



Department of Health & Human Services

# ACL News & Info

Administration for Community Living

*For seniors and people with disabilities*

**Monday, July 30, 2012**

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## **Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act**

Last Thursday, July 26, marked the 22<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). To read the Presidential Proclamation in observance of this anniversary, go to <http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2012/07/26/presidential-proclamation-anniversary-americans-disabilities-act-2012>

Visit Disability.gov for more information about the ADA and other laws that protect the rights of people with disabilities. Also, check out Disability.Blog to read and comment on articles about other civil rights topics.

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## **New Ground-Breaking Public-Private Partnership to Prevent Health Care Fraud**

Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Kathleen Sebelius and Attorney General Eric Holder last week announced the launch of a ground-breaking

partnership among the federal government, State officials, several leading private health insurance organizations, and other health care anti-fraud groups to prevent health care fraud. This voluntary, collaborative arrangement uniting public and private organizations is the next step in the Obama administration's efforts to combat health care fraud and safeguard health care dollars to better protect taxpayers and consumers.

The new partnership is designed to share information and best practices in order to improve detection and prevent payment of fraudulent health care billings. Its goal is to reveal and halt scams that cut across a number of public and private payers. The partnership will enable those on the front lines of industry anti-fraud efforts to share their insights more easily with investigators, prosecutors, policymakers and other stakeholders. It will help law enforcement officials to more effectively identify and prevent suspicious activities, better protect patients' confidential information and use the full range of tools and authorities provided by the Affordable Care Act and other essential statutes to combat and prosecute illegal actions.

To learn more about this effort, including the initial list of partners, go to <http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2012pres/07/20120726a.html>

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### **HAI Action Plan Update: Long-Term Care Facilities Chapter Available for Public Comment**

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) recently [announced](#) the availability for public comment of Phase 3 in the 5-year *National Action Plan to Prevent Healthcare-Associated Infections: Roadmap to Elimination* (HAI Action Plan). The new [Long-Term Care \(LTC\) chapter](#) focuses on combating HAIs in nursing facilities and skilled nursing facilities. It extends earlier efforts that focused on acute care hospitals (Phase 1), ambulatory surgical centers and end-stage renal disease facilities (Phase 2) and influenza vaccination of healthcare personnel (Phase 2).

The LTC strategy proposes to expand the activities of multiple federal and nonfederal partners to combat HAIs prevalent in LTC settings, including urinary tract infection (UTI), lower respiratory tract infections, influenza and influenza-like illness, *Clostridium difficile* infection (CDI), and skin, soft tissue, and wound infections. The chapter proposes that progress be assessed by tracking resident influenza and pneumonia vaccination rates and the rates of two HAIs:

HHS encourages comments from the general public, state and local health agencies, professional groups, foundations, Medicare and Medicaid-related

organizations, insurers, business groups, and others. Comments may be submitted to [OHQ@hhs.gov](mailto:OHQ@hhs.gov) until 5:00 PM (ET) on August 22, 2012.

Please see the HHS web site for additional information about the [HAI Initiative](#) and the HHS [Partnership for Patients](#)

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### **In Bi-Partisan Vote, Foreign Relations Committee Passes Disabilities Treaty**

On last Thursday, July 26, the 22<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee passed a resolution of advice and consent to Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Treaty Doc. 112-7). The resolution was passed by a strong bi-partisan vote of 13 to 6. To read more, go to <http://www.foreign.senate.gov/press/chair/release/in-bi-partisan-vote-foreign-relations-committee-passes-disabilities-treaty->

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### **AoA Partner WISER and Its President Recognized as Valuable Financial Planning Resources**

This summer has been a season of recognition for WISER (Women's Institute for a Secure Retirement) and its President Cindy Hounsell. WISER partners with AoA on a cooperative agreement under the Women and Retirement Planning Program.

In June, *Forbes* magazine recognized the WISER website ([www.wiserwomen.org](http://www.wiserwomen.org)) as one of the top 100 in its third annual ForbesWoman Top 100 Websites for Women. The magazine describes the WISER website as "...offering the best steps for your financial future." To review the list of all 100 websites, go to <http://www.forbes.com/sites/forbeswomanfiles/2012/06/20/top-100-websites-for-women-2012/>

In its July Heroes section, *Money Magazine* recognized WISER President Cindy Hounsell as one of five "Champions of Financial Education." *Money* cites Hounsell for helping women secure their financial futures. To read about all five champions of financial education, go to <http://money.cnn.com/galleries/2012/pf/1207/gallery.financial-literacy.moneymag/index.html>

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## Stay Informed

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### Regional Health Care Law 101 Webinars

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Partnership Center continues to host a series of interactive webinars discussing the benefits and provisions of the health care law, the Affordable Care Act.

All webinars are open to the public and include a question and answer session where you can ask HHS staff any question you may have about the health care law. Please submit questions you would like to have answered on the webinar to [ACA101@hhs.gov](mailto:ACA101@hhs.gov)

To participate in one of the regional webinars, please select your preferred location from the list below and submit the necessary information.

Regional Health Care Law 101 Webinars:

[August 2, 2:30 pm PT](#) – Arizona, California, Hawaii, Nevada, Pacific Territories, and Freely Associated States (HHS Region 9)

[August 7, 2:00 pm ET](#) –New Jersey and New York (HHS Region 2)

[August 8, 11:00 am ET](#) – Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont (HHS Region 1)

[August 8, 2:00 pm CT, 1:00 pm MT](#) – Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas (HHS Region 6)

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### Friday Morning Collaborative Webinar Series

The Affordable Care Act (ACA) provides new opportunities for states to improve access Medicaid Home and Community Based Services. Two such opportunities are the Balancing Incentive Program and Community First Choice Option.

Six states have now been approved for the Balancing Incentive Program and two states have applied for the Community First Choice Option. Many others are considering these programs.

This webinar on State Progress on Balancing Incentive Program and Community First Choice Option will bring together state Medicaid officials and

advocates to highlight progress and provide insights to assist advocates in other states.

Date: Friday, August 3, 2012  
Time: 2:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. ET

[Register now](#)

Speakers:

Eric Saber, Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene  
Kristi Plotner, Mississippi Division of Medicaid  
David Ivers, Easter Seals Arkansas  
Justin Foley, SEIU

The webinar will be recorded and posted online.

The [Friday Morning Collaborative](#) is a coalition of national aging and disability organizations working together to protect and strengthen Medicaid home and community-based services. With support from [The SCAN Foundation](#), the coalition is hosting ongoing webinars to provide information and resources to state advocates.

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### ***BACS Brain Boost-to-Go Webinar***

Sponsored by the American Society on Aging, *BACS Brain Boost-to-Go* chronicles the efforts of the Bay Area Community Services (BACS) organization to make the early support and educational benefits of early memory loss programs accessible to all. The webinar will explore purpose, design, strategies, and outcomes of this ongoing outreach to pre-need older adults.

Date: Thursday, August 9, 2012  
Time: 10:00 a.m. PT / 11:00 a.m. MT / 12:00 p.m. CT / 1:00 p.m. ET

Participants in this web seminar will:

- Receive information on early memory loss programs
- Learn strategies for tailoring curricula to different educational/cultural/experiential levels
- Familiarize themselves with resources for outreach and curriculum design.

[Register Now](#)

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## **LTQA Webinars**

The Long-Term Quality (LTQA) will sponsor two webinars in August that will address LTSS (long term services and supports).

The webinars will:

- Describe LTSS and the impact of transitions on older adults receiving long term services and supports (LTSS)
- Examine the impact of the Affordable Care Act on improving care transitions for older adults receiving LTSS
- Discuss the opportunities and threats presented by three provisions for improving care transitions
- Describe short- and long-term policy strategies that will ensure the law's effective implementation and improve health and quality of life and reduce costs for older adults receiving LTSS.

[Click Here to Register for the August 9th webinar](#) featuring Mark D. McClellan, MD, PhD, Director, Engelberg Center for Health Care Reform; Senior Fellow, Economic Studies; and Leonard D. Schaeffer Chair in Health Policy Studies at the Brookings Institution

[Click Here to Register for the August 28th webinar](#) featuring David C. Grabowski, PhD, Professor of Health Care Policy at Harvard Medical School.

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## **Tools & Information**

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### **New Data on the AGID Website**

2011 National Survey of Older Americans Act Participants data are now on AGID (<http://www.agidnet.org/>). User-defined tables can be produced in the “Custom Tables” portion (<http://www.agidnet.org/CustomTables/NPS/Data/>) of the site. Public use files, along with codebooks, survey documentation, and user help files can be downloaded in the “Data Files” portion of the site (<http://www.agidnet.org/DataFiles/NPS/>).

There are also updates to the Census Population Estimates to incorporate 2010 and 2011 data, along with a refresh of the 2000-2009 data ([http://www.agidnet.org/DataGlance/Pop\\_State/](http://www.agidnet.org/DataGlance/Pop_State/)).

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## **The National Aging Information and Referral Support Center**

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

One AoA-funded Resource Center, the National Aging Information and Referral Support Center (the Center), is administered by the National Association of States United for Aging and Disabilities. For over 20 years, the Center has provided training, technical assistance, product development and consultation on a myriad of issues relating to information & assistance and aging programs to state agencies on aging and disabilities, Area Agencies on Aging, Aging and Disability Resource Centers, and more than 2,000 aging information and referral/assistance provider agencies.

The Center recently developed a free online training course, "Basic Training for Aging I&R/A Professionals." This course aims to advance the knowledge, skills and work-related competences of I&R/A professionals and is designed to help prepare them to obtain a certification in CIRS-A (Certified Information and Referral Specialist-Aging).

To learn more about the National Aging Information and Referral Support Center and the new online training, visit [http://www.nasud.org/I\\_R/ir\\_index.html](http://www.nasud.org/I_R/ir_index.html)

If you would like to know more about the Resource Centers that AoA funds, you can find information at: [http://www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/Resource\\_Centers/Index.aspx](http://www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/Resource_Centers/Index.aspx)

AoA will be featuring the other resource centers in future newsletters.

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## **AHRQ Releases Training Modules to Help Improve the Safety of Nursing Home**

The Department of Health and Human Services Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) recently released a set of training modules to help educate nursing home staff on key patient safety concepts critical to improving the safety of nursing home residents. The modules "Improving Patient Safety in Long-Term Care Facilities" include the following publications:

*Detecting Change in a Resident's Condition*

*Communicating Change in a Resident's Condition*



## *Falls Prevention and Management*

Each of the modules has an instructor's guide and a student workbook.

Training of nursing home staff, including support for teamwork across specialties, is likely to be effective in reducing medical errors and improving patient safety and can help reduce the number of falls and fall-related injuries at nursing centers. Select to access the [modules](#).

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## **New Online Census Tool Gives Public Wider Access to Key US Statistics**

*Census API lets developers create custom apps, reach new users*

The US Census Bureau last week released a new online service that makes key demographic, socio-economic and housing statistics more accessible than ever before. The Census Bureau's first-ever public Application Programming Interface (API) allows developers to design Web and mobile apps to explore or learn more about America's changing population and economy.

The new API lets developers customize Census Bureau statistics into Web or mobile apps that provide users quick and easy access from two popular sets of statistics:

- 2010 Census (Summary File 1), which includes detailed statistics on population, age, sex, race, Hispanic origin, household relationship
- Owner/renter status, for a variety of geographic areas down to the level of census tracts and blocks.

To learn more, go to

<http://www.census.gov/newsroom/releases/archives/miscellaneous/cb12-135.html>

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## **Register for Perspectives on Nutrition and Aging: A National Summit**

On behalf of the AoA-MOWAA (Administration on Aging-Meals On Wheels Association of America) National Resource Center on Nutrition and Aging, we invite you to celebrate, imagine and build the future of senior nutrition in America at Perspectives on Nutrition and Aging: A National Summit, to be held near Washington, DC, on August 23, 2012, at the Gaylord National Harbor Hotel.

The officially sanctioned celebration of the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Older Americans Act Nutrition Program, this Summit is a unique opportunity to

explore the challenges and opportunities of the next 40 years and to prepare for the far-reaching health, economic and social consequences that will determine the future of senior nutrition services.

The registration fee for the Summit is \$50, which includes all materials, a luncheon with keynote speaker Dr. David L. Katz, and admission to all Summit sessions. Building the future will involve collaboration, innovation and courage from all of us. We hope you will join us at Perspectives on Nutrition and Aging: A National Summit.

You can register for the Summit online at <http://summit.nutritionandaging.org> and learn more about the event.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Erika Kelly or Suzanne Grubb at [resourcecenter@mowaa.org](mailto:resourcecenter@mowaa.org) or 703-548-5558.

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### ***10 Things to Discuss with Your Doctor to Promote Aging with Dignity and Independence***

Having regular conversations with your doctor is an important component of aging with dignity, independence and choice. Published by the SCAN Foundation, *10 Things to Discuss with Your Doctor to Promote Aging with Dignity and Independence*, describes important conversations to have with your doctor to prepare for changing health needs as you grow older.

This publication is the fourth in the SCAN Foundation's "10 Things You Should Know" [series](#), designed to encourage people to start thinking about and planning for their care needs. All of the reports are now available in [Spanish](#).

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### **New AARP Caregiver Resource Tool**

The AARP Public Policy Institute (PPI) has released a new fact sheet, *Assessing Family Caregiver Needs: Policy and Practice Considerations*. The fact sheet explains why it is important to assess and respond to family caregiver needs, highlights the fundamental principles of caregiver assessment and describes why assessments have an important role in a high-performing long-term services and supports (LTSS) system.

Link to fact sheet: [Assessing Family Caregiver Needs](#)

The fact sheet was produced with support from The SCAN Foundation and The Commonwealth Fund as a follow-on piece to *Raising Expectations: A State*

*Scorecard on Long-Term Services and Supports for Older Adults, People with Physical Disabilities, and Family Caregivers.*

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

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## **Cast Your Vote for the Intergenerational Rachel Carson Sense of Water Contest Winner**

The 2012 finalists for the Rachel Carson Intergenerational Sense of Water Contest have been announced. The submission categories for this contest include dance, photo, essay, and poetry. All entries were created by a multi-generational team. You are invited to [cast your ballot](#) for your favorite entry, only one, in each of the categories. Send your ballot or email with your favorites to [aging.info@epa.gov](mailto:aging.info@epa.gov) no later than September 24, 2012.

The sponsors of this annual contest include the US EPA, Generations United, the Rachel Carson Council, Inc, the Dance Exchange, and the National Center for Creative Aging. This intergenerational contest is now in its 6th year and continues to inspire persons who share a love for nature or the arts.

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## **Recent Reports**

*The Retirement Crisis and a Plan to Solve It*

<http://harkin.senate.gov/documents/pdf/5011b69191eb4.pdf>

Source: Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions  
Senator Tom Harkin, Chairman

Date: July 2012

*The Pension Factor 2012: Assessing the of Role of Defined Benefit Plans in Reducing Elder Economic Hardships*

[http://www.nirsonline.org/storage/nirs/documents/Pension%20Factor%202012/pensionfactor2012\\_final.pdf](http://www.nirsonline.org/storage/nirs/documents/Pension%20Factor%202012/pensionfactor2012_final.pdf)

Source: National Institute on Retirement Security

Date: July 2012

*Americans with Disabilities: 2010*

<http://www.census.gov/prod/2012pubs/p70-131.pdf>

Source: US Census Bureau

Date: July 2012

*8 Myths about Reverse Mortgages*

<http://www.ncoa.org/enhance-economic-security/home-equity/8-myths-about-reverse.html>

Source: National Council on Aging  
Date: July 23, 2012

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