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Friday Updates *April 29, 2011*

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From the Administration

Administration on Aging

AoA Webinar - Partnership for Patients: The Community-Based Care Transitions Program

April 20, 2011

AoA held a webinar which provided an overview of the Partnership for Patients, the Community-based Care Transitions program (CCTP), and the recently released solicitation for CCTP through which the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has committed \$500 million to community-based organizations partnering with eligible hospitals to help people within Medicaid safely transition between care settings. [Click here for the full text of the Community Based Care Transitions program solicitation.](#)

The Partnership for Patients is a new national public-private partnership that is expected by HHS to save up to \$35 billion over three years, with the following goals for improving patient safety: Reduce harm caused to patients in hospitals by decreasing hospital acquired conditions by 40%; Improve patient care transitions by reducing preventable complications during a transition from one care setting to another including a 20% reduction in preventable hospital readmissions.

The Care Transitions program provides ACA funding to test models for improving care transitions for high risk Medicare beneficiaries. CCTP is expected to run for five years and includes the following goals:

Improving transitions of beneficiaries from the inpatient hospital setting to home or other care settings; improving quality of care; reducing readmissions for high risk beneficiaries; and documenting demonstrated measureable savings to the Medicare program. The webinar offered suggestions to organizations considering implementing CCTPs within local communities.

[Click here for the full webinar slide presentation](#)

[Click here for the CMS Community-based Care Transitions solicitation](#)

Congressional Budget Office

Repealing ACA Funding Through H.R. 1213: A Congressional Budget Office Cost Estimate

April 27, 2011

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) and the staff of the Joint Committee on Taxation (JCT) have completed a cost estimate of H.R. 1213, a House bill which would repeal mandatory Affordable Care Act (ACA) funding intended to provide grants to states for establishing health insurance exchanges. The CBO and JCT estimate that H.R. 1213 could reduce national deficits by almost \$13 billion from 2012-2016.

Most of the budgetary effect of H.R. 1213, is expected by the CBO and JCT to be reductions in subsidies for health insurance purchased through exchanges. CBO reports other potential results include the delay in establishment of health insurance exchanges leading to increased premiums, reduced desirability of exchanges in comparison to other insurance products, decreased capacity to process enrollment, and reduced total enrollment.

[Click here for the full report](#)

Federal Emergency Management Agency

National Level Emergency Management Exercise 2011 Webinar for Disability Stakeholders

April 27, 2011

The Office of Disability Integration and Coordination within the Federal Emergency Management Agency is holding a webinar on Monday, May 2, 2011 at 4:00PM EST. The webinar will provide information on the National Level Exercise 2011 (NLE 11) emergency simulation and some opportunities for organizations to participate in an exercise on May 16-19, 2011. To RSVP, email NEP@dhs.gov with "ATTN: Peter Higgins" in the subject line. The webinar will be posted on line after May 2, at <https://connect.hsin.gov/ccpwg>.

NLE 2011 will simulate an earthquake in the central U.S. and will focus on the response capabilities among federal, regional, state, tribal, local, private sector, and other non-governmental partners. One goal of NLE is to show the importance of non-governmental organizations and other non-governmental entities in disaster management.

From Other Organizations

The Kaiser Family Foundation

Reports Examine Potential for Expanded Primary Care Capacity in Medicaid under Health Reform

April 27, 2011

The Kaiser Family Foundation released on Wednesday two new reports on the expanded primary care capacity under the Affordable Care Act (ACA). This act contains provisions to expand Medicaid to include approximately 32 million additional people and subsidies for private coverage offered through new health insurance exchanges. To address the pressures these newly insured people will add to the current system, the Kaiser Family Foundation's Commission on Medicaid and the Uninsured released two papers.

[*Physician Willingness and Resources to Serve More Medicaid Patients: Perspectives from Primary Care Physicians*](#) analyses data from a survey of physicians to determine which adult-care primary care physicians would be willing to serve more Medicaid beneficiaries. The paper creates profiles of these physicians, their practices, patient care resources, and the possible constraints on their capacity to serve patients.

[*Improving Access to Adult Primary Care in Medicaid: Exploring the Potential Role of Nurse Practitioners and Physician Assistants*](#) examines the potential of non-physician health professionals to increase the availability of primary care services to Medicaid beneficiaries. The ACA includes investments in broadening the roles of these professions. This paper reviews the current roles of non-physician health professionals, the history of policy regarding their role in insurance programs, and evidence of cost and quality of care provided by nurse practitioners and physician assistants. It also includes a discussion of the regulatory barriers preventing full deployment of nurse practitioners and physician assistants, and steps that could clear those barriers and allow them to provide primary care under the ACA.

The Hilltop Institute

The Hilltop Institute Releases Issue Brief on States' Experience with Hospital Community Benefits

The Hilltop Institute at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC) has released [the second issue brief](#) in a three year series through Hilltop's Hospital Community Benefit Program. Funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the Kresge Foundation, the program was established as a central resource for state and local decision makers seeking to ensure that community benefit activities administered by tax-exempt hospitals are more responsive to community health needs.

The April issue brief, ["Hospital Community Benefits after the ACA: Building on State Experience,"](#) reviews three key aspects of community benefits that are affected by section §9007 of the ACA which refers to, "Additional requirements for nonprofit hospitals." Each key aspect is considered in the context of federal and state law and practice: a) Community health needs assessment; b) hospital financial assistance and billing collection policies; c) community benefit reporting and oversight strategies.

Released in January, 2011, the first issue brief in the series, ["The Emerging Federal Framework,"](#) provides a historical background on federal hospital community benefit policy; outlines the new requirements described in the ACA; and identifies new challenges and opportunities for state and federal decision makers within the new federal framework.

A third issue brief, scheduled to be released this summer (2011), is intended to assist policymakers in utilizing information submitted to the IRS by nonprofit hospitals with the goal of advancing state health policy goals.

The National Consumer Voice for Quality Long-Term Care

Residents' Voice Challenge for 2011

April 27, 2011

The National Consumer Voice for Quality Long-Term Care announced its annual Residents' Voice challenge. This is an opportunity that is open to residents of facilities across the United States.

Residents can respond to the following questions:

1. What is your favorite memory of growing up in your community?
2. What was your favorite community event growing up?
3. What does it mean to be a part of your community?
4. Why is it important to you to have community members come into your home/facility?

These responses can be in any kind of art form: poems, stories, videos, etc. One or two entries will be used in the Residents' Rights Month packet and community outreach kit. Submissions will also be displayed throughout the Consumer Voice and National Long-Term Care Ombudsman Resource Center websites.

Submissions are due by June 15, 2011 and can be sent to Consumer Voice Ombudsman Specialist Milissa Lake at mlake@theconsumervoice.org.

The American Society of Health-System Pharmacists

Study Finds that Pharmacists on Medical Home Teams Resolve Medication Problems

April 22, 2011

The American Society of Health-System Pharmacists released a study that found pharmacists on medical home teams resolve medication problems for patients in medical or mental health clinics for homeless individuals. The study of mental health and medical clinic patients studied pharmacists' recommendations on medication-related issues and the acceptance of their recommendations. The study concludes that integrating collaborative medical therapy management with a safety net patient-centered medical home is a valuable patient-centered strategy for addressing medication-related problems. A high acceptance rate of pharmacist recommendations, and related positive health outcomes illustrates the successful integration of pharmacist services. To read an abstract of the study, [click here](#).

The National Academies Press

The Health of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender People

April 27, 2011

The National Academies Press released a report called *The Health of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender People: Building a Foundation for Better Understanding*. The report evaluates the current literature on the health of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people; identifies knowledge gaps and

areas for improvement; and outlines a research agenda to improve understanding of issues facing this population.

[You can order a copy here.](#)

[For more information, click here.](#)



Upcoming Events from our Partners

[National Association of State Directors of Developmental Disabilities Services 2011 Mid-Year Conference, May 26-27, Philadelphia, PA](#)

[National Association of State Alcohol/Drug Abuse Directors Annual Meeting, June 7-10, 2011, Indianapolis, Indiana](#)

[The NASMHPD Annual 2011 Commissioners Meeting is being held Sunday, July 17 – Tuesday, July 19, 2011, at the Westin Alexandria, 400 Courthouse Square, Alexandria, Virginia 22314.](#)

[National Association of Medicaid Directors Fall Conference, November 7-9, 2011, Washington, DC](#)

[Archived Friday Updates are available on NASUAD's website here.](#)