



***AoA News & Information: Monday, September 26, 2011***

***In this issue...***

***ASA Greenlee Speaks with *LeadingAge* Magazine***

***Video of Speeches from HHS Secretary Sebelius and ASA Greenlee at the Home and Community Based Services Conference***

***ACA Webinar on *Defining Communities: Care Transitions Partnerships between QIOs and the Aging Network****

***Webinar on Public Sector Retirement Plan Choice***

***Affordable Care Act 101***

***Expanded 2010 Decennial Census Data Is Now Available Online***

***Call for Abstracts – 2012 National STD Prevention Conference***

***Communication Is Key to Better Health Care***

***Spread the Word - Get Your Flu Vaccination Now***

***CMS Offers Resources for Family Caregivers***

***Medicare Open Enrollment***

***September Observances***

***September Conferences***

---

***Share this on Facebook***

***Tweet this to a friend***

***Email this to a friend***

---

***ASA Greenlee Speaks with Gene Mitchell of *LeadingAge* Magazine***

In the current issue of *LeadingAge*, Assistant Secretary for Aging Kathy Greenlee responds to a series of questions regarding the invaluable role of senior volunteers. The interview

brings attention to the impact of the more than 26 million Americans over age 55 who do some kind of volunteer work, with much of that service done on behalf of the elderly.

To read the article in its entirety, please go to  
<http://www.leadingage.org/magazine/Feature.aspx?id=3131>

**Video of Speeches from HHS Secretary Sebelius and  
ASA Greenlee at the Home and Community Based Services  
Conference Are Now Available Online**



ASA Greenlee speaking at the Home and Community Based Services Conferences

Among the archived items of the 2011 National Home and Community Based Services Conference held in Washington, DC September 11-14 are videos of speeches from Secretary of Health and Human Services Kathleen Sebelius and Assistant Secretary for Aging Kathy Greenlee.

To view the videos, please go to  
[http://nasuad.org/events/hcbs2011/national\\_hcbs\\_conference\\_2011.html](http://nasuad.org/events/hcbs2011/national_hcbs_conference_2011.html)

---

**Stay Informed**

**ACA Webinar on *Defining Communities: Care Transitions Partnerships between QIOs and the Aging Network***

On Tuesday, September 27, the Administration on Aging (AoA) will continue its series of webinars focused on the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010 (also known as the Affordable Care Act, or ACA) and its impact on the aging network, focusing on the launch of the 10<sup>th</sup> Scope of Work for Quality Improvement Organizations (QIOs) and the relationship between QIOs and the aging network.

**Title:** Defining Communities: Care Transitions Partnerships between QIOs and the Aging Network (*\*Rescheduled from August*)

**Date:** Tuesday, September 27, 2:00-3:30 pm Eastern

**Description:**

Improving care transitions, reducing hospital readmissions, and integrating care for populations and communities require strong community partnerships. The recently-released 10<sup>th</sup> Scope of Work for CMS-funded Quality Improvement Organizations (QIO) focuses on these important aims. This next session in our ACA webinar series will outline the 10<sup>th</sup> Scope of Work, discuss lessons learned from the 9<sup>th</sup> Scope of Work, and spotlight a successful partnership between a QIO and an Area Agency on Aging.

-----  
To register for the online event  
-----

1. Go to <https://aoa-events.webex.com/aoa-events/onstage/g.php?d=661172599&t=a>
2. Click "Register".
3. On the registration form, enter your information and then click "Submit".

Once your registration is approved, you will receive a confirmation email message with instructions on how to join the event.

**Please note:** Space is limited, so please register as early as possible.

This webinar will also be recorded and posted at [http://www.aoa.gov/Aging\\_Statistics/Health\\_care\\_reform.aspx](http://www.aoa.gov/Aging_Statistics/Health_care_reform.aspx) soon after the webinar.

### **Webinar on Public Sector Retirement Plan Choice**

The National Institute on Retirement Security (NIRS) will host a webinar to present findings and to respond to questions regarding a new report, *Decisions, Decisions: Retirement Plan Choices for Public Employees*. A few states in recent years have offered public employees a choice between primary defined benefit (DB) and defined contribution (DC) plans. This new study analyzes and offers findings for the following questions:

When given the choice, what do public employees choose: the DB or DC plan?  
What happens when employees choose their own investments?  
Can employers choose to offer meaningful supplemental benefits to DC members?  
What are the implications of an employer choosing to change from DB to DC?  
What are the implications for risk sharing in each of the systems?  
Do employers give employees the chance to choose a second time?

The report and presentation will be available on September 29 at 2:00 p.m. ET at <http://www.nirsonline.org>

DATE: Thursday, September 29, 2011  
TIME: 3:00 p.m. ET

Registration and Dial-in Information:

To register, please go to <https://www2.gotomeeting.com/register/820200634>  
Dial In: 215-383-1016  
Access Code: 477-048-092  
Audio PIN: Shown after joining the Webinar

### **Affordable Care Act 101**

The Department of Health and Human Services will continue its series of conference calls to discuss the benefits and provisions of the Affordable Care Act on Thursday, September 29 at 8:00 p.m. Eastern Time. To register for this call, please go to [https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/USHHS/subscriber/new?topic\\_id=USHHS\\_247](https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/USHHS/subscriber/new?topic_id=USHHS_247)

Dial-in information will be provided after receipt of your RSVP.

If you have any additional questions or difficulties registering for this call, please send an email to [ACA101@hhs.gov](mailto:ACA101@hhs.gov)

The remaining discussion dates are: October 4, October 18, November 1, and December 6.

## **Expanded 2010 Decennial Census Data Is Now Available Online**

The US Census Bureau recently expanded the available data from the 2010 decennial census. The Administration on Aging (AoA) has updated its 2010 census data to reflect this change. Information now includes tabulations on race and Hispanic status among the older population by state in 2010. Also added is population data by age group for the four US Territories not included in the other tables: American Samoa, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands and the U.S. Virgin Islands. (Puerto Rico is included in the tables with the states).

To access this information, please go to the AoA 2010 Census Data on Aging web page at [http://www.aoa.gov/AoAroot/Aging\\_Statistics/Census\\_Population/census2010/Index.aspx](http://www.aoa.gov/AoAroot/Aging_Statistics/Census_Population/census2010/Index.aspx)

## **Call for Abstracts – 2012 National STD Prevention Conference**

*You have six more weeks to submit an abstract to the 2012 National STD Prevention Conference.*

The Conference Planning Committee welcomes submission of abstracts for oral presentations, poster sessions, pre-organized symposia, and skills-building workshops that focus on critical issues in the field of STD prevention and related fields. The 2012 National STD Prevention Conference provides the ideal forum for you to discuss and disseminate your work, to network with other professionals and to explore the intersection between STD, HIV, family planning and reproductive health, adolescent health, and more. A unique feature of this year's conference is the planned interface of science, program, and policy for STD prevention.

All abstracts are to be submitted online. The deadline is October 14, 2011 Midnight PST. This submission deadline is final; there will be no extensions.

For more information regarding presentation formats and submission deadlines, please go to <http://www.cdc.gov/stdconference/2012/abstracts.htm?source=govdelivery>

## **Communication Is Key to Better Health Care**

*Questions are the Answer*, a new initiative from the Department of Health and Human Services' Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) and the Ad Council, encourages clinicians and patients to engage in effective two-way communication to ensure safer care and better health outcomes.

An original series of new videos on the AHRQ website features real patients and clinicians discussing the importance of asking questions and sharing information. The website also features new resources to help patients be prepared before, during and after their medical appointments.

To access this new resource tool, please go to <http://www.ahrq.gov/questions/>

## **Spread the Word - Get Your Flu Vaccination Now**

According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the 2011-12 flu season will start in October and can last for more than six months. The best prevention to getting the flu is to get a vaccination, now.

Available on the CDC website is information on the importance of getting vaccinated. Included is information on the types of flu for the 2011-12 flu season. Also accessible at the site, for download only, are a number of posters and other resource materials and activities individuals and organizations can use to spread the word about getting a flu vaccination.

To view the CDC Seasonal Flu web page, please go to <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/about/season/>

You can also learn more about the 2011-12 flu season at <http://www.flu.gov/>

## **CMS Offers Resources for Family Caregivers**

*Ask Medicare* was created by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services' (CMS) and offers tools and information that help caregivers and those organizations helping caregivers make informed decisions. As a partner working closely with caregivers you know that a typical day can include everything from preparing meals and running errands, to getting answers to questions about Medicare coverage, to searching for the best long-term care. With this in mind CMS has created *Ask Medicare* – a one-stop resource for information and support.

The *Ask Medicare* site offers:

Resources to help caregivers deal with issues such as paying for care, finding nursing homes, managing stress, making the most of the Medicare program and much more;

Brochures and other helpful information for caregivers or caregiving partners, including tip sheets on such topics as managing a chronic illness, preparing for a transition from the hospital to home, planning for the future, additional help paying for care, and understanding the basics of Medicare;

Caregiver stories, and e-newsletter and a community section that connects caregivers to one another.

To learn more about *Ask Medicare* and to view the various tools, please go to <http://www.medicare.gov/caregivers/>

## **Medicare Open Enrollment**

Your health needs change from year to year. And, your health plan may change the benefits and costs each year too. Open Enrollment is the one time of year when all people with Medicare can see what new benefits Medicare has to offer and make changes to their

coverage.

There's never been a better time to check out Medicare coverage. There are new benefits available for all people with Medicare - whether you choose Original Medicare or a Medicare Advantage plan - including lower prescription costs, wellness visits and preventive care. Take advantage of Open Enrollment and you may be able to save money, get better coverage, or both.

*What is the benefit of having an earlier enrollment period?*

Starting this year, Open Enrollment starts earlier - on October 15th - and lasts longer (seven full weeks) to give you enough time to review and make changes to your coverage. But, also starting in 2011, you will need to make your final selection for next year's Medicare coverage by December 7th. This change ensures Medicare has enough time to process your choice, so your coverage can begin without interruption on January 1.

It's worth it to take the time to review and compare, but you don't have to do it alone. If you typically use the December holidays to discuss health care options with family or friends, plan now to move that conversation earlier. And remember that Medicare is available to help.

To compare your current coverage with all of the options that are available in your area, and to enroll in a new plan if you decide to make a change, please go to <http://www.medicare.gov/find-a-plan>

Call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227) 24-hours a day/7 days a week to find out more about your coverage options. TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048.

Review the *Medicare & You 2012 Handbook*. It is typically mailed to people with Medicare in September.

Get one-on-one help from your State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP). Contact information for your SHIP office is available at <http://www.medicare.gov/contacts>

---

<b>Observances</b>
--------------------

## **September Observances**

### ***National Hispanic Heritage Month***

National Hispanic Heritage Month will continue through October 15. For more information, including helpful resources, please visit the National Hispanic Heritage Month website at <http://hispanicheritagemonth.gov/index.html>

### ***Healthcare Fraud Prevention & Awareness Month***

For more information, including helpful resources, please visit the Medicare Fraud & Abuse website at <http://www.medicare.gov/navigation/help-and-support/fraud-and-abuse/fraud-and-abuse-overview.aspx?AspxAutoDetectCookieSupport=1>

### ***National Senior Center Month***



2011 Theme: *It Happens at My Senior Center. My Life. My Time. My Way.*

For more information, including helpful resources, please visit the National Council on Aging website at <http://www.ncoa.org/strengthening-community-organizations/senior-centers/national-senior-center-month-1.html>

### **National Sickle Cell Month**

For more information, including helpful resources, please visit the Sickle Cell Disease Association of America, Inc. website at <http://www.sicklecelldisease.org/>

### **Suicide Prevention Month**

For more information, including helpful resources, please visit the Suicide Prevention Resource Center website at <http://www.sprc.org/thismonth/index.asp>

### **Active Aging Week** (September 25<sup>th</sup>–October 1<sup>st</sup>)

For more information, including helpful resources, please visit the International Council on Active Aging website at <http://www.icaa.cc/aaw.htm>

### **National Women's Health & Fitness Day** (28<sup>th</sup>; always the last Wednesday)

For more information, including helpful resources, please visit the National Women's Health & Fitness Day website at <http://www.fitnessday.com/women/>

---

<b>Conferences</b>
--------------------

## **September Conferences**

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](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](mailto:Paulette.Nowden@aoa.hhs.gov)

**AoA eNews is an electronic newsletter distributed by the AoA Office of Outreach and Consumer Information. Its contents are for informational purposes. For information on AoA, please visit our website at <http://www.aoa.gov>. You can also contact us at 202-619-0724 (phone); 202-357-3523 (fax) or by Email at <mailto:aoainfo@aoa.gov>**

**To unsubscribe to this newsletter or to modify your email address, please [click here](#).**

**Use of trade names and commercial sources is for identification only and does not imply endorsement by AoA. References to non-AoA sites on the Internet are provided as a service to AoA eNews readers and do not constitute or imply endorsement of these organizations or their programs by AoA or the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. AoA is not responsible for the content of pages found at these sites. URL addresses listed in AoA eNews were current as of the date of publication.**