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From NASUAD

National I&R Center Announces Technology in Practice Contest Award Winners

NASUAD's National Information and Referral Support Center is pleased to announce the award winners for the Technology in Practice: Contest to Identify Promising Practices in the Use of Technology in Aging and Disability I&R/A Programs. The I&R Center launched this contest in February recognizing that technology is both transforming how individuals seek information and playing an evolving role in the delivery and administration of information and referral/assistance (I&R/A) services. The contest was designed to identify promising practices in the use of technology in I&R/A programs serving older adults, people with disabilities, and family and friend caregivers.

- [Resources for Seniors](#), an Aging and Disability Resource Center serving older adults and people with disabilities in Wake County, North Carolina, was selected for the first place award.
- The [University of Massachusetts Medical School](#), serving the state of Massachusetts, was selected for the second place award.
- The [Eldercare Locator](#), a national call center administered by the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging (n4a), was selected for the third place award.
- The [Northern Kentucky Area Development District](#) was selected for a special honorable mention award.

To read more about the winners and their innovative practices, click [here](#).

NASUAD and the I&R Center congratulate all of the award winners! We look forward to highlighting and sharing their innovative practices, partnerships and approaches with I&R/A programs nationwide.

Disability Network Business Acumen Environmental Scan Survey

In the fall of 2016, the Administration for Community Living (ACL) awarded the National Association of States United for Aging and Disabilities (NASUAD) a cooperative agreement aimed at building the capacity of community-based disability organizations (CBOs) to contract with integrated care and other health sector entities. Along with

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our partners in this Disability Network Business Acumen project, we at NASUAD are asking for your input to help provide a baseline foundation of knowledge for this effort.

The growing trend nationwide to integrate healthcare and long term services and supports is creating exciting opportunities for CBOs open to operating in new ways. It is clear that CBOs know their communities well and are experts regarding the issues their clients face, yet organizations may need support in developing their business acumen expertise. The Disability Network Business Acumen project is conducting an environmental scan to better understand the business needs and strengths of CBOs and states serving persons of all ages with disabilities of all types.

This comprehensive environmental scan survey (see link below) will serve as the foundation for the development of tools and resources that NASUAD and its partners will design to help organizations improve their ability to work with managed care organizations, accountable care organizations, and other health systems. This survey is intended to ensure that state and community-based organizations serving people with disabilities are part of the evolving service delivery system and that their significant knowledge and experience serving people with disabilities is preserved.

We invite state agencies, CBOs that serve persons with disabilities, and managed care organizations to complete the environmental scan [survey](#). The survey will be available for completion through **May 2017**. Your survey responses will be integral to the success of the project.

Thank you in advance for your participation in this important survey.

From the Administration

Administration for Community Living

ACL/AoA Title VI Cluster Training Events

Registration is open for the **2017 Title VI Cluster Training Events**. These trainings are open to all Title VI Directors and staff. The trainings will cover the following topics: Caregiving, Retirement Planning, Nutrition, Medicaid Billing, and more. ACL has provided the following information regarding the locations and dates:

Tulsa, Oklahoma: April 12-13, 2017

The training will take place at The Mayo Hotel, 115 W. 5th Street, Tulsa, OK 74103. A discount block has been set aside for attendees. To book hotel reservations, please call The Mayo Hotel's reservation line at 918-895-8406 and mention the group name "ACL/AoA" to receive the discounted rate. To register to attend the Tulsa Cluster Training, please contact **Kaitlin Hammond** at kaitlin.hammond@teyatech.com. To view the Tulsa, OK Cluster Training draft agenda, click [here](#).

San Francisco, California: April 19-20, 2017

The training will take place at Sheraton Fisherman's Wharf Hotel, 2500 Mason Street, San Francisco, CA 94133. A discount block

has been set aside for attendees. To book hotel reservations, please call the Sheraton Fisherman's Wharf Hotel reservation line at 888-627-7024 and mention the group name "ACL/AoA" to receive the discounted rate. You can also book online by using the below URL. Book your reservations [here](#). To register to attend the San Francisco Cluster Training, please contact **Tara Nokelby** at tara.nokelby@teyatech.com.

Rapid City, South Dakota: April 19-20, 2017

This training will take place at Grand Gateway Hotel, 1721 N. La Crosse Street, Rapid City, SD 57701. A discount block has been set aside for attendees. To book hotel reservations, please call the Grand Gateway Hotel reservation line at 605-342-1300, or 866-742-1300 and mention the group name "ACL/AoA" to receive the discounted rate. To register to attend the Rapid City Cluster Training, please contact **Kaitlin Hammond** at kaitlin.hammond@teyatech.com.

Albany, New York: April 19-20, 2017

The training will take place at Radisson Hotel Albany, 205 Wolf Road, Albany, NY 12205. A discount block has been set aside for attendees. To book hotel reservations, please call Radisson Albany at 800-333-3333 and mention the group name "ACL/AoA Cluster Training" to receive the discounted rate. To register to attend the Albany Cluster Training, please contact **Paula Arevalo** at paula.arevalo@teyatech.com.

Wisconsin: April 19-20, 2017

TBA

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services

Participants Selected for CMS' Accountable Health Communities Model

CMS will implement and test, over five years, the three-track Accountable Health Communities (AHC) model to support local communities in addressing the health-related social needs of Medicare and Medicaid beneficiaries by bridging the gap between clinical and community service providers. Social needs include things such as housing instability, food insecurity, utility needs, interpersonal violence and transportation.

CMS has recently announced the participants for the Assistance and Alignment Tracks, two of the three tracks of the AHC model. The AHC Assistance Track organizations will provide person-centered community service navigation services to assist high-risk beneficiaries with accessing needed services. The AHC Alignment Track organizations will also provide community service navigation services, as well as encourage community-level partner alignment to ensure that needed services and supports are available and responsive to beneficiaries' needs.

Overall, 12 Assistance Track and 20 Alignment Track bridge organizations representing rural and urban communities across 193 counties in 23 states were chosen to participate in the model. The Assistance and Alignment Tracks of the AHC model will begin on **May 1, 2017**.

To see a list of the Assistance and Alignment Tracks bridge organizations, please visit [here](#).

Medicaid and CHIP Payment and Access Commission

Medicaid Hospital Payments

The Medicaid and CHIP Payment and Access Commission (MACPAC) released a new issue brief on Medicaid hospital payments. The brief finds that, overall, Medicaid hospital payments are equal to or even higher than Medicare payments. This is a surprising finding as Medicaid physician payment rates, when compared to Medicare, are generally lower.

MACPAC's analysis did include supplemental payments to hospitals, which account for 49 percent of fee-for-service payments to inpatient hospitals.

Read the brief [here](#).

From Congress

House of Representatives

Amendment to Create a Federal Risk-Sharing Program

On **April 6, 2017**, the U.S. House of Representatives Rules Committee passed an amendment to **H.R. 1628, the American Health Care Act (AHCA)**, that would create a federal risk-sharing program in order to help compensate individual market insurers for high-cost enrollees. If the AHCA were to pass and become law, the amendment would appropriate a sum of \$15 billion from **January 2018 through December 2026**. The program is largely modeled after a high-risk pool arrangement implemented in Maine.

Read more [here](#).

Senate

Senate Votes to Eliminate Option to Filibuster Presidential Nominees to Supreme Court

On **April 6, 2017**, the U.S. Senate in a historic move voted 52-48 to alter Senate rules and eliminate the option for the minority party to filibuster presidential nominees to the U.S. Supreme Court. In common discourse, this has been referred to as invoking the "nuclear option" in the Senate. Supreme Court nominees can now be approved by a majority, or 51, votes. The ability for Senators to filibuster legislation, however, remains,

and still requires 60 votes to attain passage. According to Politico, President Trump's Supreme Court nominee, Neil Gorsuch from Colorado, is expected to be confirmed by **Friday April 7, 2017**.

Read more [here](#).

From Other Organizations

American Society on Aging

Webinar: Taking the Lay of the Land: CBO Market Analysis for Strategic Integrated Care Decision-Making

As part of the Aging and Disability Business Institute Series, ASA is hosting a webinar on how the world of health and long-term-care delivery is shifting from the fee-for-service model to one of pay-for-performance, and what community-based organizations (CBOs) can do to be part of this changing landscape. This webinar will help participants:

- Articulate how undertaking a market analysis can better position a CBO for future success with healthcare partnerships;
- List tangible strategies that can help a CBO analyze its own service offerings, as well as the external local market for them; and,
- Understand the basic elements of a market strategy that can help a CBO attract the attention of a healthcare payer and partners.

This webinar is being held on **Wednesday, April 19, 2017 from 10:00-11:00 a.m. PT**. Click [here](#) for more information.

Alliance of Information and Referral Systems

Registration Open for the AIRS Conference

Registration is open for the **39th annual AIRS I&R Training and Education Conference in Tampa, Florida May 21-24!**

The Registration Brochure is available through the AIRS website at www.airs.org/conference, along with additional conference information including hotel reservations, online registration and a program summary.

For aging and disability I&R/A professionals, the National I&R Support Center invites you to join us for the **National Aging and Disability Information and Referral Symposium** during the AIRS Conference. The Symposium offers a pre-conference National I&R/A Summit for aging and disability professionals, a full complement of conference workshops, and an Aging and Disability Luncheon. Conference workshops will feature national, state and local professionals

presenting on key topics such as national policy developments impacting aging and disability programs, the role of I&R in managed care contracts, long distance caregiving, partnerships, decision-making support, community transportation, disability rights and accessibility, and other key issues. This year's pre-conference summit will include an interactive training on motivational interviewing for aging and disability professionals. For further information on the Symposium, contact Support Center Director Nanette Relave.

Center for Health Care Strategies

Webinar: Using Community Health Workers and Volunteers to Reach Complex Needs Populations

Health care delivery systems are increasingly incorporating alternative roles into care teams, including community health workers, volunteers, neighborhood navigators, community paramedics, or pharmacists, so that systems can better serve individuals with complex medical and social needs.

Join CHCS on **Tuesday, April 18, 2017, from 1:00-2:30 p.m. ET** for the first webinar in a three-part webinar series that will explore emerging innovations in the complex care workforce. This webinar will discuss strategies for integrating community health workers and volunteers into care teams that serve high-need, high-cost individuals in both rural and urban environments. State health officials, providers, health plans and other interested stakeholders are encouraged to attend.

View more information [here](#).

Brief: Practice Transformation Assistance in State Innovation Models

To realize their goal of achieving statewide multi-payer care delivery and payment reforms for roughly 80 percent of the population within participating states, SIM states and territories are helping health care providers transform their practices to be more patient-centered, while improving patient outcomes and reducing health care spending.

This brief from CHCS discusses the practice transformation assistance activities and related efforts that four SIM states, Colorado, Idaho, Oregon, and Vermont, are offering to their provider communities. It details four broad areas of practice transformation assistance, including: (1) tools and resources; (2) trainings; (3) learning collaboratives; and (4) direct assistance.

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

Mathematica

The Impact of ACA Medicaid Expansions on Applications to Federal Disability Programs

Mathematica has a publication available that estimates the impact of Medicaid expansions via the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA) on applications to federal disability programs in 15 states that expanded Medicaid in 2014. The study found that 6 states experienced a statistically significant impact on SSI application rates and 6 experienced a statistically significant impact on SSDI-only application rates.

To find out more about the study and read the paper, click [here](#).

National Center on Elder Abuse

Decision-Making Ability and Risk of Elder Mistreatment

NCEA has released a new research to practice publication: "Decision-Making Ability and Risk of Elder Mistreatment." This publication discusses factors pertinent to the decision-making ability of older people including: changes in the brain, cognition, social functioning, and how impaired decision-making ability can lead to an increased risk of elder mistreatment. The brief also describes what to do if you notice changes in an older person's decision-making ability and includes tools to reduce the risk of abuse and exploitation while maintaining and promoting autonomy.

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

National Consumer Voice for Quality Long-Term Care

Two New Briefs on Visitation Rights and Rehabilitation Services

Consumer Voice, along with the Center for Medicare Advocacy and Justice in Aging, has released two new issue briefs as a part of their series, "A Closer Look at the Revised Nursing Facility Regulations."

"Visitation Rights" is a brief that explains changes in visitation rights including the right to receive visitors, written policies and procedures, notice requirements, and visitation privileges. Read the Visitation Rights brief [here](#).

"Rehabilitation Services" is a brief that discusses how the substantive requirements for specialized rehabilitative services are largely unchanged from the prior version of the regulations, apart from "respiratory therapy," which is added to the list of services that a facility must provide to its residents who need them. Read the Rehabilitation Services brief [here](#).

NCOA

Medicare Savings Programs Eligibility and Coverage Chart

NCOA has updated their chart to reflect the 2017 thresholds in every state according to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) income eligibility guidelines for the Medicare Savings Programs (MSPs). The chart illustrates the Medicare Savings Programs eligibility criteria, both nationally and at the state level.

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

Stay-at-Work/Return-to-Work (SAW/RTW) Policy Collaborative

Join the Conversation: Transition Back to Work

The Stay-at-Work/Return-to-Work (SAW/RTW) Policy Collaborative, established by the U.S. Department of Labor's Office of Disability Employment Policy, invites you to join their online dialogue from **April 4 through April 14th**.

This is an opportunity to share your ideas on what it would take for states to institute policy changes or develop initiatives or programs to support workers and employers in the transition back to work after illness or injury, including emerging practices in this field such as partial return to work and employer incentives.

To learn more about this opportunity and other ePolicyWorks dialogues or to register for the dialogue, click [here](#).

Events

Self Direction Conference

The National Resource Center for Participant-Directed Services (NRCPPDS) has offered a biennial Financial Management Services (FMS) Conference for the past 10 years. With the NRCPPDS' move to Applied Self Direction, they are building on the successful FMS Conference to host a Self Direction Conference.

The Self Direction Conference will be held on **May 8th and 9th, 2017** at the Hyatt Regency in Baltimore, MD.

For more information, click [here](#).

Jobs & Internships

SNP Alliance Seeks President/CEO

The President and CEO is the chief executive for the SNP Alliance and national leader for SNPs and MMPs in advancing a proactive agenda of health systems transformation. As "the face" of the organization, the President/CEO will work with a newly created Board to ensure that the SNP Alliance's fiscal management, operations, financing, marketing, human resources, technology, programmatic strategies, and policy/advocacy are effectively implemented. As "the voice" for health system transformation, the President/CEO will work with the SNP Alliance board, members, and a variety of organizations and national leaders in crafting and advancing improvements in policy and practice to better serve high-risk/high-need persons.

For more information and a complete job description, click [here](#).

South Dakota Seeks Medicaid Director

The State of South Dakota is looking for a passionate expert to bring their Medicaid expertise to help them shape healthcare for their citizens. Use your combined knowledge of the State Medicaid program with a desire to serve the most vulnerable populations with quality healthcare programs. Your success innovating and leading states' programs that optimize processes to enable agency success and performance will be important. The state is seeking a progressive leader to help South Dakota think, lead and deliver with outcomes in mind.

Some key functions of this job will be:

- Administration of a \$500M+ program;
- Oversight and enablement of personnel;
- Maintain collaboration with sister agencies and stakeholders;
- Drive thought leadership within a regulatory and accountability framework.

View the job description [here](#).

Grant Opportunities

AARP: BankSafe Grants: Preventing Exploitation Through Bank Staff Training

The Request for Proposals (RFP) from AARP seeks to identify multi-disciplinary coalitions positioned to assist AARP with its BankSafe initiative. BankSafe aims to protect consumers from financial exploitation and keep retirement savings safe. AARP is seeking to partner with the financial industry to create a free online training program that will help employees in local financial institutions to detect and prevent exploitation. The purpose of this grant is to fund multi-disciplinary, multi-stakeholder collaborative groups (composed of aging advocates that are working in conjunction with financial institutions) to help develop the content of the training, which should include state-specific content.

Selected coalitions will receive a grant of \$10,000 to help develop and disseminate training to banks and credit unions.

To learn more about the BankSafe initiative, click [here](#).

Applications are due online to BankSafe@aarp.org no later than **May 15, 2017 at 5:00 p.m. ET.**

View more information [here](#).

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