ACL News & Info

Administration for Community Living

For seniors and people with disabilities

Department of Health & Human Services

Monday, July 16, 2012

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AoA Issues FAQ on the OAA Definition of "Greatest Social Need"

The Older Americans Act encourages the Aging Network to target services to those of greatest economic or social need. Greatest social need is defined in the Act as:

24) The term "greatest social need" means the need caused by non-economic factors, which include—
  (A) physical and mental disabilities;
  (B) language barriers; and
  (C) cultural, social, or geographical isolation, including isolation caused by racial or ethnic status, that—
    (i) restricts the ability of an individual to perform normal daily tasks; or
    (ii) threatens the capacity of the individual to live independently.

In response to questions the Administration for Community Living Administration on Aging (AoA) has received concerning populations that might be included under (C) cultural, social or geographical isolation, AoA has issued

an FAQ to assist in answering this question. The FAQ explains that the definition of greatest social need does not exclude isolated populations other than racial and ethnic minorities and may include, depending on the planning and service area, religious minorities, individuals isolated due to sexual orientation or gender identity or other special populations.

The FAQ can be found on the AoA website in the section on the Older Americans Act under "targeting" at http://www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/AoA_Programs/OAA/resources/Faqs.aspx#English

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Stanford DSMP: A Successful Match for Medicare DSMT

Congratulations to Elder Services of the Merrimack Valley (ESMV) and its Medicare provider partner, Harvard Medical School affiliate Hebrew Senior Life (HSL). Last week, the pair was the first Area Agency on Aging (AAA) and Medicare provider partner in the Administration for Community Living Administration on Aging's (AoA) pilot to achieve both accreditation from the American Association for Diabetes Educators (AADE) and reimbursement from Medicare for Diabetes Self-Management Training (DSMT) and medical nutrition therapy services for Medicare beneficiaries using the Stanford Diabetes Self-Management Program (DSMP) curriculum.

ESMV/HSL is one of several AAAs participating in the "proof of concept" phase of an Administration on Aging-sponsored pilot program to test a business model designed to cover the cost of delivering DSMP based solely on Medicare reimbursement. Accredited diabetes self-management programs can receive Medicare recognition and subsequent reimbursement from Medicare as long as a Medicare provider submits the claims. AADE is one two accrediting organizations along with the American Diabetes Association. To learn more about this initiative, go to http://www.aoa.gov/aoaroot/Press_Room/Products_Materials/fact/pdf/Diabetes_SelfMngmnt_Initiative.pdf

For more information on the Stanford Diabetes Self-Management Program, go to http://patienteducation.stanford.edu/programs/diabeteseng.html

For more information on Elder Services of the Merrimack Valley, go to www.esmv.org/

For more information on Hebrew Senior Life, go to www.hebrewseniorlife.org/

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HHS Announces 89 New Accountable Care Organizations
2.4 million people with Medicare to receive better, more coordinated care

Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Kathleen Sebelius announced last week, that as of July 1, 2012, 89 new Accountable Care Organizations (ACOs) began serving 1.2 million people with Medicare in 40 states and Washington, DC. ACOs are organizations formed by groups of doctors and other health care providers that have agreed to work together to coordinate care for people with Medicare. Since the Medicare ACO program opened for business in January, more than 2.4 million beneficiaries are receiving care from providers participating in these important initiatives."

These 89 new ACOs have entered into agreements with Centers for Medicare & Medicaid (CMS), taking responsibility for the quality of care they provide to people with Medicare in return for the opportunity to share in savings realized through high-quality, well-coordinated care. The 89 ACOs announced today brings the total number of organizations participating in Medicare shared savings initiatives to 154.

New ACO applications will be accepted annually. The application period for organizations that wish to participate beginning in January 2013 is from August 1 through September 6, 2012. More information, including application requirements, is available at http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Medicare-Fee-for-Service-Payment/sharedsavingsprogram/Application.html

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Funding Opportunity Reminders

Research and Demonstration Program to Improve Coordinated Transportation Systems for People with Disabilities and Older Adults

The goal of this 5 year project is to identify proven models and approaches that can be used by states and communities across the country to empower people with disabilities and older adults to be actively involved in the design and implementation of coordinated transportation systems in ways that successfully make those systems responsive to the needs of these populations. Applicants seeking funding under this announcement may find it helpful to subcontract out some of the activities undertaken to implement this project to one or more national organizations with a successful track record and demonstrated experience in empowering people with disabilities and older adults to improve systems, such as making transportation systems responsive to meet the needs of people with disabilities and older adults.

The application deadline is August 14, 2012.

To learn more about this funding opportunity and to download the application, go to http://www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/Grants/Funding/docs/2012/FY2012_Transportation_FOA.pdf or www.grants.gov. The Funding Opportunity Number: HHS-2012-ACL-TC-1216.

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Funding for Health Center Controlled Networks (HCCN) in FY 2013

The Department of Health and Humans Services Health Resources and Services Administration HRSA) is soliciting applications for Health Center Controlled Networks (HCCN) in fiscal year (FY) 2013.

The application deadline is September 10, 2012, 8:00 p.m. ET.

To learn more about this funding opportunity and to download an application, go to www.grants.gov. The Announcement Number is HRSA-13-237.

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HRSA Funding Opportunities for Service Area Competition

The Department of Health and Humans Services Health Resources and Services Administration HRSA) is soliciting applications for the Health Center Program's Service Area Competition (SAC). Several funding opportunities, with varying deadline dates, are available. To learn more, visit the HRSA Open Opportunities webpage at http://www.hrsa.gov/grants/index.html

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Stay Informed

ACL Webinar Series on the Affordable Care Act

On Tuesday, July 24, the Administration for Community Living (ACL) will continue its series of webinars on the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010 (also known as the Affordable Care Act, or ACA) and its impact on older adults, people with disabilities and the aging and disability networks, focusing on managed long-term services and supports.

Title: Managed Long-Term Services and Supports: Engaging in the Stakeholder Process (Part 2)

Date: Tuesday, July 24, 2:00-3:30 pm Eastern

Description:
As states develop managed long-term services and supports systems for older adults and individuals with disabilities, it is critical that stakeholders – consumers and professionals alike – provide input during the proposal and implementation processes. Last month we began exploring tools advocates can use to analyze proposals, particularly in the areas of home and community based services benefits packages, assessment and person-centered planning. The recording of Part 1 is available at
http://www.aoa.gov/Aging_Statistics/Health_care_reform.aspx#webinar

This month we will continue that discussion, presenting analysis and advocacy tools related to other critical implementation issues such as appeals and grievances, financing, and oversight.

Presenters:
Mary Lou Breslin, Senior Policy Advisor, Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund
Georgia Burke, Directing Attorney, National Senior Citizens Law Center
Silvia Yee, Senior Staff Attorney, Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund

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To register for the online event
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1. Go to https://aoa-events.webex.com/aoa-events/onstage/g.php?d=663237084&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 on our web site
http://www.aoa.gov/Aging_Statistics/Health_care_reform.aspx#webinar soon after the webinar.

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AARP Webinar on *Social Security - Benefits for Family Members*

Do you have questions about your Social Security benefits and how they can stretch to help meet the needs of your family? Join AARP Financial Security

experts for a free, interactive seminar on Social Security – Benefits for Family Members.

Date: Thursday, July 19, 2012
Time: 7:00 p.m., ET

Register for this free webinar now at http://bit.ly/PBBy4l

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Aging Network's Volunteer Collaborative Online Chat

In this online chat, sponsored by the Aging Network's Volunteer Collaborative, you will learn about strategies for starting a new volunteer program or upgrading an existing one.

Date: Wednesday, July 25, 2012
Time: 2:00 p.m. EDT

Speaker: Sabrina L. Reilly, Vice President for Growth and Outreach, Capital Caring, a leading hospice and palliative care provider

You may submit questions in advance to Ms. Reilly by filling out this form!

You must be a member of the Aging Network's Volunteer Collaborative to participate. Not a member, join now.

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Webinar Reminders

ASA Webinar on Managing the Stress of a Family Caregiver

Date: Wednesday, July 18, 2012
Time: 10:00 a.m. PT / 11:00 a.m. MT / 12:00 p.m. CT / 1:00 p.m. ET

Register Now!

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Health Care Conference Calls

HHS Partnership Center staff will discuss the benefits and provisions of the health care law, the Affordable Care Act.

To participate in one of the conference calls, select the date from the list below and submit the necessary information. Call-in information will be made available 24 hours in advance.

July 19 at 12:30 pm ET - **The Health Care Law 101 (in English)**

July 24 at 2:00 pm ET - **The Health Care Law 101 (in Spanish)**

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Announcement on The Foreclosure Crisis—Ending the Nightmare for Older Americans

Join AARP for the release of *The Foreclosure Crisis—Ending the Nightmare for Older Americans,* a major study revealing how the progression of the mortgage crisis has affected Americans age 50 plus.

Date: Monday, July 23, 2012
Time: 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon
Site: Columbus Club, Union Station, Washington, DC

For more information, contact Cherri Thompson by telephone at 202-434-3883 or by email at chthompson@aarp.org

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Upcoming NCOA Webinars

1. Combating Food Insecurity among Older Americans

Join the National Council on Aging for a discussion on working collaboratively to combat food insecurity among older Americans.

Date: Tuesday, July 24, 2012
Time: 2:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. ET

Register.

2. Evidence-Based Health Promotion 101

Thinking about offering an evidence-based health program for seniors in your community? Find out what programs are available, why they're important, how to find the right one for your organization, and how to measure success.

Date: Tuesday, July 24, 2012
Time: 3:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. ET

[Register](#).

Tools & Information

The National Alzheimer's Call Center

The Administration for Community Living (ACL) funds a number of resource centers designed to provide information to consumers and technical assistance to professionals on a variety of topics.

Through the National Alzheimer's Call Center, ACL funds the operation of a national information and counseling service for persons with Alzheimer's disease, their family members and informal caregivers. The National Alzheimer's Call Center is available to people in all US States and territories, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. The Call Center provides expert advice, care consultation and information and referrals nationwide, at the national and local levels, regarding Alzheimer's disease and related dementias. Trained professional customer service staff and masters degree social workers are available at all times.

Operated via a grant to the Alzheimer's Association, persons with Alzheimer's disease and related dementias, their family members and informal caregivers can access the Center 24/7 at 1-800-272-3900 or find information, planning tools, message boards and more at http://www.alz.org

If you would like to know more about the Resource Centers that the ACL funds, you can find information at: http://www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/Resource_Centers/Index.aspx

Future newsletters will be featuring the other resource centers.

NIA on YouTube

The new NIA channel on YouTube is growing. Find informational videos on aging and Alzheimer's disease topics, inspirational exercise success stories, and *Go4Life*® exercises that you can do while you watch.

Subscribe to NIA on YouTube or visit often to stay up-to-date with the latest NIA videos.

FDA Safety and Innovation Act

Last week, President Obama signed into law S. 3187, the "Food and Drug Administration Safety and Innovation Act." This legislation will help speed safe and effective medical products to patients and maintain our Nation's role as a leader in biomedical innovation.

The act is the culmination of the work of the Obama administration and Congress, in partnership with patients, the pharmaceutical and medical device industries, the clinical community, and other stakeholders, to provide the Food and Drug Administration with the tools needed to continue to bring drugs and devices to market safely and quickly and promote innovation in the biomedical industry, and to help secure the jobs supported by drug and device development.

To learn more about the Food and Drug Administration Safety and Innovation Act, go to http://www.fda.gov/RegulatoryInformation/Legislation/FederalFoodDrugandCosmeticActFDCAct/SignificantAmendmentstotheFDCAct/FDASIA/default.htm

To read the Department of Health and Human Services press release on this legislation, go to http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2012pres/07/20120709b.html

SAMHSA Awards up to $12 Million in Grants to Benefit People Experiencing Homelessness

The Department of Health and Human Services Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) recently announced that it is awarding eight new grants totaling up to $4 million per year over the next three years to public service agencies across the country working to prevent or reduce chronic homelessness in their communities.

This grant program is designed to reduce the barriers that persons who are chronically homeless with mental and substance use disorders and their families experience while obtaining treatment and stable housing. The resources provided through the grant will support intensive individualized treatment services designed to increase recovery and sustain permanent supportive housing.

For a list of the grant awardees and to learn more about this grant program, go to http://www.samhsa.gov/newsroom/advisories/1207091248.aspx

Heat-Related Illness Advice for Older People from NIH

Hot summer weather can pose special health risks to older adults. The National Institute on Aging (NIA), part of the National Institutes of Health, has some advice for helping older people avoid heat-related illnesses, known as hyperthermia. To learn about the types of hyperthermia and ways to prevent it, go to http://www.nih.gov/news/health/jun2012/nia-27.htm

NIH to Present the Latest AIDS Research Advances at AIDS 2012

The latest research illuminating progress and challenges in AIDS prevention and treatment and the search for a cure for HIV infection will be presented by investigators supported by the National Institutes of Health at the XIX International AIDS Conference (AIDS 2012).

The NIH AIDS 2012 press kit, which includes a variety of fact sheets and other resources related to AIDS research at NIH, will be available from July 10 at http://aids2012.oar.nih.gov

Join the Community

Since its launch in May 21012, more than 200 people have joined the online community at the new Aging Network's Volunteer Collaborative. The Volunteer Collaborative is an online resource to assist the Aging Network in engaging and empowering older adults and maximizing their leadership skills and experiences. It is funded by the Administration for Community Living Administration on Aging and led by n4a in partnership with several other aging network partners. The goal of the Volunteer Collaborative is to increase the number of older adult volunteers to one million by 2015.

If you have not registered yet, join this online community to share comments, questions or advice.

To learn more about the Aging Network's Volunteer Collaborative, visit its website at http://agingnetworkvolunteercollaborative.org/

Reminder: Online Health Care Resources

US Government Online Health Resources

HealthCare.gov and other government organizations, including USA.gov and GobiernoUSA.gov, the official web portals of the US government, offer a range of ways to connect with great online health information.

You can access these free online tools to find health insurance, search for a doctor or hospital near you, see prevention tips, and more:

Find insurance options
Compare care providers
Learn about prevention
Learn about your insurance company and rate increases

AARP Health Law Guide

AARP's *Health Law Guide* is an interactive Web tool that helps people make sense of what the health law means to them. It provides a quick way to learn about the provisions that fit their personal circumstances such as age, gender, state, household size, and health coverage status, to make informed decisions about health care choices.

The *Guide* is available in English and Spanish respectively at www.aarp.org/healthlawguide and www.aarp.org/guiadelaleydesalud

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Recent Reports

Family Caregivers Online
http://pewinternet.org/~/media//Files/Reports/2012/PIP_Family_Caregivers_Online.pdf
Source: Pew Research Center
Date: July 12, 2012

Prevention of Falls in Community-Dwelling Older Adults: U.S. Preventive Services Task Force Recommendation Statement
http://annals.org/article.aspx?doi=10.7326/0003-4819-157-3-201208070-00462
Source: Annals of Internal Medicine, American College of Physicians
Date: June 2012

The Mental Health and Substance Use Workforce for Older Adults: In Whose Hands?
http://www.iom.edu/Reports/2012/The-Mental-Health-and-Substance-Use-Workforce-for-Older-Adults.aspx

Source: Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences
Date: July 10, 2012

*Dispelling Myths about Emergency Department Use: Majority of Medicaid Visits
Are for Urgent or More Serious Symptoms*
http://www.hschange.org/CONTENT/1302/
Source: Center for Studying Health System Change
Date: July 2012

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Observances

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July Observances

Americans with Disabilities Act
The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) was signed into law on July 26, 1990
by President George H.W. Bush. ADA is a wide-ranging civil rights law that
prohibits, under certain circumstances, discrimination based on disability.
Disability is defined by the ADA as "a physical or mental impairment that
substantially limits a major life activity."
Resource: http://www.ada.gov/

National Minority Mental Health Awareness Month
Sponsor: National Alliance on Mental Illness
http://www.nami.org/Template.cfm?Section=Multicultural_Support&Template
=/ContentManagement/ContentDisplay.cfm&ContentID=120508

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content of pages found at these sites. URL addresses listed in *ACL News and Info* were current as of the date of publication.