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Friday Updates May 6, 2011

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From the Administration

May Is Older Americans Month

Every May since 1963, communities and organizations across the nation have celebrated Older Americans Month. NASUAD is pleased to join this celebration of the legacies and ongoing contributions of older Americans, and is committed to supporting them as they enter the next stage in life. The theme this year, *Older Americans: Connecting the Community*, honors the important additions older Americans make to communities and the place in the community for older adults. Their shared histories, diverse experiences, and wealth of knowledge have made our culture, economy, and local character what they are today. The theme also highlights the many ways technology is helping older Americans live longer, healthier and more engaged lives.



The growing population of older Americans continues to strengthen and enrich communities and lives throughout the nation. Our seniors are mentoring the leaders of tomorrow, taking to heart the need for intergenerational learning to guide and inspire young minds. They offer a take on times gone by not discussed in any history class—a unique perspective that sheds new light on contemporary issues.

The annual commemoration of Older Americans Month is our opportunity to recognize the contributions of older citizens and join them in providing services and support that empower the elderly. Americans of all ages and backgrounds can volunteer with programs that improve health literacy, increase access to quality health services, offer food and nutrition services, provide financial and housing counseling, sponsor social activities and community engagement, and more.

[To view President Obama's proclamation of Older Americans Month, click here.](#)
[For more information on Older Americans Month, click here.](#)

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services

CMS Finalizes a New Rule for Telemedicine Services

May 2, 2011

On Monday, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) announced a final rule for telemedicine services, which will ensure that patients in remote areas will receive cutting-edge care from local hospitals. This rule changes the process that hospitals and critical access hospitals use for credentialing physicians and practitioners to deliver care through telemedicine. The rule simplifies and streamlines how hospitals can partner with non-hospital telemedicine entities to deliver care. This rule will benefit patients in rural areas where hospitals lack the staff or resources to deliver specialized services to patients.

[The final rule can be found here.](#)

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration

Toolkit on Suicide Prevention for Senior Living Communities

May 5, 2011

On Thursday, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) released [Promoting Emotional Health and Preventing Suicide: A Toolkit for Senior Living Communities](#). This toolkit is designed to raise awareness among senior living community staff, administrators, residents, and others of the importance of discussing and addressing depression and suicide among older adults. The toolkit includes activities and programs intended for a "whole population approach" that can benefit all residents, strategies for training staff to properly identify and treat residents at risk of suicide, and procedures for responding to suicide deaths or attempts.

[The toolkit can be downloaded or ordered here.](#)

From Congress

House and Senate Return from the Spring Recess to Spending Negotiations

Warning that failure to raise the debt ceiling above its \$14.3 trillion limit could lead to a new financial crisis, Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner announced Monday that he will shuffle government finances in order to delay reaching the federal debt ceiling, and the need for congressional approval to increase this limit, until August 2. Although lawmakers in both parties have said the debt ceiling must

be raised and that some mechanism is needed to curtail future deficits, there is no consensus on how to do so.

The dispute over increasing the federal government's borrowing authority is largely divided among party lines, with some members of the Republican-controlled House demanding that any increase in the debt limit be accompanied by spending reductions, and many Democrats pushing to include revenue increases in the legislation. Accordingly, a compromise will need to be reached in order to appease members of both parties and secure the votes needed to increase the debt limit in August. Such a measure could include additional federal spending reductions, or deficit-reduction mechanisms, such as automatic debt reduction triggers and federal spending caps.

To reach a compromise, members of the House and Senate are engaging in bipartisan negotiations, which are expected to be less contentious than those surrounding the recent enactment of a fiscal 2011 spending measure (PL 112-10). On Thursday, Vice President Joe Biden began the first in a series of debt reduction talks, as called for by the *President in his Framework for Shared Prosperity and Shared Fiscal Responsibility*. Six congressional negotiators, including House Majority Leader Eric Cantor (R-Va.); Assistant House Minority Leader James Clyburn (D-S.C.); Ranking Budget Committee member Chris Van Hollen (D-Md.); Senate Finance Chairman Max Baucus (D-Mont.); Senate Minority Whip John Kyl (R-Ariz.); and Senate Appropriations Chairman Daniel Inouye (D-Hawaii), are participating in the negotiations. During the May 5 meeting, negotiators expressed their intent to avoid politically sensitive demands that could derail the talks, and Vice President Biden called the discussion "productive."

In addition to the ongoing negotiations, the bipartisan "Gang of Six" senators continues to work on a deficit reduction plan based on the recommendations made by President Obama's National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform, and Senate Budget Chairman Kent Conrad (D-N.D.) is expected to unveil a fiscal 2012 budget resolution as early as Monday.

Conrad, also a member of the Gang of Six, has postponed the release of his budget plan as the six senators worked to craft their own legislation. Those talks continue, but Conrad has decided to release his committee's work on a budget resolution in order to move forward with the FY12 federal budget process. The plan, which will call for \$4 trillion in debt reduction over the next ten years, is said to include some of the fiscal commission's recommendations, as well as the Gang of Six's work, though it does not propose changes to Social Security, and includes Medicare savings that assume funding for the "doc fix." A budget resolution is a non-binding document that lays the framework for spending and tax legislation during the applicable fiscal year. The House adopted its budget resolution (H Con Res 34), authored by Budget Chairman Paul Ryan (R-Wis.), in April.

From Other Organizations

AARP

Multigenerational Households Are Increasing

The AARP Public Policy Institute released [Multigenerational Households Are Increasing](#), a fact sheet on the effect of the economic downturn on the number of multigenerational households. Between 2008 and 2010, the number of multigenerational households rose from 6.2 million (5.3 percent of households) to 7.1 million (6.1 percent of households). These numbers do not include children living in their parents' households, regardless of the age of the child, and come from U.S. Census data. Another

analysis was conducted by the Pew Research Center in 2010 that defined a multigenerational family as two generations: parents with adult children over the age of 25; three generations: parents, children, and grandchildren; skipped generations: grandparents and grandchildren; or more than three generations. Using this definition, 49 million Americans lived in multigenerational households in 2008, which was a 2.6 million person increase from 2007.

The largest increase, due to the recent economic downturn, was “boomerang children”: adults ages 25 to 34 who live with their parents or in other multigenerational households. Currently, one in five adults aged 25 to 34 live in these households, compared to 11 percent in 1980.

The number of multigenerational households depends greatly on ethnicity, as well. White families are less likely to live in multigenerational households than Hispanics, African Americans, or Asians. Asians are the most likely to live in these households, at 25 percent of their population, compared to 23 percent for African American families, 22 percent for Hispanic families, and 13 percent for white families.

These multigenerational households have positive and negative implications. For some, they lead to a closer family unit, greater economic stability, and more care for a disabled family member. For others it can lead to frustration, cramped living quarters, or economic instability.

[To read the full report, click here.](#)

Improving Advanced Illness Care: The Evolution of State POLST Programs

Physician Orders for Life-Sustaining Treatment (POLST) is a program currently running in 12 states. POLST allows physicians (as well as physician assistants and nurse practitioners in some states) to translate a patient’s needs and wishes for their care into a standardized, visible form. This form is transferrable if a patient moves to a different institution and could be easily understood by any physician or other health care worker. The AARP Public Policy Institute released [Improving Advanced Illness Care: The Evolution of State POLST Programs](#), a report which documents the 12 state programs, and the evolution of their POLST program. The report discusses the similarities and differences in the different programs, identifies the key facilitators of POLST development, discusses the barriers and issues surrounding POLST programs, and offers advice for other states in developing and implementing POLST programs.

[To view the full report, click here.](#)

State Data Center

The AARP Public Policy Institute has a wide range of information on older Americans. Now, this information is consolidated into its State Data Center. Here, information can be found by state or by issue. This data center will allow for greater ease of research and fast data collection.

[The data center can be found here.](#)

The Commonwealth Fund

Learning from the Best- and Worst- Performing States

The Commonwealth Fund released *Lessons from High- and Low-Performing states for Raising Overall Health System Performance*, a brief which examines data from the Fund’s recent State Scorecard on

Health Systems Performance and interviews with health policy experts. This brief contains information from interviews with the highest and lowest performing states, according to the State Scorecard. The findings show that socioeconomic and demographic factors play a large role in health systems. Similarities among high-performing states include a history of reform and government leadership, greater collaboration of stakeholders, transparency of information about health care options, and a set of policies focused on improving the health care system. These findings could be helpful for other states hoping to improve their system.

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

Wider Opportunities for Women

Building Bridges to Economic Security Campaign

As a part of the *Building Bridges to Economic Security Campaign*, Wider Opportunities for Women (WOW) announced capacity building awards that will be awarded to community-based organizations working to build coalitions with an intergenerational focus and the agenda to build economic security throughout a lifetime. Awardees will receive \$3,500 to \$5,500 to support these efforts.

Applications can be found [here](#), and are due by Friday, May 20. For more information, [click here](#) or contact kstellrecht@wowonline.org.

ADAPT

ADAPT Members Protest on Capitol Hill

This week, a large number of ADAPT members protested on Capitol Hill. ADAPT is a national disability rights grassroots organization. Of concern was the House budget plan, put forward by Representative Paul Ryan (R-WI). ADAPT members indicate that the plan would cut Medicaid programs by 35 percent and would give states the ability to make additional Medicaid services cuts through Medicaid block grants. ADAPT protested in the House of Representatives and also met with the “Gang of Six,” the six Senators currently working on a Senate budget proposal and senior advisors at the White House. The six Senators are Senators Warner (D-VA), Durbin (D-IL), Conrad (D-ND), Chambliss (R-GA), Crapo (R-ID), and Coburn (R-OK).

ADAPT concerns primarily focus on home and community based services implications and eliminating the Medicaid institutional bias. In meetings with the White House, ADAPT members discussed implementation of the Community First Choice Option, Section 2401 of the Affordable Care Act. ADAPT members argued that any Medicaid reform must encourage home and community based services and address any Medicaid institutional bias.

Arizona Caregiver Coalition

Annual National Lifespan Respite Conference Call for Proposals Deadline Extended

May 6, 2011

The Arizona Caregiver Coalition is partnering with the ARCH National Respite Network and Resource Center to host the 14th Annual National Lifespan Respite Conference. The conference will be held November 1-4, 2011 in Glendale, Arizona. The deadline for proposal submissions has been extended to May 27, 2011. The theme of the conference is “Many Faces of Respite”, with three informative tracks: service delivery innovations, diversity and cultural issues, and network building.

[Click here to view the call for papers.](#)
[Click here to download a submittal form.](#)
[Click here for more information on this conference.](#)



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.](#)