



# Washington Weekly!

July 8, 2022

## Administration

### HHS Unveils Resources for Oversight of Medicaid & CHIP Managed Care Programs

On Wednesday, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), unveiled a suite of new resources to improve CMS and State oversight of Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) managed care programs. Released in a Center for Medicaid and CHIP Services [Informational Bulletin \(CIB\)](#), this new information includes tools, templates, and updates on tactics to improve States reporting on their managed care programs for those enrolled in Medicaid and CHIP. The CIB outlines the latest updates to a new web-based portal for State reporting on managed care programs to CMS. It also offers additional reporting templates and a new technical assistance toolkit, to help States improve their overall monitoring and oversight of managed care.

Recognizing the unique needs of Indian Health Care Providers, many of whom participate in managed care, the CIB also offers information about ensuring timely and accurate payment to such providers. To assist States in complying with specific protections for American Indian and Alaska Native communities, the CIB recommends specific practices and strategies to aid States and managed care plans in implementing statutory and regulatory Medicaid managed care protections for Alaska Natives and American Indians.

As an additional step to aid States and the individuals many Medicaid and CHIP programs serve, CMS also released a toolkit to support program monitoring for Medicaid enrollees in Managed Long-Term Services and Supports (MLTSS). The toolkit, "Promoting Access in Medicaid and CHIP Managed Care: Managed Long-Term Services and Supports Access Monitoring Toolkit," was developed in response to MLTSS growth and federal oversight concerns about access to services and quality-of-care. To view the Medicaid and CHIP Managed Care Monitoring and Oversight Tools and CIB, please visit [here](#).

### HRSA Awards Grants for Training Primary Care Residents in Underserved/ Rural Areas

On July 1st, the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) announced over \$155 million in awards for 72 teaching health centers that operate primary care medical and dental residency programs that include high need specialties such as psychiatry, as part of President Biden's Unity Agenda to address the nation's mental health crisis. These awards – supported by the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 and Fiscal Year 2022 funds – come at a significant moment when the nation's health care workforce is facing challenges, as recently highlighted in the *Surgeon General's Advisory Addressing Health Worker Burnout*. See a list of award recipients [here](#).

### ODEPT Requests Information Regarding Current Population Survey

The Department of Labor's Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEPT) is requesting information from the public about a planned Disability Supplement to the Current Population Survey (CPS). The CPS is a source of detailed information on the employment status of persons with disabilities. The Disability Supplement to the CPS is expected to be fielded in 2024. This

Supplement will provide an opportunity to reconsider the questions asked as part of the CPS in light of the socioeconomic changes that have taken place since the development of the current set of questions more than ten years ago. Comments to the Request for Information will inform decisions regarding the topics, questions, and response options included in the Supplement. The deadline to submit comments on the proposed revisions to the Supplement is August 8, 2022. Further information is included in the [\*Federal Register\*](#).

### **CMS Reminds States of EVV Implementation for Medicaid Home Health Care**

On Tuesday, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) sent a reminder to States of their responsibility to implement electronic visit verification (EVV) for Medicaid home health care services (HHCS) as required by section 12006(a) of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Cures Act (the Cures Act) by January 1, 2023. States not in compliance with these requirements will be subject to incremental Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) reductions. States that encounter barriers, which cause unavoidable delays in achieving compliance by January 1, 2023, may submit a good faith effort application for CMS consideration and, if approved, the State will not be required to implement EVV for HHCS until January 1, 2024. With the HHCS compliance date approaching, CMS is requesting that States either submit a survey response to self-report their EVV implementation status for HHCS or apply for a good faith effort exemption beginning in July of 2022, but no later than December 1, 2022.

In advance of the January 1, 2020 EVV compliance date for personal care services (PCS), CMS developed and launched a web-based survey tool for State Medicaid Directors to use to affirm compliance with EVV requirements. The survey tool includes two separate options for States to report their EVV implementation status for PCS and HHCS. States that anticipate full compliance for HHCS by January 1, 2023 are advised to submit or update their survey response for HHCS by December 1, 2022. The EVV compliance survey materials are available to view on [Reginfo.gov](#). CMS will be following up with State Medicaid Directors in July 2022 with specific instructions for completing the survey online.

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## **Federal Rules**

### **VA Publishes Rule on Legal Services for Veterans who are Homeless or at Risk**

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has published an interim final rule this month in the [\*Federal Register\*](#) that allows the federal agency to enhance the provision of legal services for Veterans experiencing or at risk of homelessness. Through the Legal Services for Homeless Veterans and Veterans At-Risk for Homelessness Grant Program, the VA will offer up to 75 grants a year, with at least 10% of the funding set aside for Veterans who identify as women. This first-of-its-kind grant will help provide legal services related to housing, family law, income support, criminal defense, and discharge requests. A Notice of Funding Opportunity is expected to be published in September 2022. [Read the full announcement.](#)

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## **Reports and Resources**

### **HSRC Releases New Video About DIAL**

The Housing and Services Resource Center (HSRC) has released a new video about DIAL-- the Disability Information Access Line. DIAL is a free hotline that assists individuals with disabilities in finding information about Covid-19 vaccines and other community supports for living independently in the community. The video, which is available on the [Housing and Services Resource Center website](#) (scroll down on the page to the Resource Spotlight), gives an overview of DIAL for professionals in the housing, health, and other sectors, especially ones working with people with disabilities.

The HSRC encourages stakeholders to disseminate this new video so both consumers and professionals are aware of DIAL as a resource. To make that easier for stakeholders, the HSRC developed a social media toolkit that includes sample posts for Twitter, Facebook, and LinkedIn,

as well as email marketing language for use (attached). You may also [watch the informational video here](#).

### **MMWR Publishes Study on ER Visits for Firearms Injuries**

In today's *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report* (MMWR), produced by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), a study is highlighted regarding firearm injuries reported through the Firearm Injury Surveillance Through Emergency Rooms (FASTER) data system. In 2021, CDC's FASTER program was established to provide more timely and comprehensive data on firearm injuries at the State and local levels than were available through traditional data sources. CDC analyzed emergency department (ED) visit data during January 1, 2018–December 31, 2021, for 647 counties in 10 FASTER-funded jurisdictions. The article concluded that timelier ED data can help health departments, clinical and community partners collaboratively identify communities disproportionately experiencing firearm injuries to help focus prevention efforts on reducing and addressing underlying issues that contribute to these injuries. View the article [here](#).

### **CDC Releases Findings from the NISVS**

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has recently released findings from the National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS), which indicate that millions of Americans are affected by sexual violence (SV), stalking, and intimate partner violence (IPV) every year. In addition to the immediate physical and emotional toll, a wide range of chronic physical and mental health problems are associated with these forms of violence. The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS) is an ongoing survey that collects the most current and comprehensive national- and State-level data on intimate partner violence, sexual violence and stalking victimization in the United States. CDC developed NISVS to collect data on these important public. For more information visit the CDC [website](#).

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## **Upcoming Webinars and Conferences**

### **ADvancing States' Early Bird Rate for HCBS Conference Ends Today**

Today is the last day for the Early Bird registration rate for ADvancing States' 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. [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**

The National Association of State Head Injury Administrators (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](#).

### **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.](#)

#### **NASHIA Unveils Draft Agenda for NASHIA's 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual SOS Conference**

The National Association of State Head Injury Administrators (NASHIA) has disseminated its draft [agenda](#) for the 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](#).

#### **LTQA Offers Webinar on Direct Care Workforce Solutions**

The Long-Term Quality Alliance (LTQA) is offering a webinar, "A Fresh Look at Caregiving: Direct Care Workforce Solutions," July 26, 2022, from 2:00pm – 3:00pm (ET). A crisis in the supply of direct care workers, worsened by the COVID-19 pandemic, accompanied by increased need and demand for home care services, is fueling a long-term care workforce shortage. This impacts those who need to access services, and organizations who deliver needed care and support. This webinar will explore how we can think differently about the compensation, skills development, mobility and value placed on this workforce which provides critical services to a diverse and complex population. This interactive panel discussion will focus on potential solutions to direct care workforce shortages, including promising practices and areas for stakeholder collaboration. Speakers Carol Raphael (Manatt Health), Carrie Amero (AARP), Robyn Stone (LeadingAge), and Joe MacBeth (National Alliance for Direct Support Professionals) will discuss best practices and collaboration among stakeholders. Register [here](#).

#### **BIA of KS and Greater KC Schedule 14th Annual Conference**

On August 4-5, 2022, at the KU Edwards Campus, the Brain Injury Association of Kansas & Greater Kansas City will present the 14<sup>th</sup> annual conference, "Beyond Rehab: Succeeding at Life Conference on Brain Injury." The 2-day event will provide up to 13 CEUs. Keynote speakers include Dr. Al Condeluci, a leader in community building, human services and inclusive advocacy work; and Dr. Gordon Horn, a neuropsychologist specializing in neurologic rehabilitation treatment and programming, Florida State University College of Medicine. Also speaking will be Thomas Whittaker, M.D. & J.D., one of the few Neuro-Ophthalmologist in Kansas and Missouri. Register [here](#).

#### **ARCH Publishes Respite Conference Agenda**

ARCH National Respite Network and Resource Center has published the full [Respite Reimagine](#) conference schedule, including breakout sessions, and is now available on the conference [website](#). The conference 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.**

