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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.nasuad.org/hcbs for more information.

Information Technology and the Aging Network: Opportunities to Enhance Information Technology Capacity

The Altarum Institute has released a new report on information technology and the aging network. The report examines opportunities for the Aging Network to expand partnerships with health care organizations and other entities through focusing on the value of investing in information technology (IT).

This report also focuses on a federal funding opportunity and the experiences of three AAAs that are actively seeking to build out IT in the context of contracts with an expanding number of health care organizations and payers. As the U.S. health care system shifts to accommodate population management and value-based models of care, the need to link multiple data streams across community-based organizations, medical providers, and individuals is increasingly salient and pressing. Therefore, the report discusses how and why AAAs may wish to bolster their IT capacity, and provides recommendations for next steps.

Read the report [here](#).

The Financial Vulnerability of Former Disability Beneficiaries in Retirement

Mathematica has released an issue brief that looks at the difference in financial outcomes for workers who received Social Security Disability Insurance (DI) and those who did not receive DI before claiming Old Age and Survivors' Insurance (OASI) benefits (often referred to as Social Security retirement benefits).

To read the issue brief, [click here](#).

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Setting Targets for State Improvement: The Updated State-by-State Interactive Tool

According to The Commonwealth Fund's latest Scorecard on State Health System Performance, every state has opportunities to improve health care for its residents. The Commonwealth Fund has updated their interactive tool to help states understand what kinds of benefits states could expect to see for their efforts. This interactive tool illustrates the gains to be made from performing at the level of the leading states on 14 measures of health care access, quality, and outcomes.

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

From the Administration

Administration for Community Living

Webinar: What Is ACL's Interest in HCBS Quality?

ACL is launching an informational webinar series about the agency's commitment to and development of measures for HCBS quality. This will also provide a platform among internal and external stakeholders to share developments and collaborate on efforts concerning HCBS quality. The series will host a variety of presenters from ACL, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, National Quality Forum, SCAN Foundation, National Association of States United for Aging and Disabilities, and others.

Due to technical difficulties, the first webinar has been rescheduled from April 5 to May 10.

The first webinar takes place on **Wednesday, May 10 at 2:00 p.m. ET**. Space is limited so early sign-up is encouraged.

[Click here](#) for more information.

Census Bureau

Facts for Features: Older Americans Month: May 2017

In celebration of Older Americans month this May, the Census Bureau has released a profile of facts on older Americans. The profile highlights data on several topics ranging from population, to income and poverty, to voting.

Read more [here](#).

Release of 2015 Health Insurance Estimates for All Counties and States

The [2015 Small Area Health Insurance Estimates \(SAHIE\)](#) are available on the U.S. Census Bureau's Web site. The SAHIE program provides single-year estimates of health insurance coverage for every county in the U.S. Resources available include an [interactive tool](#) that allows data users to create, download, and share custom data tables, maps, and time trend charts. The [2015 SAHIE Report](#) provides an overview of the latest release and a comparison with the prior release. A [Health Insurance Data Source Recommendations chart](#) summarizes guidance for data users regarding Census Bureau health insurance coverage datasets. There is also a [map](#) that shows uninsured rates decrease for most counties from 2014 to 2015.

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services

February 2017 Monthly Report on State Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)

CMS has released the February 2017 monthly report on state Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) eligibility and enrollment data. The report contains preliminary data and includes data for all states on the following indicators:

The number of applications submitted directly to Medicaid and CHIP agencies, including those received through State-Based Marketplaces (SBMs);

The number of eligibility determinations made by Medicaid and CHIP agencies on the applications described above, as well as applications to the Federally-Facilitated Marketplace (FFM) in states for which the FFM makes an eligibility assessment (and the state then completes the Medicaid or CHIP determination); and

The total number of individuals enrolled in the Medicaid and CHIP programs who are receiving comprehensive benefits, including details on the total number of children enrolled in these programs.

To read the report, [click here](#).

Consumer Financial Protection Bureau

What to Do If You're Wrongfully Billed for Medicare Costs

Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) has partnered with CMS to issue three tips for those enrolled in the Qualified Medicare Beneficiary Program (QMB) program to respond to bills for Medicare cost sharing and debt collection attempts. Medical providers are not allowed to bill those individuals enrolled in the QMB program for Medicare deductibles,

coinsurance, and copayments.

Read the blog post co-authored by CMS and CFPB [here](#).

From Congress

Senate

Aging Without Community: The Consequences of Isolation and Loneliness

On **April 27th, 2017**, the U.S. Senate Special Committee on Aging held a hearing on "Aging Without Community: The Consequences of Isolation and Loneliness." The Committee is chaired by Senator Susan Collins (R-ME), and Ranking Member Senator Bob Casey (D-PA). Social and physical isolation of older adults is increasingly being recognized as not only a social issue, but also a health one. Social isolation can lead to a multitude of poor health outcomes, hospitalizations, emotional and psychological distress, among other poor individual outcomes. Older adults residing in rural or frontier communities are at particular risk of experiencing social isolation and loneliness. Four esteemed witnesses provided testimony at the Committee hearing, including:

- Julianne Holt-Lunstad, PhD, Brigham Young University.
- Lenard W. Kaye, DSW, PhD, Professor of Social Work and Director of the Center on Aging, University of Maine.
- W. Mark Clark, MSW, President and CEO, Pima Council on Aging.
- Rick Creech, Educational Consultant, Pennsylvania Training and Technical Assistance Network.

The Senate Special Committee on Aging will be holding an additional hearing on **May 10, 2017**, on "Aging With Community: Building Connections that Last a Lifetime."

To access the witness testimony as well as a video of the hearing, [click here](#).

From Other Organizations

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](#).

Avalere Health

Medicaid Per Capita Caps Could Cut Funding for Dual Eligible Beneficiaries

On **April 20, 2017**, Avalere Health released a report that analyzed the potential impacts of Medicaid per capita caps on dual eligible individuals, or those that are jointly eligible for both the Medicare and Medicaid programs. Dual eligibles typically have some of the highest care needs and costs within the healthcare system, and also frequently require long-term services and supports (LTSS). Medicaid per capita caps are included in the proposed legislation to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act (ACA), known as the American Health Care Act (AHCA).

The analysis from Avalere notes that capping Medicaid funding could lead to a \$44 billion reduction in funding for dual eligible beneficiaries over a ten-year period. The report also notes that, in the long-term, per capita caps could also shift costs to the Medicare program, even as funding would decrease for Medicaid.

To learn more, [click here](#).

Center for Health Care Strategies

Webinar: Community Paramedicine: A New Approach to Serving Complex 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.

This webinar will discuss two community paramedicine programs serving high-need patient populations in Wisconsin and Massachusetts. ThedaCare in northeastern Wisconsin will

present about its partnership with Gold Cross Ambulance Services to launch a community paramedicine program aimed at reducing unnecessary emergency department (ED) visits and expanding access to care for high-risk patients. Commonwealth Care Alliance will discuss its pilot program, Acute Community Care (ACC), and the ways in which it has positively impacted patient care, satisfaction, and outcomes among individuals dually eligible for Medicaid and Medicare. State health officials, providers, health plans and other interested stakeholders are encouraged to join this 90-minute webinar.

This webinar will take place on **May 11, from 1:30 - 3:00 p.m. ET.**

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

Children's Behavioral Health Care Use in Medicaid

Children in Medicaid with behavioral health needs represent a small percentage of the overall Medicaid child population, but account for disproportionate costs, and are one of the program's most vulnerable populations. These children are often served by multiple public programs, which can put them at risk for fragmented or uncoordinated care. These children often experience poor health outcomes at high costs.

This blog post and infographic from CHCS shares highlights from a presentation in early March previewing their upcoming national analysis of 2011 Medicaid claims data and soon-to-be-released report.

Read the blog post [here](#).

Children's Dental Health Project

Medicaid Waivers and Children's Oral Health

Join the Children's Dental Health Project for the third installment of their Policy Webinar series. They will discuss Medicaid waivers, including the waiver process, how they are being used, and how they could impact access to oral health care.

Sara Rosenbaum, JD, the Harold and Jane Hirsh Professor of Health Law and Policy, and Founding Chair of the Department of Health Policy, at the Milken Institute School of Public Health at George Washington University, will provide an overview of Medicaid waivers, how they work, and what they can look like. Peter Damiano DDS MPH, the director of the University of Iowa Public Policy Center and professor in the UI Department of Preventive and Community Dentistry, will review Iowa's Medicaid waiver and its implications for dental benefits. This webinar will also review some tips on how you can engage state-level decision makers to ensure that potential waivers improve access to oral health services in Medicaid.

This webinar will be held on **Tuesday, May 9th, at 3:00 p.m. ET.**

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

National Adult Protective Services Association

Webinar: Disrespect: Elder Abuse and Native Americans

Most elders describe abuse as disrespect and using this terminology will get a more robust response during an investigation. This webinar will present language and approaches that will help with the communication and investigation of elder abuse among Native American elders. Dr. Jacque Gray will discuss how her research has helped to inform practice with Native American elders. Dr. Gray is a Associate Director/Research Professor for the Department of Population Health and the associate director for Rural Health for indigenous programs at the University of North Dakota (UND) School of Medicine and Health Sciences, in Grand Forks.

This webinar will be held on **May 10th from 2:00 p.m.-3:30 p.m. ET.**

[Click here](#) for more information.

National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors

Webinar: Building Relationships between Mental Health and Aging Services

May is Older Americans Month and Mental Health Awareness Month. In recognition of this, the National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors (NASMHPD) is hosting an informational webinar sponsored by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) on: Building Relationships between Mental Health and Aging Services.

The U.S. Census projects that adults 65 and over will represent 56.4 million of the nation's population by 2020. With the mental health needs of many older adults often going undiagnosed and untreated, this webinar will focus on strategies to integrate mental health into aging service settings.

Kimberly Williams, LMSW, President, Mental Health Association of New York City will discuss New York's statewide approach to engage and build relationships between mental health and aging service agencies; and Jo Anne Sirey, PhD, Weil Cornell Medical College, Department of Psychiatry will discuss evidence-based practices implemented in New York to screen and treat older adults with depression and other mental health disorders in non-traditional mental health settings for older adults. She will highlight lessons learned and recommendations for providing mental health services in these settings.

This webinar will be held on **Wednesday, May 10, at 2:00 - 3:30 p.m. ET.**

Contact Christy Malik (christy.malik@nasmhpd.org; 703-682-5184) with questions or for additional information about the webinar.

[Click here](#) for more information.

Jobs & Internships

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

ACL Grant: Small Business Innovation Research Program Phase II

The Federal Small Business Innovation Research Program's (SBIR) aim is to stimulate technological innovation in the private sector, strengthen the role of small business in meeting Federal research or research and development (R/R&D) needs, and improve the return on investment from Federally-funded research for economic and social benefits to the Nation. More specifically, the program aims to improve the lives of people with disabilities through R/R&D products generated by small businesses, and to increase the commercial application of National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research (NIDILRR)- supported research results and development products. Phase II is intended to expand upon the results of and to further pursue the development of Phase I projects.

Phase I grantees from fiscal year 2015 and 2016 are eligible to apply. Applicants must also continue to be small business concerns. An estimated four grants will be awarded to small businesses.

The closing date for applications is **Jun 12, 2017**.

[Click here](#) for more information.

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