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## Celebrating Olmstead and our Commitment to Community Living

By Kathleen Sebelius, Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services

Posted to the White House Blog on June 22, 2012

As I travel the country and visit people in their homes, schools, workplaces and health centers, I am reminded of how much our lives are shaped by the places we reside. Oftentimes, our opportunities are defined by the homes and communities in which we live.

Thirteen years ago, on June 22, 1999, people with disabilities moved closer to choosing where they live when the Supreme Court handed down the *Olmstead* v LC decision. This ruling established that people with disabilities have the right to live in the community with the proper services and supports, rather than being unnecessarily institutionalized.

Building on the <u>President's Year of Community Living</u>, this spring the Obama Administration created the <u>Administration for Community Living</u> (ACL) at the Department of Health and Human Services, bringing together its experts charged with developing policies and improving supports for seniors as well as people with disabilities. Among other activities, ACL promotes the goals of the Americans with Disabilities Act: to assure equality of opportunity, full participation, independent living, and economic self-sufficiency for individuals with disabilities.

We know that to make community living a success, we must integrate long-term services and supports with health care and housing. High quality, coordinated health care for seniors and people with disabilities allows them to avoid long-term stays in nursing homes and other institutions in the first place. Other times this coordination comes after someone has been living in an institution for years, which is the focus of HHS' partnership with the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

Today HUD Secretary Donovan and I help lead our agencies to coordinate rental assistance, health care and other supportive services for people with disabilities. Together, we have improved integration in HUD's 811 rental housing program for very low-income adults with disabilities, which last month announced a new \$85 million funding opportunity.

More than 20,000 people have already transitioned out of institutions through the Money Follows the Person program. The Affordable Care Act has extended the program for five years and added \$2.25 billion to help even more people move into the community. The Affordable Care Act also created financial incentives for states to help people who otherwise face institutional placement to get personal attendant services so they can live independently in their homes and communities.

America was built on the promise of equality and full participation for all. With every *Olmstead* anniversary comes a celebration of the progress we've made to help people with disabilities of all ages to have those opportunities. More work remains, but so does our unwavering commitment: we will continue to move forward until the promise of *Olmstead* is a reality for all Americans. <a href="http://www.whitehouse.gov/blog/2012/06/22/celebrating-olmstead-and-our-commitment-community-living">http://www.whitehouse.gov/blog/2012/06/22/celebrating-olmstead-and-our-commitment-community-living</a>

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# Administrator Greenlee to Address the Establishment of ACL and Its Impact on the Aging and Disability Networks

You are invited to join the American Society on Aging for the webinar *Recent Changes at the Administration on Aging: Impact on Aging and Disability Networks*. Kathy Greenlee, who serves the dual roles of Administrator of the Administration for Community Living and Assistant Secretary for Aging, will address the rationale for the change that brought together the Administration on Aging, the Office on Disability and the Administration on Developmental Disabilities to create the Administration for Community Living.

Date: Monday, July 2, 2012

Time: 11:00 a.m. PT / 12:00 p.m. MT / 1:00 p.m. CT / 2:00 p.m. ET

Register Now

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### New HHS Grants Expand Community Health Centers

Grants to support 219 communities and serve an additional 1.25 million patients

Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Kathleen Sebelius last week announced awards of new grants made possible by the health care law to expand community health centers. The grants awarded to 219 health centers will help expand access to care for more than 1.25 million additional patients and create approximately 5,640 jobs by establishing new health center service delivery sites. The awards total \$128.6 million and will go to community health

centers in 41 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the Northern Mariana Islands.

Community health centers work to improve the health of the nation by ensuring access to quality primary health care services. As community-based and patient-directed organizations, health centers are well positioned to be responsive to the specific health care needs of their community. Through the Affordable Care Act's commitment to expand access to high quality health care for all Americans, these grants will support establishment of new full-time service delivery sites. The Community Health Center grants are administered by the HHS Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA).

Health Center New Access Point grants, listed by organization and state, are available at http://www.hrsa.gov/about/news/2012tables/120620nap.html

To learn more about HRSA's Health Center Program, visit http://bphc.hrsa.gov/about/index.html

To find a health center in your area, visit http://findahealthcenter.hrsa.gov

En Español

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## World Elder Abuse Awareness Day - Capturing the Spirit and the Purpose

Throughout the month, in countless towns and cities across the country, government agencies, aging services organizations, protective services groups, financial institutions, and many others have hosted a wide range of events to acknowledge the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD).

Many of the events were held on June 15<sup>th</sup>, World Elder Abuse Awareness Day; some took place on June 14<sup>th</sup>, such as the White House World Elder Abuse Awareness Day Symposium. (Click on the links in the box below to view the symposium sessions.) To coincide with the White House event, the University of California @ Irvine's launched Ageless Alliance: United against Elder Abuse, a social justice movement involving all generations.

Several observances took a creative approach to draw attention to the physical, emotional or sexual abuse, financial exploitation, neglect, abandonment or self-neglect that many seniors secretly face. The examples below highlight how many events captured the importance of educating the public on the types of elder abuse and efforts to detect and prevent abuse with an entertaining flair.

- As in previous years, the State of Tennessee played its part in "lighting the way" to promote a better understanding of abuse and neglect of elderly and vulnerable adults by illuminating the State Capitol Building in purple, the WEAAD awareness color.
- More than 25 seniors of Ethos' AgeWell program in West Roxbury, Massachusetts joined the non-profit's staff and volunteers and members of Ethos' Boston Elder Protective Services Program for a flash mob. Morning shoppers at Roche Bros. Grocery Store were witness to the group's lively performance of singing and dancing to The Beatles "When I'm Sixty-Four." The event was organized by Ethos, an organization that directly aids and advocates for the elderly and people with disabilities, Faulkner Hospital and Roche Bros. According to the organizers, the participants rehearsed for weeks and the event was the first of its kind locally. To view the video of the performance and to learn more about Ethos, visit the website at <a href="http://www.ethocare.org/">http://www.ethocare.org/</a>
- Onslow Parks and Recreation (North Carolina) partnered with the Eastern Carolina Area Agency on Aging to host the World Elder Abuse Awareness Day Walk.

To read more stories (add your event to the list), visit the WEAAD database at <a href="http://ncea.aoa.gov/NCEAroot/Main\_Site/About/Initiatives/tas\_search.aspx?">http://ncea.aoa.gov/NCEAroot/Main\_Site/About/Initiatives/tas\_search.aspx?</a>

White House World Elder Abuse Awareness Day Symposium The links are given in the order of the sessions.

- #1 http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-X0N4rL\_\_tc&feature=context-chv
- #2 http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=49g5h-x1sGg&feature=context-chv
- #3 http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=29zuVUtrUjI&feature=context-chv
- #4 http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6K2zeBkvc74&feature=context-chv

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# **Funding Opportunity**

### **SAMSHA Funding Opportunity**

The Department of Health and Human Services Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) is accepting applications for the

Targeted Capacity Expansion Program: Substance Abuse Treatment for Racial/Ethnic Minority Populations at High Risk for HIV/AIDS. The purpose of this program is to facilitate the development and expansion of culturally competent and effective community-based treatment systems for substance use and co-occurring mental disorders within racial and ethnic minority communities in states with the highest HIV prevalence rates (at or above 270 per 100,000). The grants will total up to \$130.5 million over the course of a five year period.

To learn more about this funding opportunity, including the states and territories with the prerequisite HIV prevalence rates, and to download an application, go to <a href="www.grants.gov">www.grants.gov</a>

# FEMA Announces FY 2012 Continuing Training Grant Program Funding Opportunity

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) recently announced that the Agency is accepting applications for the fiscal year (FY) 2012 Continuing Training Grants (CTG) program. Applicants must submit completed applications through www.grants.gov no later than 11:59 p.m. EST, on July 3, 2012.

The purpose of the FY 2012 CTG program is to develop and deliver a national training program that provides tailored, specialized training to first responders and/or citizens to meet emerging training needs in our nation's communities to help prevent, protect against, respond to, recover from, and mitigate terrorist attacks, major disasters, and other emergencies. The training must address the requirement that all courses be accessible, complying with section 504 and 508 of the Rehabilitation Act.

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### **Funding Opportunity Reminders**

### Two ACL Funding Opportunities through ADD

### Competitive Integrated Employment for Individuals with I/DD

Funds will be awarded to build capacity across and within states through State consortia, to create and share policies, practices and systems that support competitive, integrated employment outcomes to support individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD). The application due date is July 10, 2012.

	${ m em}$ ent and to download an application, go to $lacksquare$	
Download (pdf - 331 kb)	□View HTML	

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# Data Collection and Information Dissemination on Residential and In Home Services for Persons with Developmental Disabilities

Funds will be awarded to collect, analyze and report on data to describe services and supports for persons with developmental disabilities. The purpose of this project is to conduct a national study that analyzes and describes where people with developmental disabilities receiving, State and non-State, Medicaid-funded and non-Medicaid funded residential services are living in the United States (U.S.).

The application due date is July 20, 2012.

To read the full announcement and to download an application, go to □ Download (pdf - 331 kb ) □ View HTML

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# HHS Grants to Help Protect Seniors, Test Elder Abuse Prevention Strategies

On June 14, World Elder Abuse Awareness Day, Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Kathleen Sebelius announced a \$5.5 million funding opportunity for states and tribes to test ways to prevent elder abuse, neglect and exploitation. This initiative helps to implement the Elder Justice Act, which was enacted as part of the Affordable Care Act.

The applications are available through <u>www.grants.gov</u> (Funding Number HHS-2012-AOA-EA-1214) and will be due July 31, 2012. The final awards will be made no later than Sept. 30, 2012.

Secretary Sebelius made the announcement at a White House World Elder Abuse Awareness Day commemoration. The all-day event brought together the public and private sector to address elder abuse issues.

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## Stay Informed

# Webinar on Strategies for Increasing Self-Identification for Candidates and Employees with Disabilities

Creating an inclusive workplace culture is critical for attracting and retaining candidates and employees with disabilities. This may become increasingly important in view of the Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs

(OFCCP) proposed revised regulations of Section 503 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended and released last December, which sets hiring goals for federal contractors.

While many companies are working hard to diversify their employee base and include applicants with disabilities, those with non-visible impairments are often reluctant to self-identify for the fear of not getting hired. This webinar will present strategies for creating environments where applicants and employees are comfortable with disclosing their disabilities thereby allowing organizations to represent more accurately both the composition of their workforce and their efforts toward diversity and inclusion. Specifically, participants will learn about:

- 1. Inclusive workforce practices that lead to disability disclosure and self-identification.
- 2. Ways to transform an existing corporate culture into one that welcomes and supports candidates and employees with disabilities and how these strategies increase employee engagement, productivity and overall positive outcomes.

Date: Thursday, June 28, 2012

Time: 2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. Eastern Time

To register, go to <a href="http://askearn.org/webinar\_registration\_2012-06-28.cfm">http://askearn.org/webinar\_registration\_2012-06-28.cfm</a>

This webinar is sponsored by The National Technical Assistance, Policy, and Research Center for Employers on the Employment of People with Disabilities (National Employer TA Center, NETAC), which is funded through the US Department of Labor's Office of Disability Employment Policy.

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### **NCOA Webinars**

Benefits Access for Older Adults: Helping Clients Find Programs to Boost Their Economic Security (co-sponsored with IlluminAge)

One in three older Americans is economically insecure—lacking the resources needed to meet basic food, housing and medical needs. For these vulnerable older adults, who may have few opportunities to increase their earnings, public and private benefits can be a critical tool to help them free up limited income. Yet millions of seniors who qualify for this help are not enrolled in programs that can help them pay for food, prescriptions, medical care, and household utilities.

What are these benefits and how can we increase knowledge and access to them? That's the question we'll cover in this webinar.

Date: June 28, 2012

Time: 1:30 p.m.-2:30 p.m. ET

Register

### Making the Most of NCOA's Crossroads

Did you ever wish you could ask a colleague's advice and didn't know who to call? Attend this free one-hour webinar on using NCOA's online community, Crossroads. Learn how it can connect you with aging-field professionals nationwide.

Date: June 28, 2012

Time: 2:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m. ET

Register

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# Webinar on What could that FREE lunch cost you? -- How to Avoid Being Drawn Into Financial Elder Abuse Scams

Seniors fear outliving their assets and are constantly drawn to individuals whom they believe can help them. Often times these individuals are scam artists peddling worthless services or unsuitable financial products. Assisted living facilities staff members who allow these individuals to make financial presentations in their buildings risk being accused of "assisting" in elder financial abuse. Current civil and criminal laws on financial abuse continue to evolve and assisted living facilities need to protect themselves from needless exposure to criminal elder financial abuse, civil liability and negative publicity.

This webinar will address the Veteran's Aid and Attendance Benefit scams, unsuitable annuities and other financial schemes that target seniors living in assisted living facilities.

Date: Wednesday, June 27, 2012

Time: 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Pacific / 2:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m. Eastern

Reserve your Webinar seat now at:

https://www4.gotomeeting.com/register/793384615

After registering you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the Webinar.

This free webinar is sponsored by the Assisted Living Consumer Alliance, www.assistedlivingconsumers.org

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#### **Webinar Reminders**

# ACL Webinar on Managed Long-Term Services and Supports: Engaging in the Stakeholder Process

On Wednesday, June 27, 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.

**Date:** Wednesday, June 27, 2012 **Time:** 2:00-3:30 p.m. Eastern

### **Description:**

As states move toward developing and implementing 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. In this webinar, we will offer a framework for analyzing proposals to be sure that they meet consumers' needs – particularly related to home and community-based services.

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## To register for the online event

- 1. Go to <a href="https://aoa-events.webex.com/aoa-events/onstage/g.php?d=660857762&t=a">https://aoa-events.webex.com/aoa-events/onstage/g.php?d=660857762&t=a</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 (<a href="http://www.aoa.gov/Aging\_Statistics/Health\_care\_reform.aspx#webinar">http://www.aoa.gov/Aging\_Statistics/Health\_care\_reform.aspx#webinar</a>) soon after the webinar.

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NCOA Webinar on the Five Phases of Benefits Access

The National Council on Aging (NCOA) will host a two-day webinar series on June 26 and June 27 to discuss the five phases of benefits access to help ensure eligible clients receive, use, and maintain benefits. This training is designed for those who are new to benefits counseling, and for those who want to learn more about the range of benefits access.

The series will be divided into five phases:

Outreach and education Screening Application assistance Understanding how to use the benefit Retention/recertification

Register for June 26, 2:00 p.m.-3:30 p.m. EST Register for June 27, 2:00 p.m.-3:30 p.m. EST

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**Tools & Information** 

## **HHS LGBT Issues Coordinating Committee 2012 Report**

In April 2010, President Barack Obama asked Secretary of Health and Human Services Kathleen Sebelius to identify steps the Department could take to improve the health and well-being of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender ("LGBT") individuals and families. In response, Secretary Sebelius set up a Department-wide LGBT Issues Coordinating Committee, currently co-chaired by Assistant Secretary for Health Dr. Howard Koh, Administrator of the Administration for Community Living and Assistant Secretary for Aging Kathy Greenlee and Deputy General Counsel Ken Choe (who replaced former Acting Assistant Secretary for Children and Families David Hansell). The Committee, on behalf of the Secretary, developed the Secretary's Recommended Actions to the President to Improve LGBT Health and Well-Being ("2011 objectives"), which were sent to the President and released to the public in April 2011 (http://www.hhs.gov/secretary/about/lgbthealth.html).

As the Department continues its efforts in support of all communities, it is pleased to present in this 2012 report both its accomplishments from this past year and its goals for this coming year with respect to the LGBT community. <a href="http://www.hhs.gov/secretary/about/lgbthealth\_objectives\_2012.html">http://www.hhs.gov/secretary/about/lgbthealth\_objectives\_2012.html</a>

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# More Than 100,000 Health Care Providers Using Electronic Health Records

CMS and ONC surpass 2012 goals for electronic health records adoption and use

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) and the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC) recently announced that more than 100,000 health care providers are using electronic health records that meet federal standards and have benefitted from the Medicare and Medicaid Electronic Health Record (EHR) Incentive Programs,.

Only three months ago, CMS Acting Administrator Marilyn Tavenner and National Coordinator for Health Information Technology Farzad Mostashari, M.D., Sc.M., declared an ambitious goal of getting 100,000 health care providers to adopt or meaningfully use EHRs by the end of 2012. Last week, that goal was met and surpassed.

The EHR Incentive Programs, which began in 2011, provide incentive payments to eligible professionals, hospitals, and critical access hospitals as they adopt, implement, upgrade, or meaningfully use certified EHR technology in ways that improve care. Eligible professionals include physicians, nurse practitioners, certified nurse midwives, and some physician assistants. The program was established by the Health Information for Clinical and Economic Health Act of 2009 (HITECH), one of President Obama's first priorities enacted upon taking office.

Forty-four states are participating in the Medicaid EHR Incentive Program as of May 2012. For more information on which states are participating, please visit the EHR Incentive Programs website at <a href="http://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Legislation/EHRIncentivePrograms/MedicaidStateInfo.html">http://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Legislation/EHRIncentivePrograms/MedicaidStateInfo.html</a>

For more information on the Medicare and Medicaid EHR Incentive Programs, visit <a href="http://www.cms.gov/ehrincentiveprograms/">http://www.cms.gov/ehrincentiveprograms/</a>

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# Indiana and Ohio to Test New Health IT Effort to Reduce Prescription Drug Abuse

White House Drug Policy Director commends use of technology in combating nation's prescription drug abuse epidemic

Existing prescription drug use data will be made available to providers and pharmacists when treating patients in ambulatory and emergency departments through a new pilot program recently launched by the Department of Health and Human Services' (HHS) Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC). The pilot projects, which will take place in Indiana and Ohio, will measure the effects of expanding and improving access

to prescription drug monitoring programs (PDMPs) and are part of the Obama administration's comprehensive efforts to reduce the prescription drug abuse epidemic.

The pilot project in Indiana will demonstrate how emergency department staff can receive a patient's controlled substance prescription history directly through the Regenstrief Medical Record System (RMRS), a care management system used by Wishard Health Services, a community health system in Indianapolis, and other hospitals.

The Ohio pilot project will test the impact of having a drug risk indicator in the electronic health record and how that affects clinical decision making. The Ohio project is a collaboration with the Springfield Center for Family Medicine, Eagle Software Corporation's NARXCHECK, the State of Ohio, and MITRE.

To read more about this initiative, go to <a href="http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2012pres/06/20120621c.html">http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2012pres/06/20120621c.html</a>

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## Guidance on How to Become a Health Literate Organization

Expanding on a two-page precursor, the National Academy of Sciences Institute of Medicine has published the discussion paper, "Ten Attributes of a Health Literate Health Care Organization." The paper presents the attributes that exemplify a health literate health care organization, the evidence to support the attributes and concrete implementation steps.

You can access the paper at: <a href="http://iom.edu/Global/Perspectives/2012/HealthLitAttributes.aspx">http://iom.edu/Global/Perspectives/2012/HealthLitAttributes.aspx</a>

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### **New NIH Online Resource**

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) recently launched NIH Impact. This online resource offers data on the impact NIH-funded research has on improving human health, fueling the US economy and creating jobs in our communities.

Go to <a href="http://www.nih.gov/about/impact/index.htm">http://www.nih.gov/about/impact/index.htm</a> to learn more about this new resource.

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New Mexico Indian Elders Lead Way in Social Security Debate

On June 20, the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) adopted a national resolution showing Indian Country's support for Social Security. NCAI is comprised of elected leaders representing most of the nation's 565 federally recognized tribes.

The resolution was developed through a grassroots initiative under a grant award by the National Academy of Social Insurance (NASI) for an International Association for Indigenous Aging (IA2), a non-profit educational organization, project entitled, "Leverage Model for Indian Elder Advocacy: Giving Elders a Voice on the National Stage." The "Leverage Model" was designed to inform the national policymaking process by bringing the voices of elders at the grassroots level to the national stage.

## The NCAI resolution urges Congress:

- To not reduce Social Security's Cost of Living Allowance and to increase the allowance in proportion to realistic rates of inflation experienced by low-income beneficiaries, such as rising health care costs.
- To not raise the age of full Social Security eligibility and consider returning it to 65, thus including more American Indian/Alaska Native (AIAN) beneficiaries who have low-income, physically challenging careers.
- To protect low-income beneficiaries by utilizing broad sources of income to assure Social Security's solvency.
- To mandate and fund the Social Security Administration to increase intergenerational outreach and educational opportunities to help underserved populations achieve greater economic security over their lifetimes.

To read more about the resolution, go to http://www.iasquared.org/newsandevents.html

To learn more about the an International Association for Indigenous Aging, go to <a href="http://www.iasquared.org/home.html">http://www.iasquared.org/home.html</a>

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### HomeMeds - Evidence-Based Medication Program

Formerly known as MMIS (Medication Management Improvement System), HomeMeds is one of several disease prevention and health promotion programs meeting the Administration on Aging's (AoA) highest-level criteria for evidence-based programs which are listed on the <u>AoA Title IIID webpage</u>

Agencies identify medication-related problems that could benefit from HomeMeds by documenting comprehensive medication information and performing a short risk assessment in a web-based system. When the system signals an alert for potential problems, HomeMeds links to a pharmacist for review, recommendation, and follow through with prescribers of the medications. HomeMeds sites across the country have a variety of arrangements with pharmacists – both paid and volunteer models including partnering with a local school of pharmacy.

HomeMeds is included in the <u>AHRQ Innovations Exchange</u> site with a "Strong" evidence rating. It is currently being implemented in a variety of settings for a variety of purposes – care transitions, Medicaid waivers, AAAs, senior housing, care coordination, ADRCs, and home health. Optimal when paired with a home visit, the HomeMeds program can be performed within other contexts such as health screenings or as an adjunct to multi-session evidence-based programs. The cost of the program includes a monthly fee to use the software, plus a small training and consultation fee for the startup year. Smaller sites can negotiate for shared training and other adaptations.

For more information visit <a href="www.HomeMeds.org">www.HomeMeds.org</a> or send an email to <a href="https://HomeMeds@picf.org">HomeMeds@picf.org</a>

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### Aging Today

Aging Today, the American Society on Aging's (ASA) bimonthly newspaper, offers expert coverage of trends, developments and controversies in aging.

The articles below are in the current issue of *Aging Today* and are available on the ASA website for viewing by non-subscribers.

<u>Going Dutch: A Mixed-Use Housing Model From the Netherlands Responds to the Aging Demographic</u>

Creating a Safe Harbor for African American LGBT Elders

Baby Boomers Will Transform This (Late) American Life

To subscribe to *Aging Today*, go to <a href="http://members.asaging.org/members\_online/members/createorder.asp?action=catalog&catalog=SUB&af=ASA">http://members.asaging.org/members\_online/members/createorder.asp?action=catalog&catalog=SUB&af=ASA</a>

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### June Issue of The Voice® Newsletter Is Now Available Online

The June 2012 issue of The Voice®, the e-mail newsletter of the Special Needs Alliance, is now available online. The featured author is Barbara Isenhour, a member of the Special Needs Alliance and a board member of NAMI (National Alliance of Mental Illness) Eastside in Redmond, Washington. The focus of this issue is "Citizenship Status and Disability Benefits."

To access the newsletter, go to <a href="http://specialneedsalliance.org/the-voice/6/8">http://specialneedsalliance.org/the-voice/6/8</a>

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#### **Observances**

### June Observances

LGBT Pride Month

Sponsor: Equality Forum

http://www.equalityforum.com/

To read HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius' News Release on LGBT Pride Month, go to <a href="http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2012pres/06/20120601a.html">http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2012pres/06/20120601a.html</a>

National Home Safety Month Sponsor: Home Safety Council

www.homesafetycouncil.org/homesafetymonth

June 27

National HIV Testing Day

Sponsor: National Association of People with AIDS

http://www.napwa.org/

Resource: http://aids.gov/awareness-days/national-hiv-testing-day/

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