and to make recommendations for future research priorities. Given the tremendous challenges facing the workforce development system, it is essential that federal, state, and local policymakers and practitioners have access to timely and credible research about the programs and practices that are most effective and efficient in helping American workers prepare for and obtain employment. To help inform future research investments, the Heldrich Center has launched an effort to develop a report that will identify gaps in current employment and training research as well as identify the priority research needs of policymakers, practitioners, job seekers, and employers. The brief online survey is open to participants until Friday, March 27, 2015.

[Click here](#) to access the survey.

Mathematica Policy Research

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 & Dementia Resource Center

Webinar: Outreach and Recruitment for People with Dementia and their Caregivers

This webinar sponsored by the National Alzheimer's and Dementia Resource Center will provide participants with information on outreach and recruitment with the hard to reach populations of people with dementia and their caregivers. The webinar will be held on **Thursday, March 12 from 3:00 to 4:00 p.m. ET**. Presenter Anne Wolf will speak about efforts in South Carolina to serve rural areas of the state by providing services for people with dementia and their caregivers, and presenter Jed Levine will speak about outreach and recruitment of people with dementia and their caregivers in the lesbian, gay, bi-sexual, and transgender (LGBT) communities.

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

National Council on Aging

Webinar: Substance Abuse & Misuse: Impact on Older Adults

The NCOA Center for Healthy Aging will host a webinar highlighting the problem of substance abuse among older adults next **Wednesday, March 11 from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. ET**. Presenters will highlight key data and trends around the issue as well as explore two interventions targeting substance abuse and misuse.

[Click here](#) for additional details on the webinar.

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 were due February 13, and applications are due **March 6**.

[Click here](#) for additional details on the grants.

[Click here](#) to access the RFP.

National Long-Term Care Ombudsman Resource Center

Webinar: LTC Ombudsman Program Final Rule

The Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program final rule guides implementation of the portions of the Older Americans Act governing grants to states for operation of Long-Term Care (LTC) Ombudsman programs. Presented by Administration for Community Living staff, this webinar will provide an opportunity to review key sections of the rule. The webinar will be held on **Monday, March 2 at 3:00 p.m. ET**.

[Click here](#) to view details and register for the webinar. To access the Long-Term Care Ombudsman Programs final rule in the Federal Register, [click here](#).

National Resource Center for Supported Decision-Making

Supported Decision-Making State Grant Program

The National Resource Center for Supported Decision-Making has announced its State Grant Program. The Program will award grants of up to \$5,000 for state-based projects that: (1) identify state laws, policies, and practices that increase the use of Supported Decision-Making by older adults and people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) across the life course and those that serve as barriers to doing so; and (2) collect and disseminate information to document the positive impacts of Supported Decision-Making in their state and, at least annually, issue a report documenting success stories, challenges and, any changes that have been made to increase the use of Supported Decision-Making. Up to six projects may be funded through this application process. Each project will participate in the National Resource Center for Supported Decision-Making's community of practice and receive logistical, organizational, technical, and other necessary and appropriate support from the National Resource Center. Organizations eligible to serve as either the principal grantee or a project partner include organizations providing services and supports to older adults and people with I/DD including private and publicly-funded entities providing advocacy, education, and rights protection, and other entities whose goal is to protect and increase awareness of the rights of older adults and people with I/DD. Applications must be submitted on or before **April 1, 2015**.

[Click here](#) to access more information.

Job & Internship Postings

OK Aging Services --Programs Administrator

The Oklahoma Department of Human Services - Aging Services is conducting a national search to fill a Programs Administrator position, which oversees the Older Americans Act Title III program. In that capacity, this person will interface with Oklahoma's eleven Area Agencies on Aging, the Administration for Community Living, provider networks, legislators, and various agency partners. The Programs Administrator will manage a small team of state employees and work regularly with colleagues in OAA Titles V, VI and VII. Primary functions include technical assistance to AAAs, reporting, budget monitoring, contract development, and state plan development. The position is housed in Oklahoma City, and moderate travel is expected.

[Click here](#) to view the full job description. The **deadline** to apply is **Wednesday, March 4**.

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.

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**.

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