



News and Info

Monday, October 31, 2011

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2011 National Family Caregivers Month

A Message from Assistant Secretary for Aging Kathy Greenlee

I join President Obama today in recognizing November, 2011 as National Family Caregivers Month. This is not only an opportunity for us to honor the millions of family members, neighbors and friends who provide care for their loved ones during times of need. It is an important opportunity for caregivers to recognize themselves.

Each day, caregivers take on the ultimate responsibility of providing care to a family member or friend with a long-term, chronic or disabling condition. Ironically, many family members do not see themselves as caregivers, nor do they identify themselves as needing assistance in their role. Instead, they see themselves as loving daughters and sons, spouses and partners, or parents, siblings and friends doing what anyone would do in their shoes.

The Administration on Aging (AoA) has long recognized these sacrifices. Through the Older Americans Act, AoA administers programs and services designed to support older adults and their caregivers. Included among them is the National Family Caregiver Support Program (NFCSP), which assists family and informal caregivers by providing them respite from their daily tasks and access to services, counseling, training and other supports. We remain committed to administering the programs that make a difference in caregivers' lives, and working with Congress to reauthorize the Older Americans Act, which makes that possible.

This year, we celebrate National Family Caregivers Month by honoring the incredible commitment, dedication and sacrifice of family caregivers. We encourage each and every caregiver out there to do the same.

To read the President's proclamation, please visit:

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2011/11/01/presidential-proclamation-national-family-caregivers-month-2011>

AoA, Recap & What's on Deck

AoA senior management continues to engage with its aging partners, beneficiaries of Older Americans Act (OAA) services and policy decision makers on a range of aging-related matters, including OAA reauthorization as it continues through the legislative process.

White House Office of Public Engagement Hispanic Community Action Summit

Last month, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary Cindy Padilla addressed attendees at the *White House Office of Public Engagement Hispanic Community Action Summit* (Summit) held in Las Cruces, New Mexico. The Summit was one

in a series of local-based conferences initiated by the Obama Administration to discuss the President's agenda and its impact on the Hispanic community and to also strategize on how to best move forward together to improve outcomes and access for the Hispanic community. Agenda topics included core issues such as education, immigration, jobs and the economy, and health care.

National Environmental Justice Advisory Committee

While in New Mexico, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary Padilla represented AoA at the National Environmental Justice Advisory Committee meeting. The two agenda topics for this all-day meeting were the Environmental Protection Agency's Tribal Program and its US-Mexico Environmental Program.

14th Annual National Lifespan Respite Conference and National Lifespan Respite Grantee's Meeting

Deputy Assistant Secretary Edwin L. Walker will keynote the *14th Annual National Lifespan Respite Conference and National Lifespan Respite Grantee's Meeting* in Glendale, Arizona, November 1-4.

To learn more about this conference, please go to http://www.azrespite.org/manyfaces/ManyFaces_program.htm

Domestic Violence Awareness Month

As Domestic Violence Awareness Month comes to a close, the Administration on Aging (AoA) would like to recognize the importance of maintaining a strong commitment to promoting the dignity and protecting the rights of Older Americans.

Each year, hundreds of thousands of older persons are abused, neglected, and exploited. Yet it is estimated that only about one in five of those crimes are ever discovered. What is not always appreciated is that some of these acts that turn a home into a place of fear, hopelessness, and desperation are acts of domestic violence when a person is battered and emotionally abused by their spouse, partner, or significant other. Elder abuse, neglect, exploitation, and domestic violence in later life can happen to anyone regardless of race, sexual orientation, religion, gender, or age, and affect people of all socioeconomic backgrounds and education levels.

As we go about our daily work to help Older Americans age with dignity in their own homes, it is important we remain vigilant to the warning signs that a senior may be living in fear of a spouse, partner, family member, or some other trusted person. Potential victims may say or hint at being afraid, may appear depressed, or exhibit an unexplained change in behavior. Potential abusers

may be controlling of the victim's activities, may refuse to let you see the victim, or try to convince you or others the victim is incompetent or unstable.

If you suspect someone is a victim of abuse, neglect, exploitation, or late life domestic violence, talk to the person privately and in a safe location. If you are worried the person is in immediate danger, call the police. When working with the older victim, remember to try to give them hope: believe their account and do not blame them for what they've experienced. Remember to reach out to domestic violence providers to develop mutually beneficial collaborations to serve older victims.

To learn more about late life domestic violence, and elder abuse, neglect and exploitation, visit the "Resources and Useful Links" section in AoA's *Prevention of Elder Abuse, Neglect, and Exploitation* webpage at http://www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/AoA_Programs/Elder_Rights/EA_Prevention/index.aspx#resources

To learn more about late life domestic violence and possible warning signs, visit the National Clearinghouse on Abuse in later Life (NCALL) website at <http://www.ncall.us/>

You can also learn more about Domestic Violence at the following websites: Department of Health and Human Services Office on Women's Health Violence Against, <http://www.womenshealth.gov/violence-against-women/> Department of Justice Office on Violence Against Women, <http://www.ovw.usdoj.gov/>

Funding Opportunities

Innovation Advisors Program

You still have time to apply

The Innovation Advisors Program is a new initiative launched by the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and its Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation Center (CMMI). It is designed to engage individuals in the health care system to refine, apply and sustain managerial and technical skills necessary to drive delivery system reform. This program seeks to engage these individuals to test and support new models of payment and care delivery that will meet the three-part aim of better health, better care and lower costs through improvement.

The Innovation Center seeks to introduce transformative models of care delivery across the nation. Crucial to the efforts of transforming the healthcare system is creating and supporting a network of experts who will establish and

carryout strategies of better health, better care and reduced costs for Medicare, Medicaid and CHIP beneficiaries. The Innovation Advisors Program aims to help professionals deepen skills that will drive improvements to patient care and reduce costs.

The application deadline is **November 15, 2011**. Successful applicants will receive a \$20,000 stipend. To download an application for the Innovation Advisors Program, please go to <http://orise.orau.gov/IAP>

To learn more about the Innovation Advisors Program, please go to its website at <http://innovations.cms.gov/innovation-advisors-program/>

Questions regarding the program and application process can be submitted by email to IAP@orau.org

Stay Informed

Webinar to Promote Flu Vaccination among Diverse Populations

The America's Health Insurance Plans (AHIP) is committed to increasing the seasonal influenza vaccination rates among culturally diverse populations. AHIP and its member companies have partnered with the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), the HHS Office of Minority Health (OMH) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) to increase and promote the 2011-2012 minority flu outreach campaign.

The webinar on *Effective Strategies to Promote Influenza Vaccine Uptake among Culturally Diverse Populations* will bring together leading experts in vaccine safety and health care disparities at federal agencies and health plans to discuss the best practices at the local, regional and national levels necessary to improve immunization rates among diverse groups especially among Hispanic/Latinos and African Americans, and within the communities that they live, work and play.

Date: Thursday, November 10, 2011

Time: 1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. ET

For more information on the webinar and to register, please go to <http://www.ahip.org/webinar/influenza/>

Protecting Elder Americans from Financial Abuse – Toll Free Nationwide Call-in Service

Free advice and guidance on how to protect yourself and your loved ones against investment swindles and financial abuse.

One out of every five citizens over the age of 65 has been victimized by a financial swindle. Of particular concern are seniors with mild cognitive impairment (MCI) who can perform most daily functions, but have trouble or become confused when it comes to managing their finances.

In collaboration with several national organizations, Kiplinger is coordinating a toll free nationwide call-in service for individuals seeking advice. Members of the Financial Planning Association, National Adult Protective Services Association and health care professionals will answer your questions.

Date: Thursday, November 10, 2011

Time: 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Eastern

General Finance Questions: call 888-227-1776

Call the above number to speak with an expert from the Financial Planning Association® (FPA®) about your family's financial security. You can get answers to general financial questions, get help identifying financial professionals that put your interests first and learn how to protect yourself and your loved ones from financial fraud. FPA professionals can also help you start a conversation about money with your adult children or older parents to help prevent elder investment fraud and financial exploitation.

Medical Questions: call 888-303-0430

Call the above number to speak with a health care professional about medical issues such as mild cognitive impairment (MCI) that can impact an older person's ability to make wise and safe financial decisions and can increase their vulnerability to elder financial abuse and exploitation. The health care professionals can help you recognize the warning signs of vulnerability to financial abuse in yourself or your loved ones and suggest referral routes for further medical screening.

Financial Abuse Questions: call 888-303-3297

Call the above number to speak with an adult protective services (APS) professional about elder financial abuse and strategies for keeping yourself or your older loved ones independent. You can get information on how to recognize the most common ways that older adults are financially exploited and methods for preventing elder financial abuse. APS professionals can also help you take the proper steps if you suspect that a loved one is currently being financially abused or exploited.

NOTE: This call-in service is for informational purposes only and is not a substitute for individualized medical, law, business, accounting, or investment advice, which takes into account the details of your situation or condition. Always seek the advice of your lawyer, physician, accountant, or other qualified professional regarding your individual situation or condition. Reliance on

information provided by the call-in service is solely at your own risk. In no event shall The Kiplinger Washington Editors, Inc., Investor Protection Trust, Investor Protection Institute, Financial Planning Association, National Adult Protective Services Association, Baylor College of Medicine, or any participating adult protective services, medical or health care professional be liable for any decision made or action taken by you in reliance on or in connection with your use of the call-in service.

To learn more about this event, please visit the Investor Protection Trust website at <http://www.investorprotection.org/>

Webinar on Aging and Transportation

Title: *Successful Collaboration Between Aging and Transit: The Experience of Kent County, Michigan*

Date: Tuesday November 15, 2011

Time: 2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. EST

Space is limited; please register early for this event. To register, please go to https://aoa-events.webex.com/mw03061/mywebex/default.do?nomenu=true&siteurl=aoa-events&service=6&main_url=https%3A%2F%2Faoa-events.webex.com%2Fec06051%2Feventcenter%2Fevent%2FeventAction.do%3FtheAction%3Ddetail%26confViewID%3D280008159%26siteurl%3Daoa-events%26%26%26

This ninety minute webinar, sponsored by the Administration on Aging and the National Center on Senior Transportation, will provide information on a successful collaboration between aging and transit that uses person-centered mobility management as a tool to assist older adults in identifying the right mobility option to meet their needs. Mobility management is a systems approach to managing transportation resources that, as defined by the National Resource Center for Human Transportation Coordination, emphasizes: movement of people instead of vehicles; improvements to the effectiveness, efficiency and quality of the travel services being delivered; design and promotion of transit-oriented development, livable communities and energy efficient sustainable communities and improvements in the information that is available about those services. The webinar will feature the experience of Ridelink, a person centered transportation system for seniors in Kent County, Michigan.

Participants will:

Identify opportunities for collaboration between aging/human services transportation services and public transit.

Understand how person-centered mobility management can be used to address the mobility needs of older adults.

Learn about successful efforts to meet the mobility needs of minority older adults.

Gain information about replicable approaches for informing and supporting older adults' transportation decisions.

Presenters:

Danielle Nelson, Aging Service Program Specialist, Administration on Aging

Karen Wolf-Branigin, Director, National Center on Senior Transportation

Sandra Ghoston-Jones, Area Agency on Aging of Western Michigan

Meegan Joyce, Special Service Manager, Interurban Transit

Tools & Information

2012 Medicare Part B Premiums Lower Than Projected

Affordable Care Act helps keep Medicare affordable

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) recently announced that Medicare Part B premiums in 2012 will be lower than previously projected and the Part B deductible will decrease by \$22. Medicare Trustees predicted monthly premiums would be \$106.60; instead, premiums will be \$99.90. The 2012 premium is a \$15.50 decrease over the standard 2011 premium of \$115.40 paid by new enrollees and higher income Medicare beneficiaries and by Medicaid on behalf of low-income enrollees. Medicare Part B covers physicians' services, outpatient hospital services, certain home health services, durable medical equipment, and other items.

Thanks to the Affordable Care Act, people with Medicare also receive free preventive services and a 50 percent discount on covered prescription drugs when they enter the prescription drug "donut hole." This year, 1.8 million people with Medicare have received cheaper prescription drugs, while nearly 20.5 million Medicare beneficiaries have received a free Annual Wellness Visit or other free preventive services like cancer screenings.

"The Affordable Care Act is helping to keep Medicare strong and affordable," said HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius. "People with Medicare are seeing higher quality benefits, better health care choices and lower costs. Health reform is also strengthening the Medicare Hospital Insurance Trust Fund and cracking down on Medicare fraud."

For more information on how seniors are getting more value out of Medicare, please visit:

<http://www.healthcare.gov/news/factsheets/2011/10/medicare10272011a.html>

For more information about the Medicare premiums and deductibles for 2012, please visit: https://www.cms.gov/apps/media/fact_sheets.asp

To read the entire press release associated with this announcement, please go to <http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2011pres/10/20111027a.html>

AFA Observes National Alzheimer's Disease Awareness Month

The Alzheimer's Foundation of America (AFA) will observe National Alzheimer's Disease Awareness Month by continuing its efforts to educate the public about successful aging. Two of its annual national initiatives are designed to promote early detection and intervention for those concerned about memory loss.

National Commemorative Candle Lighting

Sunday, November 13, 2011

National Commemorative Candle Lighting is an annual event sponsored by AFA to remember and honor Americans who have been or will be affected by Alzheimer's disease or related illnesses. It is held each November in recognition of National Alzheimer's Disease Awareness Month. Local organizations hold inspirational ceremonies in their communities on the same day, uniting individuals from coast to coast as they light "candles of care."

To learn more and to find a ceremony in your community, please go to <http://www.candlelighting.org/>

For more information on the National Commemorative Candle Lighting, please call 866-232-8484.

National Memory Screening Day

Tuesday, November 15, 2011

National Memory Screening Day provides free, confidential memory screenings to individuals concerned about memory loss with the objective of early detection and intervention. The event encourages Americans to participate by offering screenings at no charge and in convenient locations in communities across the nation. National Memory Screening Day also provides a valuable opportunity to learn more about healthy lifestyle choices for successful aging.

To learn more, including how to register your agency as a screening site or where to go in your community for a screening, please go to <http://www.nationalmemoryscreening.org/index.php>

For more information on the National Memory Screening Day, please call 866-232-8484

For more information on the Alzheimer's Foundation of America, please visit its website at <http://www.alzfdn.org/>

AoA's November Widget Celebrates Caregivers

November is National Family Caregivers Month and the November update of AoA's statistics widget celebrates and recognizes the important role that caregivers play in the US. Did you know that caregiver services were valued at \$450 billion per year in 2009—an increase from \$375 billion in 2007? Other statistics on caregivers are highlighted in AoA's statistics widget, which you can view at http://www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/Site_Utilities/Widget/index.aspx. You can also share this data with visitors to your website or blog by clicking the "Share" button on the widget to access the code.

Seeking suggestions on how to acknowledge and support caregivers in November? Consider sending an e-card to a caregiver. AoA offers free e-cards for caregivers at http://www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/Press_Room/Social_Media/eCards/caregiver.aspx. You can send a thank you note and encourage the caregivers you know to take care of themselves. AoA's widget also links to an article that offers other ideas on how you can celebrate caregivers. In addition to e-cards for caregivers, AoA e-cards provide tips on nutrition, exercise and volunteering. To view all AoA e-cards go to http://www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/Press_Room/Social_Media/eCards/index.aspx.

AoA is on Facebook. Check out AoA's Facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/aoa.gov> and click the "Like" button for us. Feel free to share information on our wall and tell your friends to visit AoA's Facebook page.

We welcome comments and suggestions on our social media content. If you have any questions or comments, feel free to contact Augustina.Howe@aoa.hhs.gov.

Call for Presentation Proposals

n4a is now accepting presentation proposals for its *2012 Annual Conference & Tradeshow*. The conference will be held July 7-12, 2012 in Denver, Colorado. **The submission deadline is November 16, 2011.** All required information must be included; incomplete proposals will not be saved.

For more information, including submission guidelines, please go to http://www.n4a.org/training-events/annual-conference/?fa=call_sessions

Experts Rank Non-Profits Working in Aging

In a recently study Philanthropedia has identified 13 agencies as “High-Impact Nonprofits Working in Aging.” Philanthropedia was founded in 2006. It relies on experts in the field to evaluate non-profit agencies with the goal of providing recommendations to funders.

The survey evaluated national and local agencies and focused on four service areas:

Health Care, Care-Giving, and Long-Term Support Services,
Housing,
Economic Security, and
Other Services, including transportation, civic engagement, socialization, and prevention of elderly abuse.

To read about the 13 honorees, and to learn more about the survey methodology, including information on the expert evaluators and the agencies that participated in the survey, please go to

<http://www.myphilanthropedia.org/top-nonprofits/national/aging>

For more information on Philanthropedia, please visit its website at

<http://www.myphilanthropedia.org/>

New Survey on the Impact of Alzheimer's Disease on Family Caregivers

A new survey recently released by the National Family Caregivers Association and Forest Laboratories, Inc. reveals what family caregivers fear most: first, their loved one's general health and physical decline, and second, the fear that Alzheimer's will take away their loved one's ability to communicate.

Communication decline with their loved ones is not just a fear but a major source of stress, and also interferes with their ability to fulfill responsibilities/obligations as a caregiver.

To read more on the survey, including the methodology and results, please go to http://www.nfcacares.org/press_room/detail.cfm?num=165

To learn more about the National Family Caregivers Association, please go to <http://www.thefamilycaregiver.org>

To learn more about Forest Laboratories, please go to <http://www.FRX.com>

ACA Initiative to Improve Care for Medicare Beneficiaries

500 federally qualified health centers to receive funding, participate in a program to improve care

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) recently announced the Affordable Care Act (ACA) will fund 500 community health centers in 44 states across the country to improve the coordination and quality of care they deliver to people with Medicare and other patients. The awards will total approximately \$42 million over three years.

Under this Advanced Primary Care Practice demonstration the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) will pay community health centers based on the quality of care they deliver. This improved payment system will reward clinics for such things as helping patients manage chronic conditions like diabetes or high blood pressure.

The demonstration will be conducted from November 1, 2011 through October 31, 2014. Participating health centers will be paid a monthly fee for each eligible person with Medicare that receives primary care services. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation (Innovation Center) and the HHS Health Resources Services Administration (HRSA) will provide technical assistance to help participating community health centers throughout the demonstration.

For more information on the Advanced Primary Care Practice demonstration project, including a fact sheet and a list of participating health centers, please go to <http://innovations.cms.gov/areas-of-focus/seamless-and-coordinated-care-models/fqhc/>

Share Your OAA Story

For more than 40 years, Older Americans Act (OAA) programs, funded by the Administration on Aging (AoA), have been provided in nearly every community in America. These services have made a difference in the health and lives of millions of older Americans. AoA would like to hear how these programs have made a difference in your life, your family member or friend, or in the lives of the people you work with or serve. We know that volunteers have historically been the backbone of programs funded by OAA, serving at every level and delivering all types of services within the Aging Network. We would also like to hear how a volunteer has made a difference to you or to your program. Share your story with us and it may appear on our website!

To submit your story, please go to http://www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/Press_Room/For_The_Press/medadv/Share_Story.aspx

Observances

November Observances

American Diabetes Month®

For more information, including guidance on taking the pledge to stop diabetes, please visit the American Diabetes Association website at <http://www.diabetes.org/in-my-community/programs/american-diabetes-month/>

To read President Obama's proclamation on American Diabetes Month®, please go to <http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2011/11/01/presidential-proclamation-national-diabetes-month-2011>

National Alzheimer's Disease Awareness Month

For more information, please visit the Alzheimer's Association® website at http://www.alz.org/nca/in_my_community_20898.asp

To read President Obama's proclamation on National Alzheimer's Disease Awareness Month®, please go to <http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2011/11/01/presidential-proclamation-national-alzheimers-disease-awareness-month-20>

National Hospice /Palliative Month

For more information, please visit the National Hospice and Palliative Organization website at <http://www.nhpco.org/i4a/pages/index.cfm?pageid=5754>

National Native American Heritage Month

For more information, please visit the Federal government's National Native American Heritage Month website at <http://nativeamericanheritagemonth.gov/>

Conferences

November Conferences

The listing below reflects submissions for posting to the AoA Calendar of Events.

Oct. 29th-Nov. 2nd: 139th Annual APHA Meeting & Exposition

Sponsor: American Public Health Association

Website: <http://www.apha.org/meetings/AnnualMeeting/>

Nov. 1st-4th: 14th Annual National Lifespan Respite Conference and National Lifespan Respite Grantee's Meeting

Sponsor: Arizona Caregiver Coalition, ARCH National Respite Network and the National Respite Coalition

Website: http://www.azrespite.org/manyfaces/ManyFaces_program.htm

Nov. 1st-4th: 28th Annual Adult Protective Services Conference

Sponsor: Texas Department of Family and Protective Services

Website:

http://www.dfps.state.tx.us/Adult_Protection/Adult_Protective_Services_Conference/default.asp

Nov. 8th-9th: 2011 Aging and Society: An Interdisciplinary Conference

Sponsor: Aging and Society

Website: <http://agingandsociety.com/conference-2011/>

Nov. 10th-12th: 2011 National Aging and Law Institute: Don't Miss the Boat at the Seaport

Sponsor: National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys

http://www.naela.org/Public/Meetings_and_Events/Live_NAELA_Events/Advanced_Institute/Public/Meetings_and_Events/Advanced_Fall_Institute.aspx?hkey=cc59cc4a-6b50-4c9d-9195-752646bbf4c3

Nov. 15th: 9th Annual Geriatric Palliative Care Conference

Sponsor: Jewish Home Lifecare

Website: <http://www.jewishhome.org/news/9th-annual-geriatric-palliative-care-conference>

Nov. 18th-22nd: 64th GSA Annual Scientific Meeting: Lifestyle Leads to Lifespan

Sponsor: Gerontological Society of America

Website: <http://www.geron.org/annual-meeting>

Stay up to date with the latest aging meetings and conferences by visiting the AoA events calendar at:

http://www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/Press_Room/events/events_List_Day.aspx#title

Please direct submissions to the AoA Calendar of Events to Paulette Nowden at Paulette.Nowden@aoa.hhs.gov

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