

Education and HHS announce effort to expand school-based health services. Read further for more information in this week's *Washington Weekly*.



**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION
OF STATE HEAD INJURY
ADMINISTRATORS**

Washington Weekly!

by National Association of State Head Injury Administrators

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Administration

HHS and ED Launch Effort to Expand School-based Health Services

Yesterday, U.S. Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Xavier Becerra and U.S. Education Department (ED) Secretary Miguel A. Cardona announced their reaffirmed commitment to children and youth by launching a joint-department effort to expand school-based health services, ensuring children have the health services and supports necessary to build resilience and thrive. The COVID-19 pandemic has challenged the health and wellbeing of the Nation's children and youth further exacerbated preexisting inequities. Throughout the country, childcare centers, schools, after-school programs, and recreational activities closed, disconnecting nearly 60 million children and youth from essential resources and supports. Many families faced job loss, economic hardship, and food insecurity, profoundly affecting child health and wellbeing.

As part of this effort, ED and HHS will be co-hosting a webinar for next Wednesday, March 30 at 3:00pm (ET) that will highlight successful models of health center service delivery in schools, as well as approaches, needs, and opportunities to support partnerships between schools and health centers. If you would like to attend the webinar, please register [here](#).

Senate Confirms OMB Director

On March 15, the U.S. Senate confirmed Shalanda Young as director of the Office of Management and Budget. Young held the role in the acting capacity last year. She has been serving as acting director this past year. OMB plays a central role in the federal budget, regulations, procurement, federal workforce management.

ED Sends Letter to Educators and Parents Regarding New CDC Recommendations and Impact on Children with Disabilities

Yesterday, Education Secretary Miguel Cardona wrote a [letter](#) to educators and parents regarding new Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommendations and the recommendations' impact on children with disabilities. This letter addresses the needs of students with disabilities as the country moves into a new phase in response to the pandemic. The letter addresses the CDC's February 2022 framework for identifying COVID-19 Community Levels and encourages schools to lead with equity and inclusion to ensure all students have access to in-person learning alongside their peers.

The letter includes sections on leveraging the individualized education program (IEP) or Section 504 process to ensure schools have protections in place to protect in-person learning; continuing use of layered prevention strategies to keep school communities safe; and ensuring students receive education and services in the least restrictive environment.

RSA Announces Interpretation on Pre-Employment Transition Services

On Monday, the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) announced the publication of the [final notification of interpretation](#) (NOI) regarding the use of Federal Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) funds reserved for pre-employment transition services. On February 28, 2020, the U.S. Department of Education published an NOI in the Federal Register ([85 FR 11848](#)) to clarify current policy regarding the permissibility of using funds reserved for pre-employment transition services for auxiliary aids and services, and to announce a change in policy regarding the use of Federal VR funds reserved for pre-employment transition services. There are no changes between the [original interpretation](#) and this [final interpretation](#).

Through this document, the Department rescinds the [Dear Director Letter](#) (December 28, 2016) regarding the use of reserved funds for the provision of auxiliary aids and services because the substance of that letter was incorporated into and clarified by the original interpretation. Please contact your [RSA State Liaison](#) with any questions.

ACL to Celebrate 10th Anniversary

The [Administration for Community Living \(ACL\)](#) will host a livestream, [Celebrating ACL's 10th Anniversary](#), April 26th, 1 - 2:30pm (ET). The event will celebrate ACL's achievements during the last decade, explore current opportunities and activities, and look ahead to what needs to be done to achieve ACL's vision for the future of the country. The event will feature two panels of leaders from the disability and aging communities. The panelists will discuss community living, ACL's accomplishments within these communities, and how the disability and aging communities can work together to create partnerships and collaboration. [Sign up for ACL updates](#) to be alerted when registration opens.

Reports and Resources

RRTC Publishes Research Brief on Person-Centeredness in HCBS

The NIDILRR-funded [Rehabilitation Research and Training Center on Home and Community-Based Services \(HCBS\) Person-Centered Outcomes and Measurements](#) released a research brief, [Influence of Disability Models on Person-Centeredness in Home and Community-Based Services](#). The brief examines the medical, social, and biopsychosocial frameworks of disability; evolving concepts of person-centeredness; and implications for providers and others who deliver HCBS in order to achieve improvements in person-centered supports.

Upcoming Webinars and Conferences

RR&T Center Offers Webinar on HCBS Outcome Measurement

On Monday, April 11, from 10:00am- 1:00pm (CST), the Rehabilitation Research and Training Center on HCBS Outcome Measurement will hold an event about creating a global vision for developing outcome measure that lead to improved disability services and policies. The event will feature presentations from Julie Beadle-Brown of the University of Kent in the United Kingdom and Jan Šiška of Charles University in the Czech Republic. Other presenters include ICI's Roger Stancliffe, professor emeritus at the University of Sydney, Australia, along with Renáta Tichá and Brian Abery. A panel discussion will explore the different indicators, frameworks, and approaches used around the world to assess quality in disability service and policy contexts and propose improvements for the future.

Panelists will include Dorothy Hiersteiner and Stephanie Giordano from the Human Resources Research Institute, Shawn Terrell from the Administration for Community Living, Allan Heinemann & Anne Deutsch from Northwestern University, Carli Friedman from the Council on Quality and Leadership, Christine Linehan from the University College Dublin (Ireland), and Anne Rosken from University of St. Gallen (Germany). This event can be attended virtually or in person. [Register for the event](#).

ADA Center to Host Webinar on Employment and ADA

The NIDILRR-funded [Southeast ADA Regional Center](#) will host a three-part webinar series, [Employment and the Americans with Disabilities Act \(ADA\)](#), March 30th, April 27th, and May 25th, 2 - 3:30 (ET). Webinar topics will be Disability Disclosure: From Application to Employment, The Interactive Process: The Foundation for Receiving an Effective Accommodation, and Employment: Long Haulers and COVID. Registration is free and required for each session. Register [here](#).

NCAPPS Schedules HCBS through the Lens of Person-Centered Practices Webinar

On March 31, 2022, the National Center on Advancing Person-Centered Practices and Systems (NCAPPS) will offer the webinar, "Understanding and Addressing Unmet Needs in HCBS; Through the Person-Centered Practices," from 3:00pm – 4:00pm (ET). While studies have found a connection between unmet HCBS needs and adverse outcomes, including hospitalization, institutionalization, and death; few have examined user-reported perspectives about the quality and sufficiency of HCBS and their relationship to key health and community living outcomes. Researchers at the Lurie Institute for Disability Policy conducted a study to learn how many people who use HCBS need more services than they receive and understand the connection between unmet HCBS needs and health and community living outcomes.

Panelists will discuss what implications the results of the study have in regard to person-centered planning in HCBS, highlight opportunities for improvement, and discuss how to overcome challenges to advancing person-centered practices. Register [here](#)



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in promoting partnerships and building systems
to meet the needs of individuals with brain injuries and their families.

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