

LPC Weekly Report

Friday, August 5 2022



**Highlights for LPCs:**

**Ageing Services Workforce Now Campaign.** The workforce crisis in our sector requires immediate action. LeadingAge’s ongoing federal government advocacy is culminating in this new coordinated advocacy campaign—[join us to take action for the aging services workforce–now!](#)

**A Successful National Workforce Day of Action**

LeadingAge members from around the country participated in a National Workforce Day of Action on July 27, demanding Congress and the Administration take responsibility and immediate action to address the workforce crisis in aging services–NOW. Hundreds of messages were sent to Senators, Representatives, and CMS on a range of issues affecting our workforce. It’s not too late to [add your voice](#)—you can still take action on our Workforce Action Alerts:

- [Tell CMS to Support Aging Service Providers](#)
- [Ask Your Senators to Cosponsor CNA Lockout Legislation](#)
- [Keep Temporary Assistant \(TNA\) Flexibilities](#)

**LPC July Member Network Recording Available.** Thanks to all who attended our LPC July Member Network meeting last week, where our LeadingAge expert panel discussed the current Aging Services Workforce NOW [Campaign](#) as well as pragmatic workforce solutions coming out of the [LTSS Center](#). Here is the [link](#) for the recording; the password is !2PAWV9i.

**NIC Releases Wave 43 Survey Results.** On Monday, NIC released its latest Executive Survey of senior housing and skilled nursing providers, which this time was comprised of 58% for- and 38% not-for-profit providers, and 10% who own/ operate both NFP and FP properties. The pace of move-ins and move-outs continue to track closely with COVID prevalence nationally; the pace of moves decelerated commensurate with the rise in the BA.4 and BA.5 variants between May 31 - July 24 surveys. In terms of new applicant activity, the deceleration in move-ins was attributed to a slow-down of leads conversations/sales (76%), followed by an organizationally-imposed ban on moves (18%) and resident/family member concerns (6%). Independent living providers saw the greatest deceleration in moves in this past survey, followed by SNF and AL. Only memory care providers saw an acceleration in move ins over this last survey period. Independent Living also reported the slowest acceleration of move outs, followed by AL and memory care; SNF providers reported the greatest acceleration in move outs, albeit most SNF providers (58%) reported no change.

This Wave Survey also tracked increases in property and professional liability insurance premiums; about half of all providers indicated a significant increase in property liability insurance premiums since before the pandemic, with AL seeing the largest increase, followed by SNF, memory care, and then IL. In terms of professional liability insurance, SNF providers reported the greatest significant increase in costs followed by AL, memory care, and then IL. Acuity of care need upon move-in, as compared to before the pandemic, was also tracked again in this survey; most levels of care reported a slight decrease in rising acuity levels as compared to Wave 42, and only SNF providers reported a slight increase. You can read more of the survey results [here](#).

**COVID-19 Related Updates:**

**What are the Implications of Long COVID for Employment and Health Coverage?** It is too early to have comprehensive data or a clear picture of employment outcomes, but there are reports that claims associated with long COVID are rising for disability insurance, workers compensation, and group health insurance. This KFF [policy watch](#) reviews what we know and outlines key questions regarding employment and coverage outcomes.

**Study on the association of State COVID-19 Vaccine Mandates and staffing in nursing homes:** A [study](#) in JAMA Health Forum looked at the association between state COVID-19 vaccine mandates for US nursing homes employees and staff vaccination coverage and staff shortages. The study which looked at nursing homes in 38 states a vaccine mandate experienced an increase in staff vaccination coverage compared with facilities in states with no mandate and no worsening of reported staffing shortages following the mandates.

**In response to President Biden's April 5, 2022, [Memorandum on Addressing the Long-Term Effects of COVID-19](#), HSS delivered these two reports:**

- [The Services and Supports for Longer-Term Impacts of COVID-19 Report \(Services Report\)](#) outlines federally funded support and services that can help individuals experiencing the longer-term effects of COVID-19, including Long COVID and its associated conditions, mental health, substance use, and bereavement.
- [The National Research Action Plan on Long COVID \(the Research Plan\)](#) proposes a comprehensive and equitable research strategy to inform our national response to Long COVID.

#### ***Advocacy Updates and Hill News:***

**Senate Labor-HHS Appropriations Bill Address Older Adults Workforce Investments.** On July 28, 2022, the Senate Appropriations Committee Chairman Patrick Leahy (D-VT) released the Chairman's mark of the 12 senate fiscal year (FY) 2023 appropriations bills. According to the Committee's [summary](#), the FY 2023 Senate Labor-Health and Human Services (Labor-HHS) and Education Appropriations funding bill includes \$216.1 billion in discretionary funding. The bill includes critical investments in programs to recruit direct care workers, expand geriatric workforce academic training, and increase health professions workforce investments. The bill allocates significant funding to expand national apprenticeships and worker protection programs, which includes:

\$10 million for advancing the Direct Support Workforce as a Career Competitive Grants;  
\$47.2 million for the Geriatric Workforce Enhancement Program;  
\$5.7 million for the Health Professions Workforce Information and Analysis Program;  
\$3.2 billion for Nursing Workforce Development Programs;  
\$30 million for the Preventing Burnout in the Healthcare Workforce Initiative, to prevent suicide, burnout, and mental and behavioral health conditions among healthcare providers;  
\$12.7 million for the Susan Harwood Training Grant Program, to support the delivery of training and education to help workers and employers identify and prevent workplace safety and health hazards;  
\$300 million for Registered Apprenticeship Grants, that prioritize funding to expand to new industries, and for underserved or underrepresented populations.

You can access an article [here](#) that provides additional background on the provisions that are of interest to LeadingAge members. For any questions, please contact Andrea Price-Carter.

**Updates on Congressional telehealth policy:** An article explaining the *Advancing Telehealth Beyond COVID-19 Act of 2021* (H.R. 4040) which passed the House last week can be found [here](#).

**ARPA 9817: Early results on what's working:** This webinar is being hosted on August 4<sup>th</sup> at 1:30pm EST and will examine some of the most promising trends and proposals for investing funds from Section 9817 of the American Recovery Plan Act (ARPA). A panel of leaders from NAMD, the State of Arkansas, and Guidehouse will discuss pandemic recovery, workforce strategies, and infrastructure approaches to ensure the long-term sustainability of home and community based services. Register [here](#).

***News from LeadingAge:***

**Register Today for the 2022 LeadingAge Annual Meeting + EXPO!** Ready to explore new strategies for building momentum in Denver? Join your peers and experts across aging services for conversations that fuel progress at the LeadingAge Annual Meeting + EXPO. Registration and hotel blocks are now open so reserve your seat and [join us in Denver, October 16-19](#).

**Don't Miss Your Chance to Apply: 2023 Leadership Academy.** The nonprofit aging services sector needs diverse, empowered leaders and the [LeadingAge Larry Minnix Leadership Academy](#) is designed to develop leadership capacities and core competencies. Explore your natural talents and authentic leadership style,– or recommend the opportunity to a skilled colleague. The application **deadline is Monday, August 1, so [apply now!](#)**