

On June 15, from noon-1:00pm (ET), NASHIA will offer the webinar, "Collaboration Across Systems: Partners for Paralysis and Spinal Cord Injury." Read further for more information in this week's *Washington Weekly*.



**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION  
OF STATE HEAD INJURY  
ADMINISTRATORS**

## Washington Weekly!

by the National Association of State Head Injury Administrators

June 10, 2022

### Administration

#### **HHS Withdraws Controversial Sunset Rule**

Last week, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) formally announced the final withdrawal of the regulatory SUNSET that was finalized a day before the Biden Administration took office which required nearly all regulations within HHS to be subject to an automatic expiration 10 years after issuance, unless the Department conducted a formal review and approval of the regulation. The former Administration issued the rule that required HHS to look at every rule to determine whether it was still applicable. Any rule not reviewed within five years would be pulled completely. The Biden Administration put a hold on the rule soon after taking office and initially proposed withdrawal in October 2021, and then delayed both the effective date of the initial rule and the withdrawal while pending litigation unfolded. The final withdrawal rule can be found [here](#).

#### **EEOC Issues Report on Hiring and Retaining Federal Employees with Disabilities**

The U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) has issued a [report](#), that shows that the federal government is making strides in offering opportunities for persons with disabilities in the federal workforce, but that further progress is needed on retention and representation in leadership positions. The study examined federal workers with disabilities' demographics, their hiring, advancement, and separation from employment at federal agencies, discrimination complaints based on disability, and ways that federal agencies are improving accessibility for persons with disabilities.

The EEOC, in a recent report, found that agencies are meeting some narrower hiring targets, but falling short of hiring employees with a broad set of disabilities. Targeted disabilities include developmental disabilities such as cerebral palsy or autism spectrum disorder, traumatic brain injuries, deafness or serious difficulty hearing, blindness or serious difficulty, missing extremities, mobility impairments, paralysis, epilepsy, intellectual or psychiatric disabilities, dwarfism, and significant disfigurement.

#### **HRSA Announces Funding for Rural Communities to Address Drug Misuse and Overdose**

On Wednesday, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), announced nearly \$15 million in funding for rural communities to address psychostimulant misuse and related overdose deaths. Psychostimulants include methamphetamine and other illegal drugs, such as cocaine and ecstasy, as well as prescription stimulants for conditions such as attention deficit hyperactivity disorder or depression.

With this week's nearly \$15 million investment, HHS has provided a total of more than \$400 million for the [Rural Communities Opioid Response Program \(RCORP\) initiative](#), a multi-

year initiative aimed at reducing the morbidity and mortality of substance use, including opioid use, in high-risk rural communities. Through the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), HHS also recently announced \$55 million in funding for its Tribal Opioid Response (TOR) grant program that addresses the overdose crisis in tribal communities.

Read the press release and list of grantees [here](#).

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## Reports and Resources

### Journal Features Article on Effectiveness of Telehealth for Individuals with TBI

The June edition of the *Journal of Telemedicine and Telecare* features an article on studies that focus on telehealth interventions that combine traditional treatment with rehabilitation to increase symptom management self-efficacy among TBI patients during recovery. In total, 17 studies applying telehealth interventions among TBI survivors were included in the analysis. Future telehealth programs can focus on developing the contents of telehealth modules based on evidence from this study. Read the article [here](#).

### CHS Issues Brief on State Strategies for Reaching Family Caregivers

The Center for Health Strategies has issued a brief on “Making the Invisible Visible: State Strategies for Identifying and Reaching Family Caregivers.” This brief outlines practical strategies to identify and reach family caregivers pursued by cross-sector State teams participating in *Helping States Support Families Caring for an Aging America*, a Center for Health Care Strategies (CHCS) initiative made possible by The John A. Hartford Foundation and the Michigan Health Endowment Fund. For the participating teams — comprised of Medicaid, Departments of Aging and Health and Human Services, Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs), universities, health plans, and community-based organizations — helping family caregivers access supports and services is a high priority. Individuals who are unaware that the care they provide is considered “caregiving” are highly unlikely to self-identify as a family caregiver. Instead of placing the onus on family caregivers to seek support, States can consider developing processes that allow for more organic opportunities for identification that meets families where they are.

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## Upcoming Webinars and Conferences

### DETAC Hosts Webinar to Celebrate Olmstead on June 14

The Disability Employment TA Center (DETAC), along with the National Disability Rights Network (NDRN), and speakers from two state Protection and Advocacy entities, will celebrate the anniversary of the Olmstead Decision via a webinar on June 14. The NDRN will share national trends for phasing out sheltered work in addition to highlighting the *Employment First* outcomes across the country. State expert speakers will showcase innovative and effective strategies at the State level to transition from a segregated work model to increasing competitive, integrated employment opportunities for individuals with disabilities. The webinar, “Olmstead: Working4Inclusion,” will be held on Tuesday, June 14 from 3:00 – 4:30pm (ET). Register [here](#).

On June 22, 1999, the United States Supreme Court held in *Olmstead v. L.C.* that unjustified segregation of persons with disabilities constitutes discrimination in violation of title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The Court held that public entities must provide community-based services to persons with disabilities when (1) such services are appropriate; (2) the affected persons do not oppose community-based treatment; and (3) community-based services can be reasonably accommodated, taking into account the resources available to the public entity and the needs of others who are receiving disability services from the entity.

### NASHIA to Hold Webinar on Paralysis and Spinal Cord Injury

On June 15, from noon-1:00pm (ET), NASHIA will offer the webinar, “Collaboration Across Systems: Partners for Paralysis and Spinal Cord Injury,” featuring speakers with the National

Paralysis Resource Center, administered by the Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation, and the National Spinal Cord Injury Statistical Center funded by the ACL's [National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research \(NIDILRR\)](#). While there is not cost for the webinar, individuals interested in continuing education credits (1 hr. for Social Work and Certified Rehabilitation Counselors) may obtain them for \$10 for members, \$15 non-members. Register [here](#).

#### **NCAPPS Offers Webinar on Person-Centered Decision-Making and Guardianship**

The [National Center on Advancing Person-Centered Practices and Systems](#) (NCAPPS) is offering the webinar, "Pathways to Person-Centered Decision-Making and Alternatives to Guardianship," on Tuesday, June 21, from 3:00-4:30pm (ET). This webinar will explore how systems are expanding alternatives to guardianship, such as supported decision-making where people choose supporters to help them make important decisions in their lives. Current efforts across the country and internationally to implement supported decision-making and other alternatives provide an historic opportunity to help people take control of their lives. In this webinar, national experts, State representatives, advocates, and people with lived experience of disability from Colorado, Georgia, and Wisconsin, will outline strategies for systems and a [new NCAPPS resource](#) to expand supported decision making so that more people can benefit from these alternatives to guardianship. [Register](#) for the webinar.

#### **NASHIA Is Accepting Applications for LPA on Behavioral Health**

The National Association of State Head Injury Administrators (NASHIA) is currently accepting applications for the inaugural Leading Practices Academy (LPA) on Behavioral Health which begins August 2022. This LPA is designed to provide strategic and customized technical assistance to States at any point in their work with behavioral health. Please find more information about the LPA [here](#) and send any questions to [hcushen@nashia.org](mailto:hcushen@nashia.org).

#### **TBI TARC Offers Webinar on Behavioral Health Guide**

On June 22, 2022, from 3:00—4:30pm (ET), the Administration for Community Living's (ACL) Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) Technical Assistance and Resource Center (TARC) will offer the webinar, "Introductory Webinar to the Behavioral Health Guide: Considerations for Best Practices for Children, Youth, and Adults with TBI." This webinar will introduce Behavioral Health Guide designed to provide State brain injury professionals with the tools to effectively partner with their State behavioral health entities and improve outcomes for this population. The guide's authors will provide an overview of the various sections and answer questions about applying some of the tools and strategies identified within a State system. View the guide [here](#). Register [here](#).

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

You may now register 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](#).

#### **National Lifespan Respite Conference Opens for Registration**

Early bird registration is open for the National Lifespan Respite Conference, "Reimagine Respite!", 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. Early bird registration ends August 15. After that time, the rate increases. 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.**

