

HHS to hold meeting tomorrow, Saturday, to discuss domestic policy and disabilities. 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

March 4, 2022

Administration

White House Hold Briefing on Saturday on Domestic Policy and Disabilities

Tomorrow, March 5th, at 1:00pm (ET), the White House is holding a briefing on the State of the Union with Health and Human Services Secretary Xavier Becerra. Joining Secretary Becerra are members of the Domestic Policy Council to discuss what the President's State of the Union address means for Americans with disabilities. Register [here](#).

DOL Reports February Job Numbers

Today, the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) released the February jobs report that showed 678,000 jobs were added and that the unemployment decreased to 3.8. However, for people with disabilities, the *Monthly Update* (nTIDE) report, issued by Kessler Foundation and the University of New Hampshire's Institute on Disabilities, indicate that job numbers declined from 33.8 percent in January to 33.1 percent in February 2022 (down 2.1 percent or 0.7 percentage points). The report reminded readers that when looking at labor market statistics for people with disabilities that these statistics are based on a sample that is small relative to people without disabilities and, thus, subject to greater month-to-month variations.

CDC Adds IDD to List of Conditions at Increased Risk from COVID-19

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) updated its list in February with regard to people who are at elevated risk of severe disease from COVID-19. CDC has indicated that people with some types of disabilities may be more likely to get very sick from COVID-19 because of underlying medical conditions, living in congregate settings, or systemic health and social inequities. People with intellectual and developmental disabilities have been added to the list along with other types of disabilities.

HHS Appoints New Director of AHRQ

This week, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Xavier Becerra released a statement announcing the appointment of Robert "Bob" Valdez, Ph.D., MHSA, as Director of the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ). AHRQ's mission is to produce evidence to make health care safer, higher quality, more accessible, equitable, and affordable, and to work within HHS and with other partners to make sure that the evidence is understood and used.

Have You Registered for the ACL TBI Stakeholder Webinar?

As a reminder, the Administration for Community Living (ACL) is holding a TBI Stakeholder webinar on March 8 in observance of Brain Injury Awareness Month. The virtual webinar will feature sessions on Survivor Engagement Strategies, Domestic Violence and the Effect on Children, Effective Partnerships with Behavioral Health with a Focus on Suicide, and Effective Strategies for Using and Leveraging Data. Issues of equity and intersectionality will be woven

into each session. The webinar will be held 12:00 – 4:30pm (ET). If you require additional accommodations to participate or if you have any questions about the sessions, please do not hesitate to contact tbitarc@hsri.org. Register [here](#).

Reports and Resources

KFF Produces New Reports on Medicaid HCBS

The Kaiser Family Foundation (KFF) has produced two new resources: 1) "[Medicaid Home & Community-Based Services: People Served and Spending During COVID-19](#)," that reports State-level data on number of people served and spending on Medicaid HCBS in FY 2020; and 2) "[State Policy Choices About Medicaid Home and Community-Based Services Amid the Pandemic](#)." The Brief, published today, reported that most States report HCBS waiver waiting lists, totaling over 665,000 people nationally, though State variation in policies makes waiting lists an incomplete measure of program needs and State capacity, and waiting lists are not directly comparable among States or from year to year. The majority of people on waiting lists are in seven States that do not screen for waiver eligibility before placing individuals on a list.

Over half of States deliver some or all HCBS waiver services through capitated managed care.

GAO Issues Report on Abuse at Residential Schools and Other Similar Facilities

A new [report](#) from the Government Accountability office finds that local, State and federal agencies are not sufficiently coordinating their efforts to monitor residential facilities for young people with disabilities and those in foster care. The report, "CHILD WELFARE: HHS Should Facilitate Information Sharing Between States to Help Prevent and Address Maltreatment in Residential Facilities," was published after investigators interviewed officials in Arkansas, California, Massachusetts and Washington, D.C. responsible for overseeing residential facilities serving those in the child welfare system and residential schools paid for by Medicaid, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) or other federal sources. They also spoke with stakeholder groups and examined State laws and regulations. GAO recommends that the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), in consultation with Education, facilitate information sharing among States on promising practices for preventing and addressing maltreatment in residential facilities. HHS agreed with these recommendations. Read the report [here](#).

Upcoming Webinars and Conferences

VA DARS to Hold Webinar on Using Data to Improve Outcomes

On Tuesday, March 15, the Virginia Department for Aging & Rehabilitative Services (DARS) will hold a webinar, "Using Data to Improve Outcomes: Sharing Experiences with Brain Injury Data," to describe their work to identify data specific to and that includes information related to brain injury from a variety of sources. The results will be used to establish a plan for organizing and supporting the efforts of State agencies to create the most comprehensive snapshot possible of what traumatic brain injury and life afterwards looks like for Virginians. The webinar will be held from 12:00pm to 1:30pm (ET). Register [here](#).

New Housing TAC Offers Webinar Series Starting March 7

The newly created Housing and Services Resource Center ((HSRC) is offering a two-part webinar series starting March 7. With new funding and flexibilities, States and local stakeholders have a not-to-be-missed opportunity to sustainably connect housing and services in ways that improve housing stability for older adults, people with disabilities, and people experiencing or at risk of homelessness. The sessions are:

- **March 7, 3:00 – 4:30pm (ET): Expanded Opportunities with Federal Funding for Housing and Services.** Federal agency leaders will highlight major funding streams for

affordable, accessible, housing, home and community-based services, and behavioral and mental services. Presenters will offer models that braid federal funding so all can live successfully and stably in the community. Featured agencies include the Administration for Community Living, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, and the Department of Housing and Urban Development. [Register for the webinar.](#)

- **March 15, 2:30 – 4:00pm (ET): State and Local Partnerships for Housing Stability.** States and communities have created cross-sector partnerships that improve housing stability by connecting people to housing and making it easier to obtain supportive services. Presenters from housing, home- and community-based services, and health services will feature their successful approaches. After a showcase of innovative collaborations that braid funding for housing and services, webinar participants will have ample time to ask questions. [Register for the webinar.](#)

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar. Also, the webinar will include real-time captioning and American Sign Language remote video interpreting. If you need any additional accommodations or have any questions, please send an email to the Housing with Services Resource Center at HSRC@acl.hhs.gov.

The Housing and Services Resource Center was created for people who work in the organizations and systems that provide housing resources and homelessness services, behavioral and mental health services, independent living services and other supportive services, and others who are working to help people live successfully and stably in the community. The goal is to foster collaboration and cross-sector partnerships, in order to streamline access to services, better leverage resources, and ultimately make community living possible for more people. The Center is part of a [partnership between the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services \(HHS\) and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development \(HUD\)](#) to make community living a reality for all. This partnership will expand accessible, affordable housing; help people exit homelessness; improve home and community-based services; and address the institutional bias in America's long-term care system.

NCIL Accepting Workshop Proposals for 2022 Annual Conference

The National Council on Independent Living (NCIL) is accepting workshop proposals for the 2022 Annual Conference: Forging Justice, which will be held July 25-28, 2022. This will be a hybrid event, with the option for participants to join in-person and virtually. The NCIL Conference is designed to provide peer support, organizing, advocacy, and learning opportunities for the network to plan for the future of Independent Living. Priority will be given to workshops that address the theme of forging justice through the lens of intersectionality and disability justice.

Workshop applications are due on Monday, March 7, 2022 at 11:59pm (ET). [Click here](#) for more information.

NASHIA Schedules Annual SOS: Save the Date

The National Association of State Head Injury Administrators (NASHIA) urges you to "Save the Date" for the upcoming annual State of the States (SOS) Meeting, which will be held virtually Sept. 7-9, 2022. Registration opens May 1st. Watch for further information on the NASHIA website.

ARCH and Respite Care Association to Co-host National Lifespan Respite Conference

ARCH has announced that we it will be co-hosting the 2022 National Lifespan Respite Conference with the Respite Care Association of Wisconsin in Madison, WI, September 13-15, 2022. The theme is Reimagine Respite! The Lifespan Respite Grantee and Partner Learning Symposium will be held on September 13th, prior to the conference. The deadline for the [Call for Presentations](#) for the national conference to submit a proposal is March 1, 2022. Please visit the [website](#) for more information. Registration coming soon!

ARCH Announces 2022 National Lifespan Respite Conference

ARCH National Respite Network has announced that the Network will be co-hosting the 2022 National Lifespan Respite Conference with the Respite Care Association of Wisconsin in Madison, WI, September 13-15, 2022. The theme is *Reimagine Respite!* The Lifespan Respite Grantee and Partner Learning Symposium will be held on September 13th, prior to the conference. Please visit the [website](#) for more information. Registration coming soon!



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[Visit our website](#)



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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