

DOL reveals theme for 2022 National Disability Employment Awareness Month. Read further for more information in this week's *Washington Weekly*.



## Have a Safe and Fun 4th of July!

### Washington Weekly!

by the National Association of State Head Injury Administrators

July 1, 2022

#### Administration

##### **HHS Seeks Public Input to Strengthen Primary Health Care**

In keeping with its goal to Strengthen Primary Health Care, the U.S. Department of Health and Human (HHS) Services Initiative is to develop a federal foundation for the provision of primary health care for all that supports improved health outcomes and advanced health equity. The first step is to produce an initial HHS Action Plan in 2022. The Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health (OASH) is coordinating development of an HHS Action Plan to Strengthen Primary Health Care by working across HHS agencies and offices as well as with other federal offices and departments. The recently released National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine Report, ***Implementing High Quality Primary Care: Rebuilding the Foundation of Health Care*** will inform the development of the HHS Action Plan.

OASH is using a variety of strategies to engage diverse stakeholders and subject matter experts, including patient, family, and community advocates, to learn about innovative approaches, needs, and challenges to inform the HHS Action Plan. Through this **Request for Information (RFI)**, OASH seeks input from the public about innovations, models, solutions to barriers, and possible HHS actions that may strengthen primary health care to promote health equity, reduce health disparities, improve health care access, and improve health outcomes. The public comment period will be open for 36 days starting June 27, 2022, through August 1, 2022, at 11:59pm (ET). HHS is committed to transparency and providing opportunities for public participation during the development of the plan.

##### **DOL Reveals Theme for 2022 Disability Employment Awareness Month**

In recognition of the important role people with disabilities play in a diverse and inclusive American workforce, the theme for National Disability Employment Awareness Month 2022 will be "Disability: Part of the Equity Equation." Observed annually in October, NDEAM celebrates the contributions of America's workers with disabilities past and present and showcases supportive, inclusive employment policies and practices. The annual theme is announced early to facilitate advance planning of events. Read more about NDEAM [here](#).

#### Judiciary

##### **Judge Jackson Sworn in as New SCOTUS Justice**

Yesterday, the Honorable Ketanji Brown Jackson was sworn in as the 116th justice of the U.S. Supreme Court and is the first Black woman to serve on the highest court of the nation. She is

filling the seat of retiring Justice Stephen Breyer. After Justice Breyer announced the date for his retirement, President Biden nominated Judge Jackson in February. She was then confirmed by the U.S. Senate. Judge Jackson graduated *magna cum laude* from Harvard University, then attended Harvard Law School, where she graduated *cum laude* and was an editor of the *Harvard Law Review*. She was confirmed with bipartisan support to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit in 2021, and President Obama nominated Judge Jackson to be a district court judge for the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia in 2012. She was confirmed with bipartisan support in 2013. She also served as Vice Chair of the U.S. Sentencing Commission, as a Public Defender and as a Supreme Court Clerk.

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## Federal Rules

### State Department Proposes Rule to Implement the Havana Act

Yesterday, the Department of State published in the *Federal Register* the proposed rule to implement the “Helping American Victims Affected by Neurological Attacks” (HAVANA) Act of 2021. The Act provides authority for the Secretary of State and other agency heads to provide payments to certain individuals who have incurred qualifying injuries to the brain. This rule covers current and former Department of State employees, and dependents of current or former employees. The interim final rule is effective August 15, 2022. The Department of State will accept comments on this interim final rule until August 1, 2022.

The definition of “qualifying injury to the brain” is based on current medical practices related to brain injuries, such as, but not limited to, a concussion, penetrating injury, or as the consequence of an event that leads to permanent alterations in brain function as demonstrated by confirming correlative findings on imaging studies (to include computed tomography scan (CT), or magnetic resonance imaging scan (MRI)), or electroencephalogram (EEG); or a medical diagnosis of a traumatic brain injury (TBI) that required active medical treatment for 12 months or more; or acute onset of new persistent, disabling neurologic symptoms as demonstrated by confirming correlative findings on imaging studies (to include CT, MRI), EEG, physical exam, or other appropriate testing, and that required active medical treatment for 12 months or more.

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## Reports and Resources

### MMWR Includes Article on High Rate of Death in U.S. Due to Motor Vehicle Crashes

In today’s *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report* (MMWR), produced by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the article, “**Motor Vehicle Crash Deaths — United States and 28 Other High-Income Countries, 2015 and 2019**” reports that motor vehicle related deaths in the United States was the highest among 29 high-income countries in 2019. The population-based motor vehicle crash death rate decreased from 2015 to 2019 in 22 countries, but not in the United States. The United States continues to lag behind in road safety. Contributing factors to increased crash death rate include speed and inconsistent restraint use. Only 20 States and D.C. have enacted primary seat belt laws, as of June 2022.

### VA TBI Model Systems Reports Results of Studies on Chronic Phase of TBI Recovery

The 2022 summer issue of the VA TBI Model Systems/IMAP newsletter features several recent research results from their lifetime TBI study. A variety of topics are covered that relate to the chronic phase of TBI recovery. Within this issue, VA summarizes findings from four studies that relate to the chronic phase of TBI recovery: Disorders of Consciousness (DoC); sleep apnea and posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD); predictors of depression and anxiety; and functional changes post-TBI. View the issue [here](#).

### Project Solicits Participants for the 2022 National Survey on Health and Disability

The NIDILRR-funded project [Using the National Survey on Health and Disability Panel to Document the COVID-19 Pandemic Experiences of Working-Age Americans with Disabilities](#) is conducting the [2022 National Survey on Health and Disability \(NSHD\)](#) to

understand how access to health care, insurance, and the COVID-19 pandemic may be affecting the lives of people with disabilities. The survey is open to US adults 18 years old or older, with any disability and any type of health care coverage, including no coverage. The NSHD especially needs individuals who identify as men to participate in the survey. This is a multi-year survey and previous respondents are encouraged to participate. Participants may also complete the survey by phone. Participants will have a chance to win one of ten \$100 gift cards. The survey closes September 2nd. For more information, call 855/556-6328 (Voice/TTY) or email [healthsurvey@ku.edu](mailto:healthsurvey@ku.edu).

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## Upcoming Webinars and Conferences

### ADvancing States Releases HCBS Conference Agenda

ADvancing States has released the agenda for the 2022 Hybrid Home and Community-Based Services Conference. Participants can join virtually or in Washington, DC for a conference packed with informative and engaging sessions on the latest topics in the field. There will be a full day of intensives including: Medicaid 101, Information and Referral, Managed Long-term Services and Supports, Nutrition Programs, Compliance with HCBS Settings Regulations, and Money Follows the Person. [Read intensive descriptions here](#). In addition to the intensives and two full days of sessions, there will have plenty of opportunities to network. [Read the full agenda](#) to see all of the sessions and activities planned for this year. Early Bird Registration for the 2022 HCBS Conference has been extended until Friday, July 8. [Register now](#) to secure a \$100 discount on your registration fee. If you're joining virtually, register before the Early Bird deadline to receive a conference goodie box full of gifts from our sponsors.

### NASHIA Sponsors First Annual SEED Summit

NASHIA is hosting its first SEED Summit, September 14-16 in Denver CO, for stakeholders who are directly engaged in building State service delivery and support systems. This is a new in-person working meeting that will gather professionals from across the country to focus on strategic planning and State plan development; discuss how to build strong, diverse and sustainable advisory boards; compare resource facilitation models; and learn tips for identification and retention of sustainable funding sources. For registration and lodging information, visit the [SEED HUB](#).

### Great Lakes ADA Regional Center to Host Accessible Residential Facilities

The NIDILRR-funded [Great Lakes ADA Regional Center](#) will host a webinar, "[Accessible Residential Facilities](#)," July 7th, 2:30 – 4:00pm (ET). Presenters from the US Access Board and the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) will discuss accessibility standards and guidelines issued under the Architectural Barriers Act (ABA), the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), the Fair Housing Act (FHA), and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. Presenters will also highlight accessible design and construction requirements under the FHA that apply broadly to multifamily housing. Continuing education credits are available upon request. [Registration](#) is free and required.

### DETAC Sponsors Webinar on ADA and Employment July 12

On July 12, the Disability Employment Technical Assistance Center (DETAC) is hosting the webinar, "Reflecting Upon the ADA: Soaring to Employment," from 2:00pm – 4:30pm (ET). The webinar will celebrate the impact of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and how the ADA has supported the goal of competitive, integrated employment (CIE) for persons with disabilities. Pre-recorded remarks will be provided by Acting Administration for Community Living (ACL) Administrator Alison Barkoff that will include highlights describing how ACL has made strategic investments to advance CIE in communities. Additionally, a panel comprised of five self-advocates from across the country will jointly reflect on how the ADA has impacted and empowered them to achieve employment. [Register for the webinar](#).

### Register Now for NASHIA's 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual State of the States Conference

Register now for NASHIA's 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual State of the States (SOS) Conference, "Breaking New Ground," to be held virtually Sept. 7-9, 2022. The conference will include live sessions, video

networking rooms, as well as an exhibit hall for attendees to visit. Registration is \$300 for members and \$350 for guests. You may register [here](#). NASHIA is offering the Legacy Scholarship to cover SOS fees. Go [here](#) for more information. You may also contact Haleigh Cushen for more information regarding the scholarship at [hcushen@nashia.org](mailto:hcushen@nashia.org). Information regarding sponsorships may be found [here](#).

#### **ARCH Announces Respite Conference Speakers**

ARCH has announced keynote speakers for the 2022 National Lifespan Respite Conference: Alison Barkoff, Administration for Community Living; Dr. Jennifer Olsen, Rosalynn Carter Institute for Caregivers; Charlotte Deleste, Evening News Anchor, Madison WISC-TV, and Founder and Vice-President, Gio's Garden Therapeutic Respite Center, Madison, WI. The theme is, "Reimagine Respite!", and is hosted by the Respite Care Association of Wisconsin and co-hosted by the ARCH National Respite Network and Resource Center. The conference will be held September 13-15, 2022, at the Madison Concourse Hotel, Madison Wisconsin. Register [here](#).

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The National Association of State Head Injury Administrators assists State government in promoting partnerships and building systems to meet the needs of individuals with brain injuries and their families.

**Support States. Grow Leaders. Connect Partners.**



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