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To: Kester, Tonykester@aging.sc.gov
Date: 2/17/2017 12:31:45 PM
Subject: NASUAD Friday Update - February 17, 2017

February 17, 2017

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From NASUAD

NASUAD Email Transition

From **Friday, February 17**, through **Tuesday, February 21, 2017**, NASUAD will be conducting a transition of its email servers to a new and updated system. During that period, NASUAD staff will have little to no access to their email accounts. If you encounter any issues contacting NASUAD staff or have something of a highly time sensitive nature, please do not hesitate to call NASUAD's mainline at **202-898-2578**. Thank you for your patience as we make this important transition.

Want to Win a Free Registration for the 2017 HCBS Conference? Submit your I&R Technology Practice!

While person-to-person communication is often at the heart of Information & Referral/Assistance (I&R/A) interactions, technology is transforming how Americans seek information. Social media, smartphones, mobile apps, ecommerce and other developments are changing expectations for how individuals access and receive information. In this evolving field, the identification and sharing of promising practices can help strengthen our understanding of the role of technology in I&R/A programs that serve older adults, people with disabilities, and family and friend caregivers. NASUAD's National Information and Referral Support Center has launched a Technology in Practice contest to identify and disseminate promising practices on the use of technology in aging and disability I&R/A programs. We encourage national, state and local organizations that provide I&R/A services to think broadly about their use of technology, including practices that make better use of existing technology, those that leverage low-cost technology, and those that adopt new or emerging technology.

Please view the link below to find more detailed information about eligibility, selection criteria, and awards. Prizes include complimentary registration for the 2017 Home and Community Based Services conference. For the submission form in an alternate format, or any questions, please contact I&R Support Center Director Nanette Relave at nrelave@nasuad.org. The deadline for submission entries is **Tuesday, February 28, 2017**.

[Click here](#) to submit an entry.

***NCEA: Releases Two New Research Briefs**

***LEAD: Webinar: What Disability Advocates Need to Know about new WIOA Equal Opportunity Provisions**

***NRCNA: Webinar: Strategies for Your Registered Dietitian Nutritionist to Add Value**

***RRTC: Annual Disability Statistics Compendium Release**

***Events**

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HCBS Call for Sessions is Now Open!

The National Association of States United for Aging and Disabilities (NASUAD) is pleased to announce the Call for Sessions for the 2017 National Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) Conference, August 28- August 31, 2017 in Baltimore, MD.

The **HCBS Conference** has become the "go-to" conference for learning in the expanding field of home and community based services. Don't miss the opportunity to be part of this important event. 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 and fifteen minute workshops.

Submissions are expected to be descriptive and engaging. We encourage you to consider bringing a panel of partners together and using exciting and engaging ways of presenting your materials. The **Call for Sessions** for the 2017 HCBS Conference will close on **March 3, 2017**.

[Click here](#) to submit a proposal.

HCBS Clearinghouse

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

GAO Releases Report on Personal Care Services

On February 13th, the Government Accountability Office publicly released a report on Medicaid personal care services. In the study, GAO examined the data available regarding personal care services and its effectiveness for program monitoring. GAO makes four key recommendations for CMS to improve data regarding personal care services. These include:

- Establishing standard reporting guidance for key data;
- Ensuring linkage between data on the provision of services and reported expenditures;
- Ensuring state compliance with reporting requirements; and
- Developing plans to use data for oversight.

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

GAO Releases Report on Managed LTSS

On February 8th, the Government Accountability Office publicly released a report on Medicaid managed care and long-term services and supports. The report examined MLTSS program goals, payment structures, financial incentives for plans, and federal monitoring programs. The report makes several recommendations for CMS, including:

- Require all states to collect and report on progress toward achieving MLTSS program goals, such as whether the

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- program enhances the provision of community-based care;
- Establish criteria for what situations would warrant exceptions to the federal standards that the data used to set rates be no older than the three most recent and complete years; and
- Provide states with guidance that includes minimum standards for encounter data validation procedures.

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

From the Administration

Administration for Community Living

Dan Berger Named as the Acting Assistant Secretary for Aging and Acting Administrator for ACL

Dan Berger was recently named as the Acting Assistant Secretary for Aging and the Acting Administrator for the Administration for Community Living (ACL). Previously, Mr. Berger served as the Deputy Administrator for Management and Budget in ACL since 2012, and has held a variety of management and budget positions in the Department since joining in 1997. For more information, [click here](#).

Webinar: Alzheimer's and Dementia Resources You Can Use

The National Institute on Aging (NIA/NIH), the Administration for Community Living (ACL), and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) are hosting a webinar about Alzheimer's and dementia resources. Included in the presentation will be information about: What's new with consumer, caregiver, and professional resources on dementia, helpful resources on areas of special interest; and how the federal government is implementing the National Alzheimer's Plan, including the overall direction of the plan and its 2017 changes. Presenters for the webinar are Tanya Friese, DNP, RN, CNL USN (Ret.), Assistant Professor, College of Nursing and Educational Coordinator, Road Home Program, Rush University Medical Center; Peter Lichtenberg, PhD, Director, Institute of Gerontology and Professor of Psychology, Wayne State University; Lisa McGuire, PhD, Lead, Alzheimer's Disease and Healthy Aging Program, CDC; Mark Snowden, MD, MPH, Associate Professor, Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, University of Washington; and Amy Wiatt-Rodriguez, MSW, Aging Services Program Specialist, ACL. The webinar will take place on **Wednesday, March 1, 2017, from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. ET.**

[Click here](#) to register, and enter event #628 629 619.

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

CMS Releases Annual National Health Expenditures Data

The Office of the Actuary in the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has released its annual projections for national health expenditures, which covers the period of 2016-2025. CMS estimates that health expenditure growth will average 5.6 percent every year from 2016-2025. According to the report, health care spending will reach 19.9 percent of gross domestic product (GDP) by 2025.

Health spending growth slowed in 2016, but is expected to accelerate over the 2017-2025 period in various sectors, including Medicare, private health insurance, Medicaid, and prescription drugs.

[Click here](#) to view the new CMS data.

CMS Releases Rule Intended to Stabilize ACA Marketplaces

On February 15th, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services released a proposed rule that makes changes to the Affordable Care Act in an attempt to stabilize marketplaces, reduce premiums, and reduce adverse selection in the ACA risk pool. The rule includes modest changes that are likely to have the impact of preventing adverse selection by limiting the number of individuals who can wait and sign up for insurance after they get sick, and by reducing requirements on minimum coverage and required providers in order to reduce insurance premiums.

Several changes to the exchange requirements were proposed, including:

- Shortening the open enrollment period from November 1, 2017 - January 31, 2018 to November 1, 2017 to December 15, 2017;
- Allowing insurance plans to require policyholders to pay all past due premiums owed to that insurance plan for coverage in the prior 12 months in before resuming coverage;
- Performing pre-enrollment verification of eligibility for 100% of individuals who have a qualifying event to ensure that they qualify for a special enrollment period;
- Removing federal network adequacy standards and ceding authority back to states; and
- Reducing minimum requirements for the proportion of "essential community providers" that plans must have under contract.

CMS also requests suggestions on ways to promote continuous coverage. The intent of such policies is to keep people attached to the health care marketplace on an ongoing basis to moderate the risk pool and keep healthy people insured even when they do not need care. CMS does not propose specific policies but is seeking comment on proposals that could promote continuous coverage in the individual marketplace.

The comment period closes on **March 7, 2017**.

[Click here](#) for more information .

Department of Justice

Webinar: Elder Justice Initiative Highlights U.S. Department of Justice's Elder Justice Website

The Elder Justice Initiative of the U.S. Department of Justice will hold a webinar that aims to help law enforcement quickly respond to elder abuse. Presenters for the webinar are Yolonda Campbell, Trial Attorney, Elder Justice Initiative, and Randy Thomas, who is a law enforcement consultant. The webinar will highlight the Department's Elder Justice website, [ElderJustice.gov](#), as well as provide a number of different resources. The webinar will take place on **Wednesday, March 8, 2017, from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. ET.**

[Click here](#) to register.

From the States

Nebraska

Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services Releases New Resources

The Division of Developmental Disabilities within the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) has released two new resources that are now available on their public website. The first is a [DD Service Directory](#). The second is a [Participant Guide for Self-Direction](#). DHHS encourages the resources to be shared with all who can benefit from them.

From Congress

The Senate

Senate Finance Committee Holds Confirmation Hearing on CMS Administrator Nominee

On February 16th, the Senate Finance Committee held a confirmation hearing for Seema Verma, the Trump Administration nominee to lead the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. Members of the committee asked questions about Ms. Verma's perspectives on state flexibility, Medicaid restructuring, and behavioral health related issues, among other

topics. Ms. Verma discussed her desire to strengthen the Medicaid program and ensure that care is available for "the most vulnerable populations," which included individuals with disabilities and those requiring LTSS. Ms. Verma did not provide any specific endorsements of Medicaid restructuring proposals, such as per capita caps or block grants. Instead, she pledged to work with Congress on Medicaid proposals moving forward.

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

Bicameral ACA Repeal and Replace Efforts

Congressional Efforts to Repeal and Replace the ACA Continue

This week, the Majority party continued to work towards repeal of the Affordable Care Act. On Thursday, February 16th, Republican leadership in the House of Representatives provided members with an outline of their plans to repeal and replace the ACA. A formal reconciliation bill, which will be used to enact the legislation, is expected to be introduced in the next several weeks. A separate document was distributed that outlines the key principles that leadership in the House is using as they draft their reconciliation package. The document includes many principles and policies from the "Better Way" plan that Speaker Ryan released in June of 2016, including:

- Establishing "per capita caps" for Medicaid, which would limit each state's total Medicaid expenditures:
 - Each state's cap would be calculated by multiplying the average Medicaid spending by the total number of enrollees to give a defined total allotment to the state
 - The spending will be calculated individually for each of four groups: adults, kids, disability, older adults
- Providing states with the option to continue ACA Medicaid expansion, but lowering federal matching to the regular rate instead of the enhanced ACA matching rate;
- Giving states the option to transition their Medicaid programs to a full block grant;
- Creating refundable tax credits for individuals to use when purchasing insurance, available to individuals who are not on employer-sponsored care or in a public program:
 - The tax credits would not be indexed to income, but would instead be modified based upon age rating for participants;
- Increasing the use of health savings accounts and high-deductible health plans; and
- Creating state innovation grants to promote establishment of high-risk pools and other policies.

Meanwhile, other members of the House and Senate pushed for a more immediate repeal and replace package. Members of the Freedom Caucus expressed concern about the delays occurring around repeal and replace, and endorsed using the reconciliation bill that President Obama vetoed in 2015 as an immediate piece of legislation to repeal the ACA. That repeal would be coupled

with replacement legislation introduced in both chambers by Senator Rand Paul and Representative Mark Sanford.

The dueling plans for repeal and replace, which also include legislation introduced last month by Senators Cassidy and Collins, as well as a new proposal based on health savings accounts introduced by Senators Rubio and Hatch, are leading to confusion about the policies that will ultimately be agreed upon. Congress is on recess next week, and additional legislative work is expected during following week when the legislature reconvenes.

[Click here](#) to see the House leadership plan outlined on Thursday.

[Click here](#) to view the Rand Paul legislation.

[Click here](#) to view information on the Cassidy-Collins bill.

[Click here](#) for more information on the Rubio-Hatch bill.

From Other Organizations

AARP

AARP Blog Post on the Cost of Long-term Services and Supports

AARP released a new blog post on some of the challenges of paying for long-term services and supports (LTSS) for individuals and families. In the post, AARP Public Policy Institute's Lynn Friss Feinberg describes her and her family's struggles to pay for LTSS.

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

AARP Solution Forum: Families Caring for an Aging America

On December 1, 2016 the AARP Public Policy Institute held a Solutions Forum featuring a discussion of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine's recent consensus report, *Families Caring for an Aging America*. Learn more about the report, the event, the issues, and the call to action by viewing the [sizzle reel](#) that showcases the highlights from the Solutions Forum. Three videos of the full event are also available.

[Part 1](#) provides opening remarks, a personal caregiving story and the keynote address. In [Part 2](#) you can hear from experts who were on the consensus committee who wrote the report, while [Part 3](#) includes a panel of thought leaders who react to the report's findings, recommendations, and next steps.

ARCH National Respite Network

Call for Presentations for the 2017 National Lifespan Respite Conference now open

The 2017 National Lifespan Respite Conference will be held in

Huntsville, AL at the Embassy Suites Hotel on **October 11-13, 2017**. The conference will be hosted by the [Alabama Lifespan Respite Resource Network](#) in collaboration with the [ARCH National Respite Network](#). The conference theme, Take Off with Respite!, reflects the incredible history of the space industry in Huntsville, AL, also known as Rocket City USA. It also reflects the mission of the respite care network - to rise to meet challenges, heighten awareness, and push innovation to ensure a safe landing for the nation's 43 million family caregivers. The [Call for Presentations](#) is now available. The deadline for responding is **March 24, 2017**. A proposal for a breakout session on any aspect of planned or emergency respite service delivery, access, research, evaluation, policy, best practices or innovation is welcome. [Sponsorship and Exhibitor opportunities](#) are also available. For more information, please visit the [National Lifespan Respite Conference website](#).

Consumer Voice

Consumer Voice, in Collaboration with Justice in Aging and Center for Medicare Advocacy, Release Issue Briefs

The Consumer Voice, in collaboration with Justice in Aging and Center for Medicare Advocacy, have released two new issue briefs regarding the federal nursing facility regulations that became effective November 28, 2016. The first brief covers involuntary transfer and discharge, and the second covers unnecessary drug and antipsychotic medication use.

[Click here](#) to view the brief on involuntary transfer, and [click here](#) to view the brief on medication use.

Mathematica

Webinar: The Promise of State Initiatives to Prevent Long-Term Work Disability

Mathematica's Center for Disability Policy is hosting a webinar about state initiatives that are used to prevent long-term work disability. Every year, millions of Americans suffer from medical conditions that affect their ability to work. This puts them at risk of losing their jobs or being forced to rely on Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI). States could help many of these workers stay in their jobs, but promising options for doing this remain largely untested. The five states with state-mandated short-term disability benefits-California, Hawaii, New Jersey, New York, and Rhode Island-are promising settings for such tests. During this webinar, a panel of experts from Mathematica, Sedgwick, and the state of California will discuss the promise of state-based systems from the perspectives of researchers, policymakers, and practitioners. The event will take place on **Thursday, February 23, 2017, from 12:00 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. ET**. Pre-registration is required for this webinar.

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

National Center on Elder Abuse

National Center on Elder Abuse Releases New Research Briefs

The National Center on Elder Abuse (NCEA) released two new briefs on resident-to-resident aggression in long-term care facilities. NCEA's Research Brief reviews key information on resident-to-resident aggression, or RRA, as well findings from relevant studies. NCEA's Research to Practice publication notes innovative measurement tools for RRA, managing guidelines, as well as opportunities for future research.

[Click here](#) to access the Research Brief.

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

National Disability Institute's LEAD Center

Webinar: What Disability Advocates Need to Know about New WIOA Equal Opportunity Provisions

The National Disability Institute's LEAD Center is hosting a webinar on Promising Practices in Achieving Universal Access and Equal Opportunity: A Section 188 Disability Reference Guide. The webinar will review changes in the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act's (WIOA) Equal Opportunity Provisions, Section 18, as well as a discussion on how Missouri is utilizing the Disability Reference Guide to enhance inclusion of individuals with disabilities in the workforce. Presenters for the webinar will be from the Department of Labor's Civil Rights Center and Office of Disability Employment Policy. The webinar will take place on **Tuesday, February 28, 2017, at 3:00 p.m ET.**

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

National Resource Center on Nutrition & Aging

Webinar: Strategies for Your Registered Dietitian Nutritionist to Add Value & Increase Your Organization's Engagement in the Healthcare Arena

The National Resource Center on Nutrition & Aging (NRCNA) is hosting a webinar on strategies for home and community based programs that have a Registered Dietitian Nutritionist (RDN) to add value in changing healthcare environment. The webinar will feature Holly Kellner Greuling, RDN, National Nutritionist at the Administration for Community Living, and Susan Saffel-Shier,

MS, RDN, Adjunct Professor in the Division of Nutrition at the University of Utah. The webinar will take place on **Monday, March 6, 2017, from 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. ET.**

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

Rehabilitation Research and Training Center on Disability Statistics and Demographics

Annual Disability Statistics Compendium Release

The Rehabilitation Research and Training Center on Disability Statistics and Demographics (StatsRRTC) has released the 2016 Annual Disability Statistics Compendium. The Compendium is a web-based tool that pools disability statistics published by various federal agencies together in one place. The Compendium aims to aid advocates and researchers in working with disability statistics.

[Click here](#) for more information.

Events

Aging with Health and Dignity: Diverse Elders Speak Up

The Diverse Elders Coalition is hosting a congressional briefing regarding the release of a new report, *Aging with Health and Dignity: Diverse Elders Speak Up*, which details the "challenges and resiliencies of American Indian/Alaska Native elders; Asian American, Pacific Islander, and Native Hawaiian elders; Black and African American elders; Hispanic and Latino elders; and LGBTQ elders."

The briefing will take place on **Thursday, February 23, 2017, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. ET**, at 122 Cannon House Office Building, Washington, DC.

[Click here](#) to RSVP for the event.

[Click here](#) for more information on the Diverse Elders Coalition.

Dementia Action Alliance Hosts "Re-Imagine Life with Dementia" Conference & Technology Showcase

The Dementia Action Alliance (DAA) is hosting the 2017 U.S. - Canada "Re-Imagine Life with Dementia" Conference & Technology Showcase. The conference aims to bring together diverse stakeholders from across the dementia community to learn, and partake in important discussions and interactions.

The conference will take place from **June 25-27, 2017**, at the

Westin Buckhead Hotel in Atlanta, Georgia.

[Click here](#) for more information on the conference.

Jobs & Internships

Arkansas Department of Human Services Seeks Chief Financial Officer (CFO)

The Arkansas Department of Human Services (DHS) is seeking a Chief Financial Officer (CFO) to serve as a part of the executive leadership team. The CFO will be responsible for overseeing all financial activities within DHS, as well as responsibility for financial policy and long-term financial planning. This position is based out of Little Rock, Arkansas. Applications are due by **February 21, 2017**.

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

MediSked Seeks Director of Sales & Business Development - Medicaid Programs (National)

MediSked, LLC, seeks a Director of Sales and Business Development - Medicaid Programs (National) who can leverage their connections and experience in Medicaid long-term services and supports to promote MediSked's innovative suite of human services software solutions. The Director of Sales and Business Development will be responsible for leading the effort to maximize revenue and success opportunities for MediSked. This position will be based out of MediSked's Silver Spring, Maryland, office. Applications are due by **Friday, March 31, 2017**.

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

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.

Grant Opportunities

Elder Justice Funding: Working Interdisciplinary Networks of Guardianship Stakeholders

Under an Elder Justice Innovation Grant from the U.S. Administration on Community Living, the ABA Commission on Law and Aging, with the National Center for State Courts, has released a Request for Proposals to the highest court in each state to establish, expand and enhance state Working Interdisciplinary Networks of Guardianship Stakeholders (WINGS). This funding opportunity offers state courts up to \$20,000 to establish, enhance or expand WINGS (with special provision for up to \$30,000 for selected states with an intensive focus). In addition to funding, successful applicants will receive extensive expert technical assistance including help with strategic planning, outcome measurement, and data collection, as well as opportunities for information-sharing with other state WINGS.

The essence of WINGS is the partnership among state courts and stakeholders in the aging and elder justice, disability, legal, mental health, and guardianship networks. Your state chief justice and state court administrator has received the RFP and may be reaching out to stakeholder entities. Let the court know of your interest in working through WINGS to improve state guardianship systems, avoid unnecessary guardianship, and prevent and address abuse. The proposal deadline is **Tuesday, February 28, 2017**. ABA Commission on Law and Aging encourages you to connect with your state court about an application.

[Click here](#) to view details about the funding opportunity.

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.

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