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In this Issue:

- [Happy Holidays from NASUAD](#)
- [CMS Releases Fact Sheet for Pioneer ACO Model Organizations](#)
- [New ACA Demonstration to Provide Care at Home for Medicare Patients](#)
- [AoA Announces Aging Tabulation of the American Community Survey](#)
- [AoA Releases Second Draft of Options Counseling Standards](#)
- [Grants Available to Educate Women on ACA Benefits](#)
- [BenefitsCheckUp Gets New Look](#)
- [NCOA Brief: Cultural Competence and Benefits Access](#)
- [ADRC Technical Assistance Exchange Releases New Money Follows the Person Toolkit](#)
- [NCRC National Neighbors Silver Seeks Policy Analyst](#)
- [Kaiser Medicaid HCBS Programs Data Update](#)
- [NCST Announces Grants for Improving Mobility of Older Adults](#)

HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM NASUAD!

*Season's Greetings and Best Wishes
for a Joyous Holiday and a
Very Happy New Year!*



**FROM NASUAD PRESIDENT
CAROL SALA AND
THE NASUAD STAFF**



FROM THE ADMINISTRATION

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services

CMS Releases Fact Sheet for Pioneer ACO Model Organizations

December 19, 2011

On Monday, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) released a fact sheet on the Pioneer Accountable Care Organization (ACO) Model including the names of the 32 participating organizations. The Pioneer ACO Model was designed for organizations with experience offering coordinated, patient-centered care in ACO-like arrangements. The organizations were selected through an open competitive process.

The Pioneer ACO Model allows participating organizations to move more rapidly from a shared savings payment model to a population-based payment model consistent with the Medicare Shared Savings Program. The Model includes strong patient protections to ensure that patients have access to and receive high quality care.

The list of 32 participating organizations is available [here](#).

More information on the Pioneer ACO Model can be found [here](#).

New ACA Demonstration to Provide Care at Home for Medicare Patients

December 20, 2011

On Tuesday, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) announced a new demonstration program developed under the Affordable Care Act (ACA), the Independence at Home Demonstration. The new program will allow up to 10,000 Medicare patients with chronic conditions to receive most of the care they need at home.

The Independence at Home Demonstration expands the possible scope of in-home services under Medicare. Up to 50 medical practices will be selected to serve at least 200 Medicare beneficiaries with multiple chronic conditions and functional limitations.

Applications and Letters of Intent are due on February 6, 2012.

More information about this program and application information are available [here](#).

A full press release can be read [here](#).

Administration on Aging

AoA Announces Aging Tabulation of the American Community Survey

December 21, 2011

On Wednesday, the Administration on Aging (AoA) announced the availability of the special tabulation on aging of the 2005-2009 five year dataset of the Census Bureau's American Community Survey (ACS). The five year ACS Special Tabulation on Aging is based on the Census Bureau's American Community Survey 2005-2009 data. Over 60 tables for each of the 50 states plus the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico are included, with 10 different geographic levels including state, county, AoA planning and service areas (PSAs), congressional districts, tribal areas, and census tracts. The topics range from age, sex, and race/ethnicity to income and poverty, with particular emphasis on the 60 and older population. The results may be used for many purposes including serving as a component in the allocation formulas for Older Americans Act funding and for planning programs and services for the aging at all levels.

This special tabulation may be found on the AGID web site (agidnet.org) in the "Data Files" section. This may be directly accessed [here](#).

AoA Releases Second Draft of Options Counseling Standards

In 2010, the Administration on Aging (AoA) funded Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) programs in 20 states to work with AoA and each other in a collaborative process to develop national Options Counseling standards. These standards guide how Options Counseling is delivered, who delivers it, under what circumstances, and how outcomes are tracked across the ADRC network.

The October 2011 draft of the [AoA National Options Counseling Standards](#) is the second draft and incorporates feedback from grantee states, federal partners and other stakeholders. Please note that this language is a draft, additional edits are being reviewed, and the standards will continue to evolve as AoA continues discussions with stakeholders at the federal, state and local levels. This draft may be useful to states developing their options counseling programs. Please contact Eric.Weakly@AoA.hhs.gov with any questions.

The Standards are available [here](#).

Office on Women's Health

Grants Available to Educate Women on ACA Benefits

The Office on Women's Health, part of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, announced grants to support activities that provide awareness and education to women regarding programs, benefits, and rights under the Affordable Care Act (ACA). These activities can cover different areas of the Affordable Care Act such as preventive services,

Medicare benefits, reducing health disparities, and the Pre-Existing Condition Insurance Plan. Educational sessions should target women and provide them with information that will allow them to make informed health care decisions for themselves and their families.

Funding is available to eligible entities in the 50 states, DC, and the territories, and can include up to \$2,500.

Applications are due on January 20, 2012.

More information and application instructions are available [here](#).

FROM OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

National Council on Aging

BenefitsCheckUp Gets New Look

The National Council on Aging (NCOA) [BenefitsCheckUp](#) has a new look and new features. The new website allows users to see if Medicare Extra Help can save them money on medications, find food programs in their states, understand the steps to apply, and get updates on benefits available to them.

Visit the BenefitsCheckUp site [here](#).

NCOA Brief: Cultural Competence and Benefits Access

The National Council on Aging (NCOA) released an issue brief: [Cultural Competence and Benefits Access](#). This Issue Brief discusses how benefits counselors can adopt a systematic approach to deliver culturally competent services to ensure that low-income clients--regardless of their background--receive and retain benefits that help them to maintain a level of financial stability, remain healthy, and continue to live independently.

The issue brief is available for download [here](#).

ADRC Technical Assistance Exchange

ADRC Technical Assistance Exchange Releases New Money Follows the Person Toolkit

The Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) Technical Assistance Exchange (TAE) has produced a new [toolkit](#) for States with ADRC and Money Follows the Person (MFP) programs, [Building a Collaborative Partnership between the Money Follows the Person Rebalancing Demonstration and Aging and Disability Resource Centers](#).

Efforts are being made at the Federal and State levels to encourage system change to afford Americans with disabilities greater choice and control. State health and human service programs are struggling with economic and social policy constraints resulting in an ever increasing need for partnership within and across public and private programs. This toolkit provides useful information and helpful tools to aid States in coordinating ADRC and MFP programs towards joint goals.

The toolkit is available for download [here](#).

National Community Reinvestment Coalition

NCRC National Neighbors Silver Seeks Policy Analyst

The [Policy Analyst](#) is responsible for providing an advanced level of policy analysis in support of NCRC's National Neighbors Silver (NNS) initiative. NNS is a multi-year campaign to empower, organize and support economically vulnerable older adults. Combining advocacy, organizing and direct service, NNS will promote access to quality banking services and adequate housing for older adults.

The Policy Analyst will be responsible for completing policy analysis on topics affecting older adults that include, but are not limited to: housing cost burden; foreclosure trends; housing stock conditions; financial abuse and predatory lending; reverse mortgages; bank products geared for older adults; and affordable housing development.

More information can be found [here](#).

Kaiser Family Foundation

Kaiser Medicaid HCBS Programs Data Update

Developing home and community-based service (HCBS) alternatives to institutional care has been a priority for many state Medicaid programs over the last three decades. While the majority of Medicaid long-term care dollars still go toward institutional care, the national percentage of Medicaid spending on HCBS has more than doubled from 19 percent in 1995 to 43 percent in 2008. More than 3 million people were served by Medicaid HCBS programs in 2008, and hundreds of thousands of people are on waiting lists.

The Kaiser Family Foundation has updated its report with the most recent data.

The report is available [here](#).

National Center on Senior Transportation

NCST Announces Grants for Improving Mobility of Older Adults

The National Center on Senior Transportation (NCST) has announced a grant opportunity aimed at transportation projects that demonstrate solutions to improve the mobility of older adults. Grants of \$50,000 or less will be awarded to create mobility management systems, enhance mobility in urban and rural areas and improve public transit access.

Applications and more information are available [here](#).

Proposals are due December 23, 2011.



ARCHIVED FRIDAY UPDATES ARE AVAILABLE ON NASUAD'S WEBSITE HERE.