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World Elder Abuse Awareness Day

This year, World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEADD) falls on June 15. It is a day recognized in communities and by individuals throughout the world as a time to increase awareness of elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation.

Each year, hundreds of thousands of older persons are abused, neglected, and exploited. Studies show that 11 percent of people ages 60 and older were abused in some way in the last year. A new MetLife Mature Market Institute study found that the estimated annual financial loss by victims of elder abuse is at least \$2.9 billion, which is a 12 percent increase from 2008. Fortunately, there are resources available to increase advocacy and awareness.

Please visit the [International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse \(INPEA\) website](#) to learn more about World Elder Abuse Awareness Day, and what role you can play in raising awareness about elder abuse. The *Elder Abuse Awareness Community Guide Toolkit*, which contains press releases, logos, posters, and other advocacy tools to assist your advocacy efforts, can be found on that site. The Administration on Aging's National Center on Elder Abuse (NCEA) compiled a list of activities around the country celebrating the day, which can be found [here](#).

Individuals can also show their support for World Elder Abuse Awareness Day by wearing purple on June 15. NASUAD encourages you to join the international community this year in recognizing World Elder Abuse Awareness Day.

FROM THE ADMINISTRATION

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services**Changes in Leadership in the Disabled and Elderly Health Programs Group***June 2, 2011*

The Disabled and Elderly Health Programs Group (DEHPG) in the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) announced changes in leadership. Three new division directors were hired: Ralph Lollar will be the director of the Division of Long Term Services & Supports, Jennifer Burnett will be director of the Division of Community Services Transformations, and John Michael “Mike” Hall will be director of the Division of Integrated Health Systems.

[A full staff list can be found here.](#)

Guidance for Exchange and Medicaid Information Technology Systems*May 31, 2011*

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) released guidance for exchange and Medicaid information technology systems, which expands on a prior version issued in November 2010. This guidance supports Exchanges, Medicaid and Children’s Health Insurance Programs for coverage under the Affordable Care Act. The new guidance discusses in detail the business context and vision and data services hub supporting state systems.

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

New Effort to Give Consumers and Employers Better Information about Quality of Care*June 3, 2011*

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) proposed rules today that will enable consumers and employers to select higher-quality, lower-cost physicians, hospitals, and other health care providers. These rules will allow qualified organizations to access Medicare data to produce reports on physicians, hospitals, and other health care providers. These reports will combine private sector and Medicare claims data to determine which doctors and hospitals provide the highest quality, cost-effective care.

[The proposed rule can be found at the Office of the Federal Register, here.](#)

[After June 8, the rule will be found on the Federal Register link for published rules here.](#)

Department of Labor

US DOL Announces \$20 Million for State-Run Programs to Improve Employment for People with Disabilities

May 31, 2011

On Tuesday, May 31, 2011, the US Department of Labor's (DOL) Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP), in coordination with the Employment and Training Administration (ETA), announced the availability of \$20 million in funds for programs aimed at improving the education, training and employment opportunities for adults and youth with disabilities. These cooperative agreements will be available to the 41 state agencies that administer the Workforce Investment Act (WIA), who did not receive funding from the first round of grants awarded in September 2010. The project intends to help improve coordination and collaboration across multiple service delivery systems, build effective partnerships that leverage public and private resources to better serve people with disabilities, and ultimately, help reduce the low employment rates experienced by people with disabilities.

Applications are due no later than 4 PM. EST on July 15, 2011. The complete solicitation for applications is [available here](#).

Health and Human Services

HHS Announces Changes to Federally-Administered Pre-Existing Condition Insurance Plan

May 31, 2011

On Tuesday, May 31, 2011, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) announced that premiums will be reduced and eligibility standards eased for the federally-administered Pre-Existing Condition Insurance Plan (PCIP). The PCIP was created under the [Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act \(P.L. 111-148\) \(Affordable Care Act\)](#), and provides coverage to those individuals who are unable to buy coverage or who are unable to afford health insurance due to pre-existing medical conditions. For more information, including eligibility, plan benefits and rates, visit www.pcip.gov and click on "Find Your State."

The changes, which take effect July 1, 2011, will affect 23 states and the District of Columbia, where the PCIP program is operated by the federal government. To see a chart showing changes to PCIP premiums in the States with Federally-administered PCIP programs, please click [here](#). In regards to eligibility, people applying for coverage will no longer have to wait for an insurance company to deny coverage before they can enroll. For the 27 states that operate their own PCIP programs, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) sent a letter encouraging states to review their plans to ensure that premiums match what is being charged in the individual insurance market.

A HHS press release regarding the PCIP changes can be found [here](#).

FROM OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

National Association of State Budget Officers and National Governors Association

Spring 2011 Fiscal Survey of States

June 2, 2011

The National Association of State Budget Officers (NASBO) and the National Governors Association (NGA) released the Spring 2011 Fiscal Survey of States, which contains data for FY10, estimated FY11, and proposed FY12. Findings showed slight improvements in FY11 compared to FY09 and FY10.

Problems that states will continue to face in FY12 shown in the data are: loss of American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funding, continued elevation of unemployment, and the high demand for healthcare and social services. States will continue to face tough decisions and tight budgets in FY12 and FY13, according to the data.

[Click here to view the preliminary report.](#)

International Council on Disabilities

United States International Council on Disabilities Partnering with Rehabilitation International and Daisy Consortium

The United States International Council on Disabilities (USICD) is partnering with 148 countries from around the world to participate with the Rehabilitation International and Daisy Consortium. On May 21, a meeting was held in Korea to discuss disaster preparedness and development and delivery of assistance for people with disabilities. Following recent disasters in Japan, Missouri, and around the world, this partnership aims to improve emergency services for people with disabilities throughout the world.

[Click here to view the press release from Rehabilitation International.](#)

National Consumer Voice for Quality Long-Term Care

The Consumer Voice Launches Weekly Newsletter

May 31, 2011

The Consumer Voice announced a change in its newsletter. "The Gazette" is the new weekly newsletter that will replace the former monthly newsletter. The Gazette will be sent via email

every Tuesday and will also be available online. The Consumer Voice asks that this information is shared throughout the network.

[Sign up for email delivery here.](#)

How to Develop and Disseminate a State-Specific Long-Term Care, Services and Supports Consumer Guide for the Aging and Disability Community

The Consumer Voice released a document: *How to Develop and Disseminate a State-Specific Long-Term Care, Services and Supports Consumer Guide for the Aging and Disability Community*. This guide provides suggestions for groups wishing to create state-specific long term services and supports guides for consumers in the aging and disability community.

[Click here to view the guide.](#)



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 State Head Injury Administrators State of the States in Head Injury Meeting, October 3-6, 2011, Kansas City, MO.](#)

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

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