

NASHIA entertains applications for Learning Practices Academy on Behavioral Health. Read further for more information in this week's *Washington Weekly*.



Washington Weekly!

by the National Association of State Head Injury Administrators

May 27, 2022

Administration

HHS Announces Acting Director of New ARPA-H

This week, Health and Human Services Secretary Xavier Becerra announced the formal establishment of the **Advanced Research Project Agency for Health (ARPA-H)** as an independent entity within the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the appointment of Adam H. Russell, D.Phil., as acting deputy director. Dr. Russell will begin his new role in June. Currently, Dr. Russell is the Chief Scientist at University of Maryland's Applied Research Laboratory for Intelligence and Security (ARLIS). He spent more than a decade as a Program Manager, first at the Intelligence Advanced Research Projects Activity (IARPA) and then at the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA). Dr. Russell holds a Bachelor of Arts in Cultural Anthropology from Duke University, and an M.Phil. and a D.Phil. in Social Anthropology from Oxford University, where he was a Rhodes Scholar.

President Biden proposed the creation ARPA-H to improve the U.S. government's ability to speed biomedical and health research. The agency was created by the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2022 (P.L. 117-103) enacted on March 15, 2022, authorizing the establishment of ARPA-H within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

NHTSA Launches *Click It or Ticket* National Campaign

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) has launched the annual *Click It or Ticket* campaign, a national seat belt enforcement mobilization with the goal of reminding drivers that seat belts save lives. A \$10 million paid media campaign started May 16 and will run through June 5, 2022, featuring radio, TV, and digital ads in both English and Spanish. The public awareness campaign will coincide with special enforcement efforts May 23-June 5, during which State and local law enforcement agencies across the country will be issuing tickets to drivers who choose not to buckle up. The work of our nation's law enforcement officers plays an important role in preventing and reducing traffic-related fatalities and injuries.

The paid media campaign will target drivers who, according to research data, are less likely to wear seat belts. In 2020, more than half of all young adults ages 18 to 34 killed in crashes were completely unrestrained. Men make up the majority of those killed in crashes, representing 67% of all passenger vehicle occupant deaths in 2020. Data show 55% of men killed in crashes were unrestrained, compared to 43% of women killed in crashes.

CMS Announces Strategy for States to Implement HCBS Settings Regulation

On May 24, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) announced a **strategy** for implementation of the home and community-based services (HCBS) settings regulation, in partnership with the Administration for Community Living (ACL), that aligns the focus of federal support and State compliance activities with the realities of the direct-service workforce crisis exacerbated by the COVID-19 public health emergency (PHE). CMS and ACL believe this strategy will ensure implementation of important regulatory criteria related to beneficiary rights in the short-term, with sustained State and provider efforts to fully implement all other settings criteria. This multi-faceted implementation approach contains the following components, in order for States to continue federal reimbursement HCBS beyond the transition period:

- States must receive final Statewide Transition Plan approval by March 17, 2023.
- States and providers must be in compliance with all settings criteria not directly impacted by PHE disruptions, including PHE-related workforce challenges, by March 17, 2023.
- Time-limited corrective action plans (CAPs) will be available to States to authorize additional time to achieve full compliance with settings criteria that are directly impacted by PHE disruptions, when States document the efforts to meet these requirements to the fullest extent possible, and are in compliance with all other settings criteria.

CMS will be holding multiple meetings with HCBS stakeholders to review this information. For more information related to this announcement on implementation of the home and community-based settings regulation, please go [here](#).

In 2014, CMS issued the HCBS Settings Rule to require that every State ensure that services delivered to seniors and people with disabilities, including people with brain injury, living in the community – outside of institutions and nursing facilities – meet minimum standards for integration, access to community life, choice, autonomy, and other important consumer protections. The HCBS Settings Rule was created to expand the availability of community-based services that maximize autonomy and choice for individuals with disabilities, and to address the problem of institutional-like settings receiving HCBS dollars.

Reports and Resources

TBI TARC Publishes Behavioral Health Guide

The Traumatic Brain Injury Technical Assistance and Resource Center (TBI TARC), funded by the Administration for Community Living (ACL), just released a **[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 individuals with co-occurring conditions. The guide provides an overview of the various sections and answer questions about applying some of the tools and strategies identified within a State system. It is available on NASHIA's [website](#).

CMS Enhances Website to Help Beneficiaries to Renew Medicaid or CHIP Coverage

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has launched enhancements to **[Medicaid.gov](#)** to help beneficiaries prepare to renew their Medicaid or Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) coverage. When the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency (PHE) ends, States will restart regular Medicaid and CHIP eligibility renewals, and the enhancements added to **[Medicaid.gov](#)** will help connect beneficiaries directly to their State to obtain needed information.

A call to action button, added to the **[Medicaid.gov](#)** homepage, will enable beneficiaries to be automatically directed to a new "Renew Your Medicaid and CHIP" coverage page that provides information on how beneficiaries can get ready to renew, including updating contact information, checking their mail and completing a renewal form, if needed. The page also provides an interactive map to easily connect beneficiaries directly to their State Medicaid agency.

RSA Issues VR Report to Congress

The Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) has issued its **Report on Federal Activities Under -- [The Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended by title IV of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act \(WIOA\) for Fiscal Years 2017–2020](#)** to the President and Congress describes the activities conducted by RSA during federal fiscal years (FYs) 2017 through 2020. RSA describes the purpose, funding, activities, and performance of each formula and discretionary grant program it administers, including its collaboration with other federal agencies. Additionally, RSA explains reasons underlying trends in performance, including the effect, if any, of the COVID-19 pandemic on the trends, and the technical assistance provided by RSA to improve the performance of the programs.

MSKTC Seeks Individuals for TBI Factsheet Testing

The NIDILRR-funded **[Model Systems Knowledge Translation Center \(MSKTC\)](#)** is recruiting people with severe traumatic brain injury (TBI) who experienced disorders of consciousness and their family members to test a new factsheet, "**[A Family Caregiver Guide to Selecting Rehabilitation Programs for Persons with Disorders of Consciousness \(DOC\)](#)**." Participants must be at least 18 years of age. Interviews will last approximately 60 minutes and participants will receive a \$25 gift card for their time. To learn more or to participate call 202/403-5600 or email msktc@air.org.

ARCH Offers New Fact Sheets for Lifespan Respite Grantees and Partners

ARCH National Respite Network and Resource Center (ARCH) has shared two new facts that will be useful to Lifespan Respite grantees, partners, and community and faith-based organizations looking to build respite capacity in their States and communities, and to family caregivers looking for respite options:

1) Adult Day Services and Respite

Adult Day Services (ADS) provide a break (respite) to the caregiver while providing health related and therapeutic services and social activities for adults with a wide variety of care needs, including those with developmental, intellectual, physical and/or other cognitive disabilities and other conditions that increase their care needs. This fact sheet is a primer on Adult Day Services, providing background on who uses adult day services, the benefits of ADS, and the types of ADS and the services provided. It explores innovative models of ADS and provides information for family caregivers and those who assist them on how to find and choose quality ADS, and how to pay for it. Download [here](#).

2) Respite and the Faith Community

The purpose of this fact sheet is to identify and provide information on how faith communities can provide or support respite services as well as offer guidance to respite programs on ways to partner with faith communities to expand the reach of their services. Resources and information include the benefits of respite-faith community partnerships, examples of respite and faith community initiatives, and innovative and exemplary faith-based respite models. Download [here](#).

CDC Expands Resources on Website: Click on Funding Map to View State Snapshots

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has updated and expanded resources that has been launched its website this week. The **[NCIPC Budget & Impact webpage](#)** has been refreshed, and now includes "State Investment Snapshots on Overdose, Suicide, and ACEs" that communicate funding and programmatic data across our three priority areas at the State-level. Click on the **[funding map](#)** to view the snapshots for each State highlighting funding, burden, and examples of progress.

Milbank Produces Direct Care Workforce Policy and Action Guide

The **[Direct Care Workforce Policy and Action Guide](#)**, a new Milbank Memorial Fund resource for State officials, examines the challenges that direct care workers face — and the administrative, funding, policy, and regulatory levers that States can use to better support this critical workforce. The guide, coauthored by the Center for Health Care Strategies, IMPART Alliance/Michigan State University, and the Milbank Memorial Fund, underscores that simply raising wages or requiring more training hours is not sufficient. The guide outlines — with action

steps and examples — how officials can build a statewide, coordinated plan that is tailored to State needs and responsive to drivers of the DCW shortage. The authors also illustrate how some States are addressing long-standing racial and economic disparities that have affected both the direct care workforce as a profession and DCWs themselves. View the guide at Milbank.org.

Upcoming Webinars and Conferences

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.

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](#).

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 33rd Annual State of the States Conference

You may now register for NASHIA's 33rd 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. 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](#).

The theme is meant to be timely as well as inspirational. The pandemic may be ongoing, but we can now imagine a more hopeful future. COVID-19 cast a harsh light on the lack of support for family caregivers, but it also presented opportunities to raise awareness and rethink traditional supports to ensure that they are more meaningful for family caregivers and their loved ones. The conference will be preceded by the Lifespan Respite Grantee and Partner Learning Symposium for invited grantees and partners only on September 13, 2022. More information coming soon!

This update was prepared by:

Susan L. Vaughn, Director of Public Policy
publicpolicy@nashia.org

Jennifer Braun, Chair, NASHIA Public Policy Committee
jennifer.braun@health.mo.gov

Rebecca Wolfkiel, Executive Director
execdirector@nashia.org

Zaida Ricker, Governmental Relations Consultant
zricker@ridgepolicygroup.com

[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.



National Association of State Head Injury Administrators | PO Box 1878, Alabaster, AL 35007