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January 13, 2017

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From NASUAD

NASUAD Submits Comments on CMS HCBS Request for Information

The National Association of States United for Aging and Disabilities (NASUAD) submitted comments to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) Request for Information (RFI) regarding the Federal Government Interventions to Ensure the Provision of Timely and Quality Home and Community Based Services. The response to this RFI addresses each of the discrete questions posed by CMS.

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

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

Webinar: Helping Connect Individuals to Benefits: Approaches, Tools & Promising Practices

The National I&R Support Center is hosting a webinar on Helping Connect Individuals to Benefits: Approaches, Tools, and Promising Practices. This webinar is scheduled for **Tuesday, January 24, 2017, from 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. ET.**

Despite the availability of public benefits programs that can help meet basic needs and improve economic security, many low-income older adults and younger adults with disabilities are under-enrolled. In this webinar, the National Council on Aging (NCOA) will present findings from a recent study on how stigma affects perceptions of these programs, and results from a national survey of what messages can effectively counter stigma. Participants will also see how NCOA's newly redesigned online screening tool, BenefitsCheckUp®, can assist with identifying benefits. The National Association of States United for Aging and Disabilities (NASUAD) will present information about the current outreach campaign to individuals with disabilities that may be eligible for financial assistance through the Medicare Savings Programs (MSP) and Low Income Subsidies (LIS). Participants will learn about promising practices for providing outreach to low-income Medicare beneficiaries to increase enrollment in Medicare savings programs. Presenters for this webinar will be Brandy Bauer, Communications Manager, Center for Benefits Access, National Council on Aging and Linda Nakagawa, Policy Analyst, NASUAD.

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

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HCBS Clearinghouse

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

Gaps in the Evidence on Employment and Training for Low-Income Adults

Mathematica Policy Research released an issue brief, published by U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation, that examines different employment strategies for low-income individuals. The Employment Strategies for Low-Income Adults Evidence Review (ESER) was used to evaluate employment and training interviews for this population. Included in the brief are recommendations about how to bridge the gaps found in employment and improve service design and program delivery.

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

From the Administration

Administration for Community Living

Grant: Using Robotics and Automation to Improve Accessible Transportation

The Administration for Community Living's National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research (NIDILRR) announced a new grant opportunity, Using Robotics and Automation to Improve Accessible Transportation Options for Individuals with Disabilities, under the Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects Program (DRPP). The purpose of this grant is to further the applications of automated products and robotics to assist with transportation for people with disabilities and to improve the overall traveling chain to meet the needs of travelers with disabilities. All applications must be electronically submitted by **March 21, 2017**.

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

ACL Issues Guidance for Outreach and Services for Holocaust Survivors

The Administration for Community Living's Assistant Secretary on Aging released guidance to the Aging Services Network as required by the Older Americans Act of 1965, P.L. 114-144. Between 100,00 and 130,000 Holocaust survivors reside in the

United States, most have significant support needs that are unique from their counterparts in the same age group. This guidance provides promising practices for outreach and providing services to this population. Specifically, the guidance focuses on "mental and physical health, nutrition, transportation, caregiver support, outreach, legal and ombudsman services, with a foundation in person-centered, trauma-informed approaches." Experts in the field contributed to the creation of the guidance.

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

Webinar: Cultural Awareness in Dementia Care

The Administration for Community Living's National Alzheimer's and Dementia Resource Center has partnered with the American Society on Aging for a new webinar series. The first webinar is titled, "Cultural Awareness in Dementia Care." Participants who attend this webinar will learn about the steps for implementation related to the Minnesota Board on Aging's Cultural Awareness in Dementia Care initiative. American Indian and Somali cultural consultants will share their experience in working with service providers to strengthen capacity to provide culturally enhanced services. The webinar will take place on **January 17, 2017, from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. ET**. Registration for this webinar is free and complimentary CEUs are available.

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

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

CMS Releases Final Rule for Medicare & Medicaid Home Health Care

On January 9th, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) released the final rule, Medicare and Medicaid Program: Conditions of Participation for Home Health Agencies. Home health care offers coordinated services to patients in their own homes under the care of a physician. Included in the final rule are changes to the conditions of participation (CoPs) that home health agencies HHAs are required to meet in order to participate in Medicaid and Medicare programs. The final rule includes several changes like the addition of a comprehensive patients rights condition of participation, a patient assessment requirement, integrated communication systems, and more. The regulations will become effective on **July 13, 2017**.

[Click here](#) to view the final rule.

Department of Health and Human Services

HHS Issues Guidance for Electronic Information Technology

On December 21, 2016, the United States Department of Health and Human Services' (HHS) Office for Civil Rights (OCR) issued a letter of guidance regarding equal access to all health services and benefits for electronic information technology. Medical technology is being rapidly integrated into the healthcare system and it is of the utmost importance that these methods are accessible for all individuals. Unfortunately most of the Electronic and Information Technology (EIT) devices and systems are not accessible for individuals with disabilities, which violates Section 504, Section 1557, and Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act. The letter provides specific guidance regarding websites, medical kiosks, and electronic health records.

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

From Other Organizations

AARP Public Policy Institute

Addressing Disparities in Diabetes Prevalence Among Older Adults

The AARP Public Policy Institute published a new blog post about the disparities in diabetes prevalence among older adults. Almost 25% of Americans that are 65 and older live with a diabetes diagnosis, the highest percentage of any age group. The prevalence of diabetes varies strongly depending on an individuals race and ethnicity. This blog post offers a deeper look into the disparities that exist between different ethnic and racial groups.

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

Alliance of Information & Referral Systems

Call for Proposals Open for 2017 I&R Training & Education Conference

The Alliance of Information and Referral Systems (AIRS) has released the call for proposals for the 2017 Annual Information and Referral (I&R) Training and Education Conference. The conference is being held in Tampa, Florida, with pre-conference intensives on May 21 and the regular conference May 22-24, 2017. AIRS is seeking workshops addressing the breadth of I&R service delivery.

The Aging and Disability conference track offers a great opportunity to share developments and effective practices in serving older adults and persons with disabilities with I&R colleagues across the country. This track is coordinated by NASUAD's I&R Support Center, which strongly encourages aging and disability I&R agencies to review the call for proposals and

consider a submission.

Topics such as family caregiving, mental health and substance abuse, disability across the lifespan, social determinants of health, cross-sector partnerships and collaboration (including ADRC and 2-1-1 partnerships), business acumen, partnering with health care entities, No Wrong Door system initiatives, ADRC funding and sustainability, use of new technologies in I&R, transportation, housing, and data collection and quality assurance are all examples of topics of interest in aging and disability I&R.

The deadline for proposal submissions is **February 10, 2017**. Send submissions for the Aging and Disability track to [Nanette Relave](#).

[Click here](#) to view the call for proposals.

[Click here](#) to view past presentation topics.

Center for Health Care Strategies

Webinar: Medicaid ACO Programs: Promising Results from States

The Center for Health Care Strategies is hosting a webinar, made possible by The Commonwealth Fund, about promising results from leading-edge states regarding Medicaid Accountable Care Organization (ACO) programs. Speakers will explore the promising results of three state Medicaid ACO programs: Minnesota's Integrated Health Partnerships; Oregon's Coordinated Care Organizations; and Vermont's Medicaid Shared Savings Programs. Participants will have the opportunity to ask questions regarding Medicaid ACO results to date, best practices, key challenges, and lessons. State officials, policymakers, and other interested stakeholders can join this 90-minute webinar to gain a better understanding of the potential that Medicaid ACO programs offer to help states improve quality and control costs. The webinar will take place on **January 17, 2017, from 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. ET**. Pre-registration is required for this free webinar.

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

Health Management Associates

Webinar: Relationship-Centered Care

Health Management Associates (HMA) is hosting a webinar titled, Relationship-Centered Care: A Healthcare Provider's Guide to Patient Engagement, Shared Decision Making, and Improved Outcomes. This webinar will discuss relationship-centered care, a primary and behavioral care construct that emphasizes patient engagement and collaboration. Speakers for this webinar are Margaret Kirkegaard, MD, Family Physician, and Jeffrey Ring, PhD, Health Psychologist. This webinar is intended for primary and behavioral healthcare providers, state policy officials, office medical staff, health plan executives, hospital executives, and others involved in continuity of care initiatives.

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

National Council on Aging

Webinar: Advocacy Priorities for Seniors in Early 2017

The National Council on Aging (NCOA) is hosting a webinar about different advocacy priorities for older adults in early 2017. NCOA's Public Policy and Advocacy team will provide information about: The proposals pending in Congress; next steps in the debate; which members of Congress could be the most influential; the importance of seniors' voices in protecting aging services and benefits; and what you can do to help make a difference. The webinar will take place on **Wednesday, January 18, 2017, from 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. ET**. Pre-registration is required for this free webinar.

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

Events

AiA17 - The Annual Conference of the American Society on Aging

The American Society on Aging's (ASA) 2017 Aging in America Conference will take place in Chicago, March 20-24. Will you be there? The focus of AiA17 is innovation, including innovative policies, programs, practices, models, businesses, technologies, learning and more from across the field of aging. Register now to join this conference community of nearly 3,000 multidisciplinary professionals who, like you, are working to improve the lives of older adults.

The Aging in America Conference is recognized for its 360-degree view of the multidisciplinary issues, challenges and opportunities in aging. In addition to programs organized within 11 professional program categories, our 2017 conference will feature several "conferences within the conference" that run each day throughout the week, including the Managed Care Academy series of programs. Don't miss this opportunity to network and learn from the experts on multiple topics and earn up to 26 CSA CEUs at no additional cost!

Register by **January 31, 2017**, and save 10%. Enter discount code NASUAD50 and save \$50 more!

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

Registration Open: Annual Disability Statistics Compendium Release

Registration is now open for the State-of-the-Science Conference under the Rehabilitation Research and Training Center on Disability Statistics and Demographics (StatsRRTC) will be held **February 13, 2017**, at the National Academy of Sciences Building in Washington DC. This conference, Disability Statistics: Lessons in Data Collection and Application to Policy and Practice,

will discuss data collection strategies in the morning sessions and practical applications of disability data in the afternoon.

This year will feature a two-day event and combined the State of the Science conference with the release of the 2016 Annual Disability Statistics Compendium on February 14, 2017, also at the National Academies of Sciences Building.

The Compendium is a web-based tool that pools disability statistics published by various federal agencies together in one place. When working on legislative and other matters relating to persons with disabilities, the Compendium will make finding and using disability statistics easier. It will prove invaluable to your work.

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

Jobs & Internships

Mercer Seeks Medicaid LTSS Financial Consultant

Mercer Government Human Services Consulting is seeking qualified candidates for an open position as a Medicaid LTSS Financial Consultant. The selected individual will be primarily responsible for leading/managing work projects with Mercer's government clients, mostly State Medicaid Agencies, on developing provider payment fees/rates for Medicaid long-term services and supports (LTSS) such as home health care, residential services, personal assistance services and/or substance abuse services. The successful candidate must have prior relevant experience with provider payment methodologies for Medicaid LTSS, knowledge of Medicaid LTSS/HCBS policies, excellent communication skills and strong project management skills. This position can be located in Mercer's Atlanta, Minneapolis, Phoenix or Washington D.C. offices.

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

Marwood Group Seeks Senior I/DD & Medicaid Policy Professional

The Marwood Group is seeking qualified applicants for the position of Senior I/DD & Medicaid Policy Professional. The individual will be responsible for working and interacting with the firm's consultants and clients to provide insight, knowledge and expertise on state and federal rules surrounding state I/DD programs and Medicaid policy. The candidate must have knowledge and a network spanning multiple state programs.

This is a senior position within the firm's Medicaid practice and the candidate must possess 10+ years of experience in state I/DD programs and Medicaid policy. The position could be located in Marwood's New York or Washington D.C. office, or could telecommute from another location.

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

Grant Opportunities

Two Grant Opportunities for Field Initiated Projects

The Administration for Community Living's (ACL) National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitative Research (NIDILRR) announced two new grant opportunities under the Field Initiated Projects program. The purpose is to generate new knowledge through research or 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. The two grants are intended to carry out research and development activity. The deadline for both grants is **February 8, 2017**.

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

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