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NASUAD ANNOUNCES STAFFING CHANGES

Diana Scully to Join NASUAD Staff as Senior Director of State Services

NASUAD is proud to announce that Diana Scully will join the NASUAD team in mid-January to serve as the Senior Director of State Services. With a BA degree from Wellesley College, and an MSW from the University of Michigan, Diana Scully has more than 30 years of experience in health and human services, including almost 17 years in State Government. In 2006, she was appointed Director of Maine's Office of Elder Services and served for five and a half years, overseeing Older Americans Act and related programs (including nutrition programs), Adult Protective Services, and a broad range of long-term services and supports. During the 1980s, Ms. Scully held three leadership positions in the former Maine Department of Human Services: the Commissioner's Special Projects Director, overseeing four citizens/government task forces; the first Director of Welfare Employment, Education and Training; and Director of Rehabilitation. During the mid-1970s, Ms. Scully was a nonpartisan Legislative Analyst for the Maine State Legislature.

Ms. Scully also has gained a rich experience outside of State Government. Throughout the 1990s until the mid-2000s, she operated her consulting firm Vantage Point, providing management services/governmental relations, policy planning/development, and strategic planning/facilitation to more than 60 nonprofit and public health and human services organizations. During the late 1980s, Ms. Scully was the Home Care Administrator for a regional health agency. During the 1970s, she had national-level experience, first as a research assistant at the National Institutes for Mental Health and later as a policy analyst at the National Conference of State

Legislatures, where she staffed a subcommittee on aging and worked on national welfare reform. Through her work in both the public and private sectors, Ms. Scully has extensive experience building and facilitating coalitions, commissions, and work groups. Her earliest experience was as a Peace Corps community organizer in the Philippines in the early 1970s, where she helped to build local support

for a youth center. As the 1970s turned into the 1980s, Ms. Scully (as Director of Special Projects) helped create and support the work of four large coalitions of political and citizen leaders representing diverse and diverging interests. Later, as the appointed Director of Rehabilitation and the appointed Director of Elder Services, Ms. Scully was responsible for managing and working closely with numerous stakeholder groups. She also supported many coalitions through Vantage Point and earlier consulting work—including Faiths in Action Together, the Maine Council of Self-Insurers, the (ad hoc) Maine Disabilities Coalition, the Governor’s Commission on Diversity in Maine, the Maine Dental Coalition, the Maine Indian Tribal-State Commission, the Tribal-State Task Force, and the Wabanaki Studies Commission, among others.

Finally, as Director of Elder Services, Ms. Scully updated her 1980s experiences with nutrition issues for people with low income, through her responsibility for statewide nutrition programs for older Mainers. She oversaw nutrition programs funded by three federal sources (Older Americans Act, Social Services Block Grant, and Department of Agriculture), as well as funded by the State. She also oversaw several statewide evidence-based healthy aging programs, some of which include a focus on healthy eating.

Diana will be replacing Mike Cheek who will be joining the American Health Care Association as Vice President of Medicaid and Reimbursement after the first of the year. While Mike has been here just a year, he has brought a wealth of Medicaid knowledge and experience to the association, developed and delivered the Strengthening the Aging Network trainings, and initiated our efforts to provide enhanced technical assistance to the states. Mike will be leaving on December 21 and will also be missed.

We are also sad to report that Rex O’Rourke, our wonderful Australian Information and Referral specialist and keeper of humor for NASUAD, has made the decision to return to Australia. Rex’s wife Lauren has been admitted into one of the premier medical schools in Australia and will begin her studies shortly. Rex’s family is delighted that he will be moving closer (12,000 miles is a bit far to travel for the holidays), but we will miss him tremendously here at NASUAD. I have let him know that if he ever wants to return, he has a home at NASUAD. Rex’s last day is December 16 and he will be departing for Australia on the 19. Please wish him well.

FROM THE ADMINISTRATION

Department of Health and Human Services

National Influenza Vaccination Week

This week, December 4-10, 2011, was “National Influenza Vaccination Week,” a national observance that was established to highlight the importance of continuing influenza vaccination, as well as fostering greater use of flu vaccine after the holiday season into January and beyond. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) compiled materials, flyers, and events throughout the country. HHS also developed the [Flu Vaccine Finder](#), an interactive map to find vaccine sites throughout the country.

To access the National Influenza Vaccination Week site, click [here](#).

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services

Medicaid.gov Launched

December 5, 2011

On Monday, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) Center for Medicaid and CHIP Services announced the initial launch of Medicaid.gov. This website, the first Federal government website devoted to Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), provides information and news on Medicaid and CHIP programs. The site includes Federal policy guidance, pending and approved waivers, Affordable Care Act implementation efforts, state-specific program information and data, and improved search capabilities.

The website also includes a section intended to help consumers get information about Medicaid and CHIP in their state, as well as links to sites with more information.

CMS is requesting comments on the site, which can be provided [here](#).

Click [here](#) to visit Medicaid.gov.

Technical Assistance Center for the Balancing Incentive Program Launched

December 5, 2011

On Monday, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), in partnership with Mission Analytics Group, announced the launch to the [Technical Assistance Center for the Balancing Incentive Program](#). This Center provides resources for states such as the program application, the implementation manual, a sample work plan, a fillable CSA/CDS crosswalk, frequently asked questions, webinars, and more.

The Center can be found at www.balancingincentiveprogram.org.

Department of Labor

U.S. Labor Department Seeks Rule to Hire Workers with Disabilities

December 8, 2011

On Thursday, the U.S. Department of Labor announced a new proposed rule that would require federal contractors and subcontractors to set the goal of having seven percent of their workforces be people with disabilities. The proposal was published in today's edition of the Federal Register.

The seven percent hiring goal would be a tool for contractors to measure the effectiveness of their affirmative action efforts and would increase compliance with Section 503 of the

Rehabilitation Act of 1973. It would also enhance data collection and record-keeping requirements, which would improve accountability.

The proposed rule is open for comment through February 7, 2012.

The rule can be read and commented on [here](#).

Department of Housing and Urban Development

HUD Offers Grants for Housing Counseling

December 1, 2011

the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development announced more than \$40 million in grants for a broad range of housing counseling programs to help families find and preserve housing. The grants will be awarded to counseling agencies and State Housing Finance Agencies across the nation to offer services including tips for avoiding foreclosure, mortgage scams, and how to purchase or rent a home, improve credit scores, or qualify for a reverse mortgage.

The grants will be awarded to approximately 500 applicants.

To access the application, click [here](#) and enter 14.169 in the CFDA field.

Applications are due by January 12, 2012.

FROM CONGRESS

New Bill to Improve Transportation Options for Older Adults and Individuals with Disabilities

December 5, 2011

Earlier this week, Senators Kohl (D-Wis.) and Wyden (D-Ore.) introduced the Senior Transportation and Mobility Improvement Act (S. 1942). The bill builds upon existing public transit programs for older adults and individuals with disabilities by increasing state flexibility in implementing these federal programs and addressing program transparency efforts by strengthening planning, data, and reporting requirements.

In part, the legislation seeks to make some changes to the Section 5310 Elderly and Disabled Program by authorizing states to use their annual allocations to assist with the costs of operating vehicles at a 50 percent federal match, and by allowing states to use up to 33 percent of any increase in their allocation for operating and maintenance needs after FY12. Additionally, the bill would provide the National Center on Senior Transportation (NCST) with additional funding to help the Center provide both technical assistance and seed grants to innovative community programs, and it would also establish a supplemental Federal

Transit Association (FTA) mobility management program for older adults and people with disabilities.

The Senators are expected to work to have the bill's provisions included in the upcoming transportation reauthorization.

Congress Continues Work of FY12 Omnibus Spending Measure

Negotiations continue in the House and Senate on a nine-bill omnibus spending package, which appropriators hope will pass by December 16, when the current continuing resolution (CR) expires. Significant disagreements regarding the reach of the 2010 health overhaul law still surround the Labor-Health and Human Services (HHS)-Education appropriations bill, which funds many other programs of importance to older adults and individuals with disabilities. This contention will force the bill out of the year-end spending package, in which case Congress might pass an eight-bill "mega-bus" and attach a Labor-HHS-Education (HR 3070) CR maintaining the current FY11 funding levels through FY12. Additionally, also due to unresolved disagreements, House appropriations have hinted that CRs are possible for the Interior Environment (HR 2584) and Financial Services (HR 2434) spending bills. The text of a final appropriations package is expected to be released on December 12 or 13, and lawmakers have repeatedly expressed their intent to wrap up their work on FY12 appropriations before adjourning later this month.

Payroll Tax Cut and Doc Fix Expiration Looming

With the Social Security payroll tax cut set to expire at the end of the year, Republicans and Democrats are at odds over extending the tax reduction, and how to pay for it. Extending the Social Security tax paid by employees at the current 4.2 percent rate through 2012 would reduce revenue by an estimated \$119.6 billion. Instead of the surtax on those earning \$1 million or more that Democrats have proposed to offset the cost of the payroll tax cut, Republicans would pay for their legislative package (HR 3630) largely with savings from programs important to Democrats, including Medicare, Medicaid and implementation of the Affordable Care Act.

Meanwhile, lawmakers want to find a way to head off cuts in Medicare payments to health care providers that are currently scheduled to kick in on January 1, 2012. The House's payroll tax extension proposal (HR 3630) includes a two-year doc fix that would prevent a drop in the Medicare physician reimbursement rate. This would be partly offset with cuts to spending on the Affordable Care Act and to Medicare premium increases. The patch would block a 27 percent cut in Medicare payments and replace it with a 1 percent increase in reimbursements in 2012 and 2013, at a cost of \$38.9 billion over ten years.

The House is expected to vote on the GOP's bill on December 13. Whatever the outcome, the measure is not expected to gain any traction in the upper chamber. Though House Speaker John Boehner (R-Ohio) has targeted an adjournment date of December 16 or 18, Senate

Democrats have said they will remain in session as long as it takes to clear a payroll tax cut extension.

LIHEAP Protection Act introduced

December 7, 2011

This week, Senators Reed (D-RI), Snowe (R-ME), and Sanders (I-VT) introduced the LIHEAP Protection Act (S.1961). This legislation would provide level FY12 funding for The Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) at the current level of \$4.7 billion.

LIHEAP is the only federal program that helps low-income households and seniors with their energy bills, providing vital assistance during both the cold winter and hot summer months. Even though the number of households eligible for the program continues to exceed those receiving assistance, this funding has been a lifeline during the economic downturn and rising energy costs. The U.S. Census recently reported that 46.2 million people lived in poverty in 2010, the largest number in the 52 year history of published poverty estimates.

FROM THE STATES

Iowa

Iowa Department on Aging Ombudsman Position Open

The Iowa Department on Aging posted a job listing for a State Long-Term Care Ombudsman. The position is open for applicants through December 18, 2011. The State Long-Term Care Ombudsman performs advocacy work for persons living in long term care and assisted living facilities, identifies and investigates complaints made by or on behalf of residents and attempts to resolve with facilities, and performs related work as required.

A bachelor's degree in human services, nursing, social work, psychology, or long term care, or an equivalent combination of experience and education is required.

The job description is available [here](#). Instructions for applying can be found [here](#).

FROM OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

Generations United

More Families Living Under One Roof, Generations United Finds

December 6, 2011

On Tuesday, Generations United released a report, "Family Matters: Multigenerational Families in a Volatile Economy." The definition of "multigenerational household" used by the

Generations United poll and the Census Bureau is “one that contains three or more parent-child generations.” The Census Bureau found in 2010 that 3.8 percent of all U.S. households were multigenerational.

The report illustrates the findings that the number of families living in multigenerational households has increased more than 10 percent since 2007, to 51.4 million Americans of all ages in 2011. Of these families, 66 percent say the economy played a major role in their decision to consolidate households, and 21 percent say it was the only reason.

The full report can be found online [here](#).

National Senior Citizens Law Center

NSCLC Releases Table for Medicaid Eligibility under Pickle Amendment

The National Senior Citizens Law Center released a table to help beneficiaries calculate Medicaid eligibility under the “Pickle” amendment. Social Security announced this fall for the first time since 2009 that there will be a cost of living adjustment in Social Security and SSI benefits effective January 1. This adjustment will affect the calculation of Pickle Amendment eligibility for Medicaid in 2012.

Gordon Bonnyman of the Tennessee Justice Center updated this table and instructions that enables advocates to calculate Medicaid eligibility under the Amendment quickly and simply.

The table can be found [here](#).

National Center on Senior Transportation

National Center on Senior Transportation Continues Online Dialogue

Through December 16, the National Center on Senior Transportation will host an online dialogue for individuals and organizations from the aging network and transportation industry. The dialogue is an opportunity to share experiences, methods, strategies, and recommendations related to planning for the transportation needs of older adults. The dialogue will give the aging network, older adults, advocates, volunteers, policy makers, public and private transportation providers, federal, state, and local transportation agencies, human services agencies, and municipal planning organizations the chance to submit, comment on, and rate ideas related to planning for senior-friendly transportation services.

To join the dialogue, click [here](#).



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