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November 7, 2014

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From NASUAD

Republican Party Gains Additional Seats in Elections

With the results of the 2014 elections concluded, Republicans will gain control over the Senate in January. While several Senate races remain undecided, Republicans have gained enough seats to hold a majority regardless of the remaining outcomes.

Similarly, Republicans fared well in gubernatorial elections, leading to several state mansions changing parties in addition to a majority of incumbents winning reelection. In the U.S. House, Republicans retained their majority and gained several seats across the country. Lastly, the Republican party gained control of a number of state legislative bodies. The National Conference on State Legislature estimates that Republicans had a net gain of over 300 seats in state legislatures across the country.

For more information on the results, visit:

[Congress](#)
[Governors](#)
[State Legislatures](#)

NASUAD Publishes Updated State Medicaid Integration Tracker

The National Association of States United for Aging and Disabilities (NASUAD) has published the November 2014 Edition of the State Medicaid Integration Tracker, a report which summarizes state actions in managed care for people who receive Medicaid-funded Long-Term Services and Supports (LTSS), as well state initiatives relating to services for people who are dually eligible for Medicaid and Medicare. This report is updated each month.

The State Medicaid Integration Tracker focuses primarily on state actions in managed care for people who receive Medicaid-funded LTSS and on state initiatives relating to services and costs of services for people who are dually eligible for Medicaid and Medicare.

Please note that the tracker has been reformatted beginning this month. In order to improve readability of the tracker, we are only including new updates for each state in the monthly PDF publication.

***RespectAbility USA: Webinar
on Creating Accessible
Documents**

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[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 the tracker updates.

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National I&R Support Center Hosts Webinar on Medicaid HCBS Final Rule

The National I&R Support Center will host a webinar on the Medicaid Home and Community-Based Services Final Rule on **Wednesday, November 12, from 3:00-4:00 p.m. ET.**

Across the country, changes in policy, financing, and service delivery are transforming the provision of home and community-based services (HCBS) to persons with disabilities and older adults. In January, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) released regulations that will lead to significant changes in Medicaid-funded HCBS. These regulations reflect changing expectations regarding person-centered planning, conflicts of interest, and community integration. The final rule will significantly impact the landscape of services and supports in states across the country, as well as the experiences of individuals who receive Medicaid-funded HCBS. Importantly, the rule applies to both residential and non-residential settings, such as day programs.

For I&R specialists and other staff in aging and disability agencies, implementation of the rule may impact service options available to individuals who are currently or may become Medicaid eligible. The webinar will feature NASUAD's Senior Director Damon Terzaghi, who will discuss the major provisions of the rule; current status of state activities to become compliant; and potential implications to individuals' services.

No pre-registration is required to participate in the webinar. Information to log into the audio and webinar portions is provided below.

To join the meeting, follow this link: <https://join.me/nasuad1201>

On a computer, use any browser with Flash. Nothing to download.

On a phone or tablet, launch the [join.me app](#) and enter meeting code: nasuad1201

To join the audio conference:
Dial 888-346-3659

From the Administration

Administration for Community Living

ACL and the Conversation Project Webinar on Advance Care Planning

In observance of National Family Caregivers Month in November, the Administration on Aging, a program division of ACL, has partnered with the Conversation Project to offer a webinar focusing on how the nation's aging network can support caregivers in the advance care planning process. This 75-minute webinar, "The Conversation Project: A Resource for the Aging Network and Family Caregivers," will include an introduction to the Conversation Project and best practices for incorporating advance care planning into work with family caregivers. In addition, participants will share success stories and lessons learned from Area Agencies on Aging that are already engaging with family caregivers and their communities on this important topic.

Webinar: **Thursday, November 13, 2014 at 3:00 p.m. ET**

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

To register, [click here](#).

Build the Business Capacity of Community-Based Aging and Disability Organizations for Integrated Services Partnerships

On November 6, the Administration for Community Living (ACL) announced a new opportunity for up to ten (10) networks of community-based aging and disability organizations to participate in a learning collaborative (LC). Participants in the LC will receive targeted technical assistance related to business acumen; direct funding will not be provided. Applicants must be seeking to build their business capacity and align their service capabilities in order to contract with integrated healthcare

entities (including managed care plans) to provide community-based long-term services and supports and/or evidence-based preventive health programs and services. ACL is particularly interested in working with networks that include a diverse mix of organizations that serve people with disabilities and older adults.

Applications must be submitted electronically via email to Lauren.Solkowski@acl.hhs.gov by 11:59 p.m., Eastern Time, on **Monday, December 8, 2014**. ACL anticipates announcing the members of the LC by mid-January.

The request for applications can be viewed [here](#).

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

Medicaid IAP Commentary and Webinar

The Medicaid Innovation Accelerator Program webpage on Medicaid.gov has new [commentary](#) by IAP Director, Cindy Mann. In this post, Mann reflects on what she heard during our in person meetings around IAP this fall and shares her thoughts about what's next.

The next IAP webinar on Friday, November 7th at 2:00 p.m. Eastern where we will continue the conversation around our work on treatment of Substance Use Disorders (SUD),

During this webinar we will discuss the opportunities available to states under the Medicaid IAP for SUD. Through the IAP, CMS will provide technical assistance and other types of technical support to states interested in pursuing SUD service delivery innovations. During the webinar, CMS will describe the goals, benefits and expectations of the IAP-SUD program to help interested states decide how they may want to participate.

Friday, November 7, 2014

2:00 - 3:00 p.m. EDT

Dial in: (877) 267-1577

PIN: 991 621 562

[Click here to access webinar.](#)

Department of Housing

HUD Issues Proposed Rule on Supportive Housing

The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) recently issued a notice of proposed rulemaking in the Federal Register (Volume 79, pages 60589-60632) on supportive housing and services for the elderly and persons with disabilities. This rule proposes to implement certain reforms to HUD's Section 202 program and Section 811 program made by statutory changes to the programs, enacted in January 2011 through the 202 Supportive Housing for the Elderly Act of 2010 and the Frank Melville Supportive Housing Investment Act of 2010, and which require regulations for implementation. The Section 202

program and the Section 811 program are HUD's core programs for providing supportive housing to the elderly and persons with disabilities. The Section 202 Act includes provisions to strengthen the availability of long-term, affordable supportive housing for very low-income elderly persons. The Melville Act provides for additional methods of financing new supportive housing for persons with disabilities, as well as supporting the preservation of affordable rental housing for individuals with disabilities and nonelderly disabled families.

Additionally, this proposed rule would implement several other changes to align with the Section 202 and Melville Acts, and streamline the Section 202 and Section 811 programs to better provide supportive housing for the elderly and persons with disabilities. For example, this proposed rule would establish the requirements and procedures for the use of new project rental assistance for supportive housing for persons with disabilities; the implementation of an enhanced project rental assistance contract; allowance of a set-aside for a number of units for elderly individuals with functional limitations or other category of elderly persons; make significant changes for the prepayment of certain loans for supportive housing for the elderly; implement a new form of rental assistance called Senior Preservation Rental Assistance Contracts; and modernize the capital advance for supportive housing for persons with disabilities. The rule also proposes to establish the regulations for the Service Coordinators in Multifamily Housing program and the Assisted Living Conversion program. The due date for comments on the proposed rule is December 8, 2014.

The proposed rule is available [here](#).

Department of Labor

Department of Labor Joins Social Security Administration for Twitter Chat

Posting in English and Spanish, staff from the U.S. Department of Labor's Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs and Office of Disability Employment Policy joined an hour-long Twitter Chat hosted by the Social Security Administration's Ticket to Work Program on October 24. Nearly 140 advocates, employers and organizations tweeted about DOL's Section 503 rule, what it means for employers and for Social Security disability beneficiaries, online resources, and useful statistics. The chat also featured ODEP's new "Who I Am" public service announcement emphasizing the value and talent people with disabilities bring to America's workplaces. The online discussion generated nearly 750 public posts using the hashtag #DEChat and left 28,107 impressions on Twitter feeds on the day of the event.

[Click here to read the #DEChat conversation](#)
[Watch the "Who I Am" PSA](#)

Health Resources and Services Administration

HRSA Awards \$51.3 Million in Affordable Care Act Funding to Support Mental Health and Substance Abuse Treatment

Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Administrator Mary K. Wakefield, Ph.D., R.N., announced \$51.3 million in Affordable Care Act funding to support 210 health centers in 47 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico to establish or expand behavioral health services for nearly 440,000 people nationwide. Earlier this year, HHS awarded \$54.5 million in Affordable Care Act funding for 223 other health centers to expand behavioral health services. Health centers use these new funds to hire new mental health professionals, add mental health and substance use disorder health services, and employ integrated models of primary care. [Click here to read more.](#)

National Institute on Health

National Diabetes Month

This November, the National Diabetes Education Program (NDEP) and its partners are proud to support National Diabetes Month 2014. Throughout National Diabetes Month, the NDEP and its partners will promote "Be Smart About Your Heart: Control the ABCs of Diabetes" to help people with diabetes learn they are at greater risk for heart disease, and also how they can lower that risk by managing the diabetes ABCs: the A1C test, Blood Pressure, Cholesterol and Stop Smoking.

[Click here to learn more about Diabetes, and download resources such as tip sheets and infographics.](#)

From Congress

Congress on Recess until November 12, 2014

From Other Organizations

AARP

National Family Caregivers Month

AARP has launched an initiative for National Family Caregivers Month to spotlight the stories of caregivers. The "I Heart Caregivers" Campaign provides a platform to share the many stories of caring for aging parents, spouses, brothers, sisters, and so on...

Click here to share your stories, and to read stories of the many unsung heroes.

American Association on Health and Disability

NDNRC Announces Community Outreach Collaborations

The American Association on Health and Disability (AAHD) announced that it will be funding eleven Community Outreach Collaboratives (COCs) through the National Disability Navigator Resource Collaborative (NDNRC) project. The COCs will increase collaborations in the community, dissemination and outreach efforts and enrollment of people with disabilities in the ACA. The COCs will have two primary tasks: 1) build cross-disability collaborations with other disability organizations; and 2) have the cross-disability collaboration work as a dissemination and outreach resource with their local and/or state navigators and assisters.

The COCs represent organizations with geographic diversity as well as varying constituencies within the disability community. AAHD is proud to say that the 11 COCs represent 11 different states and are located in 9 of the 10 HHS regions.

The NDNRC is an initiative aimed at providing cross-disability information and support to Navigators and other enrollment specialists thereby ensuring people with disabilities receive accurate information when selecting and enrolling in insurance through the Affordable Care Act Marketplaces. The NDNRC website can be found at: www.nationaldisabilitynavigator.org.

Easter Seals Project ACTION

Webinar: Frequently Asked Questions on the ADA: Alternative Modes of Transportation

The Easter Seals Project ACTION is hosting a webinar on **November 19, from 2:00-3:30 p.m. ET**, on Frequently Asked Questions on the ADA: Alternative Modes of Transportation.

The webinar aims to address common questions, such as: Have you ever wondered what your rights are as a person with a disability using a ridesharing application? Or how much assistance a taxicab operator is required to provide to people with disabilities? Or the requirements under the ADA on level rail boarding?

[Click here](#) to register by November 17, 2014.

Institute on Disability

2014 Annual Compendium of Disability Statistics and Research-to-Policy Roundtable

The Institute of Disability at the University of New Hampshire will be hosting the 2014 Annual Compendium of Disability Statistics and Research-to-Policy Roundtable on Wednesday, **December 3, 2014** in Washington, DC.

The Compendium Release Briefing will include a briefing and a one-hour workshop on the sources and uses of disability statistics. 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.

The Research-to-Policy Roundtable will provide an opportunity for disability advocates, policymakers, and researchers to discuss ways that research can assist policymakers in developing programs, policies, and legislation that support people with disabilities.

To view the full agenda and register, [click here](#).

The Leapfrog Group

Hospital Safety Scorecard Updated

The Leapfrog Group has published updated patient safety ratings for more than 2,500 general hospitals. This guide is aimed at helping consumers to make smarter choices in their personal health care.

The fall 2014 update to Leapfrog's Hospital Safety Score, which assigns A, B, C, D and F grades to hospitals based on their ability to prevent errors, injuries and infections, shows that while hospitals have made significant improvements when it comes to implementing processes of care and safe practices, performance on outcomes lags behind. Since April 2014, there's been improvement on all 15 of Leapfrog's "process" measures—such as hand hygiene and physician staffing in intensive care units. However, the data also points to a lack of progress on outcomes, with hospitals even declining on certain measures.

View the Hospital Safety Scorecard [here](#).

Long Term Quality Alliance

LTQA Conference Proceedings Available

The Long Term Quality Alliance held their 4th Annual Meeting on September 18th, 2014. The full proceedings from the one-day event are now available online to be reviewed. Panels at the Annual Meeting included State-Federal LTSS Integration Initiatives, LTSS Integration in Health Plans and Health Systems, Measuring Success and Scaling Up Success.

[Click here to review the full Conference Proceedings.](#)
[Click here to view additional materials from the conference.](#)

Mathematica Policy Research

Forum and Webinar Presented by the Center on Health Care Effectiveness

Medical practices across the country are preparing to undergo transformations that will better enable them to provide evidence-based care, improve patient outcomes, and lower costs. New payment models and other incentive programs are encouraging practices to shift their health care from fee-for-service to value-based purchasing systems, such as accountable care organizations (ACOs), bundled payment models, and patient-centered medical homes (PCMHs).

Mathematica Policy Research is hosting a Forum and Webinar Presented by the Center on Health Care Effectiveness on **Wednesday, November 19, from 11:45 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. ET** at Mathematica's Washington, DC office or via webinar, to discuss attributes that appear to be associated with successful adaptation of the ACO model. Lunch will be provided.

[Click here to register.](#)

ResectAbility USA

Creating Accessible Documents: Word, PDF and Power Point

ResectAbility USA will be hosting a webinar to teach the basics of creating accessible documents. Though editorial and other quality-control measures are part of a well-defined clearance process in many organizations, one commonly overlooked quality-control measure is ensuring accessibility. File accessibility has legal roots in current Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act and will be strengthened with the upcoming Section 508 Refresh, which will likely roll in existing WCAG 2.0 standards (Level A and Level AA). This presentation will provide a brief overview of the current Section 508 standards and the upcoming refresh, with an emphasis on how they can inform document design. The presentation will then introduce two easy-to-check items for each of the major file types (i.e., Word Documents, PowerPoint Documents, and PDFs) and three easy-to-check items common to all file types.

Webinar: **Friday, November 7, from 1:30-3:00 ET**
Live captioning will be provided.

[Click here to RSVP.](#)

[Click here to download the presentation.](#)

Just for Fun

Air Travel Dress Rehearsals

For families with special needs children, oftentimes difficulties navigating air travel can prevent travel. Programs such as **Wings for All** can help put parents and caregivers minds at ease. "Families may be reluctant to spend money because they don't know if they'll be able to go through the experience," said Rikki Epstein, the executive director of the Arc of Northern Virginia, but a dress rehearsal such as the one offered on Saturday could do a lot to ease everyone's anxieties.

[Click here to learn more.](#)

Observances

November is National Diabetes Month Caregiver Appreciation Month

Job Postings

Public Policy Intern at NASUAD

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

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

Applicants must have strong data analytic, data management, research and written communication skills. Candidacy for a Master's Degree in Public Policy, Public Administration or Public Health is required. Hours are flexible to accommodate classes.

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

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