AoA Administration on Aging — News and Info

Monday, February 13, 2012

2012 Older Americans Month: *Never Too Old to Play.*
For more information and downloadable materials, go to
http://www.aoa.gov/aoaroot/Press_Room/Observances/2012/Older_Americans.aspx

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February Observances

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Breaking News: **ASA Greenlee Gives Testimony Today at Senate Special Committee on Aging Hearing**

Earlier today, Assistant Secretary for Aging (ASA) Kathy Greenlee testified before the Senate Special Committee on Aging Hearing on Strengthening the Aging Network. The hearing took place in Charleston, West Virginia and she appeared at the invitation of Senator Joe Manchin of West Virginia.

To read ASA Greenlee's written testimony, go to http://www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/Press_Room/Speeches_Testimony/archive/2012/docs/WestVirginiaTestimony_022012.pdf

Health Reform to Require Insurers to Use Plain Language in Describing Health Plan Benefits, Coverage

People in the market for health insurance will soon have clear, understandable and straightforward information on what health plans will cover, what limitations or conditions will apply, and what they will pay for services thanks to the Affordable Care Act – the health reform law – according to final regulations published last week.

The marketing materials that insurers use can sometimes make it difficult for consumers to understand exactly what they are buying. The new rules, published jointly by the Departments of Health and Human Services, Labor and Treasury, require health insurers and group health plans to provide concise and comprehensible information about health plan benefits and coverage to the millions of Americans with private health coverage. The new rules will also make it easier for people and employers to directly compare one plan to another.

To learn more, go to http://www.healthcare.gov/news/factsheets/2011/08/labels08172011a.html

Funding Opportunity

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Veterans Transportation and Community Living Initiative Grants

For the second round of the Veterans Transportation and Community Living Initiative (VTCLI) grant program, the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) is making $25 million of Section 5309 Bus and Bus Facilities funds, as well as approximately $5 million of Section 5312 Research Program funds available. FY 2012 VTCLI grants can consist of two separate awards.

Each applicant may request up to $2 million in 5309 funds for One-Call/One-Click Transportation Resource Center capital costs and Up to $50,000 in 5312 funds for support costs such as marketing, outreach and coordinated planning to demonstrate the successful implementation of a One-Call/One-Click Center. Requests for S5312 funding will not be considered without a S5309 capital project proposal.

The application deadline is 11:59pm April 19, 2012.

For more information on the Veterans Transportation and Community Living Initiative, including eligibility and evaluation criteria, a list of the previously selected projects and instructions on how to apply, go to please visit the VTCLI webpage: http://www.fta.dot.gov/veterans

In addition, the National Resource Center on Human Services Transportation Coordination (NRC) has created a Veterans Transportation Bookshelf with a wealth of resources including a "Military Community Transportation Needs Overview."

Funding Opportunity Reminders

AHRQ FOA: Building the Science of Public Reporting

The Department of Health and Human Services Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality solicits applications that propose to build the scientific evidence base for effective public reporting for consumers through innovative, actionable studies that address pressing questions in the field.

Letters of Intent Deadline: February 27, 2012

Application Deadline: March 28, 2012

To learn more about this FOA and to download the application, go to http://www.grants.gov/search/search.do;jsessionid=tgLpPpQSwkt5RpYrG4vBTkjSNydjcKSHsJ2S0NLysWzr2fLMq6ms!1368593367?oppId=139273&mode=VIEW

HRSA FOA: Housing Counseling Training Program

Funds are available through the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) to provide training activities designed to improve and standardize the quality of counseling provided by housing counselors employed by agencies participating in the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Housing Counseling Program.

The last day to apply is March 5, 2012**.**

To read the full announcement and to download the application, go to
http://www.grants.gov/search/search.do;jsessionid=wKDtPN6PQN4C5YLTZW
ZncLQLmdYynfrQbW3yyXttcjSktB6xWnWY!347337819?oppId=137033&mode=
VIEW

HHS Health IT Challenge

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) new health IT challenge,
Discharge Follow-Up Appointment Care Transitions Challenge challenging
software developers to create an easy-to-use web-based tool that will make
post-discharge follow-up appointment scheduling a more effective and shared
process for care providers, patients and caregivers.

Total Prizes for this challenge is $5,000 + extras. The deadline is April 30th.

To learn more about the *Discharge Follow-Up Appointment Care Transitions
Challenge*, go to
http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2012pres/01/20120126b.html

Connections for Cardiovascular Health Accepting Grant Applications

The AstraZeneca HealthCare Foundation is accepting applications for the 2012
Connections for Cardiovascular Health program. Launched in 2010, the
program seeks to improve cardiovascular health within the United States and
its territories. In 2011, the program awarded more than $3.6 million in grants
to over twenty organizations working to improve cardiovascular health in their
communities.

The application deadline is March 15, 2012.

For complete program guidelines and to download the online application form,
go to http://www.astrazeneca-us.com/foundation/

Stay Informed

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**AARP Webinar: *On the Verge: The Transformation of Long Term Services
and Supports***

Date: Tuesday, February 14, 2012
Time: 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. EST

Learn about the latest trends in long-term services and supports (LTSS) in the states.

The AARP Public Policy Institute, Health Management Associates and the National Association of States United for Aging and Disabilities will discuss findings from their new report, *On the Verge: The Transformation of Long-Term Services and Supports*. The report addresses state budgets, Medicaid managed LTSS, dual eligibles, Home and Community Based Services, the Affordable Care Act, and future state priorities for LTSS.

To register for this free online event, go to Webinar Registration

Webinar: Online Services from Social Security - in Spanish!

The Social Security Administration will present information about online services offered in Spanish and give you an opportunity to ask questions during a live interactive broadcast.

Date: Thursday, February 23, 2012
Time: 2:00 p.m. EST

To register for the webinar, go to
http://www.ssa.gov/webinars/onlineservicesespanol.html

Links to all of the applications to be discussed during the webinar are available at http://www.socialsecurity.gov/espanol/

Webinar Reminders

AHRQ Quality Indicators Toolkit for Hospitals

The Department of Health and Human Services Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) will host the webinar, *How to Improve Performance on the AHRQ Inpatient Quality and Patient Safety Indicators: Introducing a Toolkit for Hospitals* to provide more information on its recently released *AHRQ Quality Indicators™ Toolkit for Hospitals*. The toolkit is a free resource to guide hospitals through the process of using the AHRQ Inpatient Quality Indicators (IQIs) and Patient Safety Indicators (PSIs) to improve care.

Date: Wednesday, February 15, 2012
Time: 2:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. Eastern Standard Time

To register, go to:
http://meet63385651.adobeconnect.com/hospitaltoolkitregistration/event/event_info.html

To download the *AHRQ Quality Indicators™ Toolkit for Hospitals*, go to:
http://www.ahrq.gov/qual/qitoolkit

More information on the AHRQ Quality Indicators is available at
http://www.qualityindicators.ahrq.gov/

Accessible Transportation Webinar

The webinar *Connecting Centers for Independent Living (CILs) and Mobility Managers to Enhance Accessible Transportation* will provide an overview of the Mobility Management Independent Living (MMIL) program, developed by Easter Seals Project ACTION (ESPA) in partnership with the Association of Programs for Rural Independent Living and the National Council on Independent Living (CIL). Through the program, CIL professionals and mobility managers collaborate to strengthen relationships between their groups and raise awareness of the issues people with disabilities face as they seek the transportation they need.

Presenters will share information about strategies that help to establish and foster strong relationships between the partners. In addition, they will offer suggestions on ways organizations, mobility managers and transportation professionals can replicate the MMIL program.

Date: Wednesday, February 29
Time: 2:00 p.m. ET
Host: Easter Seals Project ACTION

To register, visit:
http://www.easterseals.com/site/Calendar/320323035?view=Detail&id=37286

Community Organizing Webinar Series

Hear from expert community organizers and learn more about identifying, developing and empowering leadership through organizing concepts, tools and strategies. Participation is free and does not require pre-registration.

Date: February 23, 2012
Time: 3:00 pm - 4:00 pm ET

Call-in Information:

Number: 866-639-0744

Webex Link: https://qualitynet.webex.com

Password: Community

The series is sponsored by the Colorado Foundation for Medical Care. To learn more about this organization, go to
http://www.cfmc.org/integratingcare/Default.htm

Tools & Information

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New Investing in Innovations Mobile App Challenge

The Department of Health and Human Services Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC) recently announced the launch of a new Investing in Innovations mobile app challenge, the *EHR Accessibility Module Challenge.*

If you think you have a game-changing design idea that can help improve access to health records for people with disabilities, now is the time to prove it!

Ease of use will play a significant role in determining the winner as it is an area that desperately needs innovative thinking. Advances that help people with disabilities interact with their electronic health information could also expand into widespread use.

A range of prizes will be awarded to the highest finishers. The winner will receive $60,000 and an opportunity to demonstrate the solution at a future, prominent conference!

Submissions are due by July 23, 2012.

Complete details about this challenge are available at
http://www.health2challenge.org/ehr-accessibility-module/

To learn more ONC, go to
http://healthit.hhs.gov/portal/server.pt/community/healthit_hhs_gov__home/1204

New NIH Website on Clinical Research Trials
Agency-wide resource provides important information for the public and health care providers

The newly created National Institutes of Health (NIH) website, *NIH Clinical Research Trials and You*, was designed to help people learn more about clinical trials, why they matter and how to participate.

Visitors to the website will find information about:

The basics of clinical trial participation
First hand experiences from actual clinical trial volunteers
Explanations from researchers
Links on how to search for a trial or enroll in a research matching program

To access this new resource, go to http://www.nih.gov/health/clinicaltrials/

2012 Purpose Prize

Encore Careers is now accepting applications for the 2012 Purpose Prize ®.
Five individuals age 60 and older will receive $100,000 each as an investment
in what they will do next to improve their communities, our nation and the
world.

Nominations are due by March 22, 2012.

To learn more about this opportunity, go to http://www.encore.org/prize

To learn more about Encore Careers, go to http://www.encore.org/

EPA 6th Annual "Sense of Water" Contest

The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) invites the public to submit
creative projects to the 6th annual Rachel Carson Intergenerational "Sense of
Wonder" Contest. There are four categories: photography, essay, poetry, and
dance. This year, in honor of the 40th anniversary of the Clean Water Act, the
contest will focus on a "Sense of Water."

Contest submissions are encouraged to focus on the various properties of
water – how it tastes, what it sounds like, how it feels, – and what water means
to the entrants.

Carson is considered to be the founder of the contemporary environmental
movement through her landmark book, "Silent Spring." The contest seeks to
spur and instill the same sense of wonder Carson had among all generations.

The deadline for entries is June 1, 2012, and winners will be announced in
September 2012.

The contest is sponsored by EPA, the Dance Exchange, the Rachel Carson
Council, Inc., and Generations United.

For more information about the contest and to see the works of previous winners, go to
http://www.epa.gov/aging/resources/thesenseofwonder/index.htm

Save the Date: National Summit on Nutrition and Aging – August 23, 2012

In celebration of the 40th Anniversary of the inclusion of Senior Nutrition Programs in the Older Americans Act, the AoA-MOWAA National Resource Center on Nutrition and Aging will host a National Summit on August 23, 2012 at the Gaylord National Hotel and Convention Center near Washington, DC.

The National Summit will provide a unique opportunity to bring together a broad array of thinkers and doers – representatives from all levels of the aging network, as well as policymakers, leaders of other national organizations with an interest in nutrition and wellness, scholars and the general public – for a day of celebration, reflection and future-building. While the Summit will begin with a retrospective that honors past successes and the people and programs responsible for achieving them, the focus will be on creating a plan for the next 40 years. Building the future will involve collaboration and innovation and courage. It should involve you and your organization. So, save the date!

What: Perspectives on Nutrition and Aging: A National Summit

Why: To celebrate 40 years of success and ensure 40 more

When: August 23, 2012

Where: Gaylord National Hotel and Convention Center, 201 Waterfront Street, National Harbor, MD 20745

Observances
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February Observances

African American History Month
Association for Study of African American Life and History
http://www.asalh.org/aboutasalhmain.html

American Heart Month
American Heart Association
http://www.heart.org/HEARTORG/

Low Vision Awareness Month

Prevent Blindness America
http://www.preventblindness.org/about-us

February 14: *National Donor Day*
OrganDonor.gov
http://www.organdonor.gov/index.html