

Medicaid HCBS and PACE Weekly: Recap of Leading Age Updates

September 16, 2022

LeadingAge Coronavirus Update Call Monday. COVID-19 has changed the way that we think of how we help those we serve on the journey to end of life and how advance care planning and discussions can improve quality of care. While these are tough conversations to have, it can have a tremendous impact on how those we care for get the best care in their final time of need. On **Monday, September 19, at 3:30 PM ET, Brynn Bowman**, President and CEO of the Center to Advance Palliative Care will join us to provide lessons learned from COVID and tools to help deliver palliative and end of life care. If you haven't registered for LeadingAge Update Calls, [you can do so here](#). You can also find previous call recordings [here](#). Note that to access recordings of the calls you need a LeadingAge password. Any staff member of any LeadingAge member organization can set up a password to access previous calls and other "members only" content.

PACE Member Network Launched September 15. The PACE Member Network meetings are open to members who currently operate, or who are interested in learning more about starting a PACE program. The PACE network advances conversations and learnings on PACE expansion, regulations, operations, and workforce best practices. The Network will sometimes feature an outside speaker and always have a topic for discussion on trending news. We encourage members to share opportunities and state developments on PACE policy. To join this network, please go [here](#). If you have any issues or questions, please email Mollie at mgurian@leadingage.org

MACPAC Conducted September 2022 Public Meeting. The Medicaid and CHIP Payment and Access Commission (MACPAC) announced their September 2022 meeting will take place on Thursday, September 15 from 10:00 AM – 4:30 PM ET and Friday, September 16 from 9:30 AM – 12:00 Noon ET. Topics for this meeting included:

- race and ethnicity data collection and reporting in Medicaid;
- a panel discussion on state processes related to unwinding the continuous coverage requirement in Medicaid once the public health emergency ends;
- rate setting and risk mitigation in Medicaid managed care;
- nursing facility payments in Medicaid;
- counter-cyclical disproportionate share hospital policies;
- implications of Alzheimer's disease treatment on Medicaid;
- a proposed rule on core set reporting and a request for information on long-term services and supports; and
- a panel discussion on integrating care for dually eligible beneficiaries in Medicaid fee-for-service.

LeadingAge will report out on a key elements of the meeting in the coming days.

ACL Webinar on Equity and Caregiver Support Related to Alzheimer's. The Department of Health and Human Services, Administration on Community Living (ACL) will host a webinar on Monday, September 19 from Noon – 1:30 PM ET on "Innovations in Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias (ADRD)

Caregiver Support Programs.” During the session, Resources for Integrated Care (RIC) will present tools, resources, and strategies related to supporting the needs of dually eligible people with ADRD. Register for the free webinar [here](#). Information on how to join will be provided after you register

CMS releases data on telehealth utilization. CMS released data that highlights trends in the utilization of telehealth services between Jan 1, 2020 and March 31, 2022. The data allows for analysis of telehealth utilization by quarter, state, and a number of demographic characteristics. The data is Part B FFS claims so excludes utilization patterns of many LeadingAge members who primarily bill Part A but may be of interest and will likely inform debate about future telehealth policy. This data can be found [here](#).

CMS Listening Session on Emergency Preparedness. CMS Clinical Standards Group (CSG) hosted a listening session on emergency preparedness requirements on September 13. LeadingAge participated in the listening session, contributing feedback on behalf of LeadingAge members subject to emergency preparedness requirements. Read a summary of the listening session [here](#). LeadingAge will also be submitting written feedback to CMS. Please email Jodi Eyigor jeygior@leadingage.org by Friday, September 23 if you wish to contribute feedback on any of the following:

- Barriers you have experienced in implementing emergency preparedness requirements.
- Resources you use in emergency planning and resources you would like to see developed.
- How your community stands down / recovers following an emergency, including how you assess and correct any issues identified during the emergency.
- Waivers and flexibilities that have been most helpful and least helpful during the current COVID-19 public health emergency.

CMS Seeking Feedback from Individual Healthcare Staff on Emergency Preparedness: CMS will host a listening session on September 27 at 1pm to solicit feedback from [individual healthcare staff](#) on emergency preparedness requirements. LeadingAge previously attended a listening session on emergency preparedness and encourages members to [register here](#) to participate in and provide direct feedback to CMS on the following questions:

- How has the extended duration of the COVID-19 public health emergency affected the workforce at your facility/employer? How has your facility/employer addressed any staffing shortages? How has your facility/employer approached the delivery of patient/resident care in light of staffing shortages?
- What are some innovative approaches that your facility/employer has taken to address the impacts of emergency situations on health care staff?
- What resources are available in your community to support health care workers during and after emergency events?
- How often (if at all) do you participate in emergency preparedness exercises, and what do those exercises entail? How did the exercises prepare you to address actual emergency situations?
- What can CMS do to ensure a more resilient healthcare workforce to withstand future emergencies?

Senate Hearing Builds Support for Legislation to Address Health Care Workforce Crisis. The Subcommittee on Immigration, Citizenship and Border Safety of the Senate Judiciary Committee held a

September 14 hearing entitled, “Flatlining Care: Why Immigrants Are Crucial to Bolstering Our Health Care Workforce.” The hearing elevated the LeadingAge’s solutions to the aging services workforce crisis. Democratic members on the Subcommittee highlighted the importance of immediately enacting bipartisan legislation that would build up our foreign health care workforce. While Republican Subcommittee members used the hearing as an opportunity to highlight the importance of simultaneously addressing the border crisis. Chairman Durbin and Padilla highlighted the *Conrad State 30 and Physician Access Reauthorization Act* (S. 1810, H.R. 3541), and *The Health Care Workforce Resilience Act* as proposals that could address our health profession shortage in America. For additional information, you can view an article [here](#). You can see a webcast of the hearing [here](#). LeadingAge is submitting testimony for the hearing record.

New App Helps Clinicians Fight Antimicrobial Resistance. A new free tool called Bugs + Drugs [released](#) by Epocrates on their mobile app shows bacterium varieties based on ZIP code. This will help clinicians better choose antibiotics and avoid worsening antimicrobial resistance. The new tool uses bacteria found in urine, skin and other sample types based on geographic region. Clinicians can also find relevant antibiotic drug options, dosing, possible interactions and safety information through the platform.