



PACE Weekly: Recap of LeadingAge Updates

November 12, 2021

LeadingAge Coronavirus Update Calls next week. Interested in hearing how LeadingAge members do advocacy on Capitol Hill and with the executive branch? Maybe you're on the line to submit your first report on how you used your Provider Relief funds and could use a little support? What's the very latest science and medical advice on vaccines and boosters? Join the LeadingAge Update calls next week as we cover all these topics as well as the most recent policy updates available. On **Monday, November 15 at 3:30 PM ET**, **Erica Thrash-Sall and Roger Myers** from **Presbyterian Villages Michigan** will discuss how they are working with their local congressional office to help move the aging services agenda. They'll also tell us about their experience hosting US Department of Housing and Urban Development Secretary Marcia Fudge at one of their senior housing communities. On **Wednesday, November 17 at 3:30 PM ET**, we'll hear from **Dr. David Fairchild, Associate Chief Medical Officer of CVS Health** who will talk about the latest updates on COVID-19 boosters and answer your questions related to vaccinations for residents, staff and children. If you haven't registered for LeadingAge Update Calls, [you can do so here](#).

LeadingAge member briefing on the vaccine mandate rules. Thursday Policy staff presented an overview for LeadingAge members of the [CMS Interim Final Omnibus COVID-19 Health Care Staff Vaccination rule](#) and the [OSHA Emergency Temporary Standard on Vaccination and Testing](#). [Here](#) is a link to the slides from the briefing. The recording will be available starting a noon on Friday in the [LeadingAge Learning Hub](#).

COVID-19 Vaccine Policy template: As we shared, we have partnered with Pathway Health to offer a COVID-19 Vaccine Policy template that addresses several of the processes required by the CMS rule. This template is a members-only resource, which means one must use a LeadingAge login in order to access it. The template can be accessed with login [here](#).

Ten States Sue Over the CMS Vaccine Interim Final Rule. Ten states filed a [lawsuit](#) in U.S. District Court in Missouri challenging the CMS Interim Final Rule issued last week. The states that joined the litigation were Missouri, Nebraska, Arkansas, Kansas, Iowa, Wyoming, Alaska, South Dakota, North Dakota, and New Hampshire. The complaint highlighted the healthcare workforce crisis, alleged that the CMS rule is an intrusion on states' police powers, and that CMS failed to follow proper notice and comment requirements. There is no timeframe yet on when the district court expects to rule on the case. We will continue to follow and keep you posted on any developments.

LeadingAge and LTC Providers Request State Department Prioritize Immigrant Visas for Nurses. LeadingAge co-signed a letter, along with 11 long-term care and post-acute provider organizations, to request the U.S. Department of State (DOS) take specific actions to prioritize immigrant visas for nurses who have approved petitions. The letter requests the DOS address issues with the U. S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, and stalled visas within the DOS. Additionally, DOS should implement several recommended solutions to expedite the interviews for these qualified international nurses.

The letter is available [here](#), and was co-signed by: LeadingAge, AHCA, Agentum, American Senior Housing Association, Association of Jewish Aging Services, National Center for Assisted Living, National Association of State Veterans Homes, Pediatric Complex Care Association, The Jewish Federations North America, The Society for Post-Acute and Long Term Care Medicine, American Network of Community Options and Resources and the National Association for the Support of Long Term Care.

Letter to CMS Administrator Seeking Clarification on CMS IFR. Today, Katie Sloan sent a [letter](#) to CMS Administrator Chiquita Brooks-LaSure seeking answers to members' questions concerning the Interim Final Rule on vaccinations. Among the questions are whether the rule applies to entire entities or just the CMS certified parts; the definition of "additional precautions" for unvaccinated staff; timing of contingency plans; requirements for new hires after January 4; more clarify on medical exemptions; how to handle vaccinating staff under the age of 18 whose parents or guardians won't consent; types of contractors/services that might be eligible for an exception; and clarity on applicability to Medicaid home care services.

Resources on Vaccine Mandates. [Here](#) is an update with vaccine resources in one place regarding the CMS Interim Final Rule, the OSHA Emergency Temporary Standard (ETS), Federal Contractor rules, and information from the Health Action Alliance including templates.

November is National Family Caregivers Month. Caregiver Action Network spearheads the national celebration each year. The organization makes materials available for general use, including the theme, a media kit, posters and sample proclamations. Visit the [Caregiver Action Network website](#) to access the materials.

Virtual event on Medicare Supplemental Services. LTQA and ATI Advisory will release new insights and policy recommendations from two years of research on non-medical Medicare benefits at a virtual event on November 16 from 1:00 – 2:00 PM ET. Panelists from the Administration on Community Living, Centene, and healthAlign will discuss opportunities to advance non-medical benefits and how providers are engaging with plans. You can register for the event [here](#).

New manual on serving older adults with serious mental illness. The HHS Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) released a clinical manual, Psychosocial Interventions for Older Adults with Serious Mental Illness. The manual provides considerations and strategies for interdisciplinary teams, peer specialists, clinicians, RNs, behavioral health organizations, and policy makers to understand, select, and implement evidence based interventions that support older adults with serious mental illness. Download the new manual [here](#).

2022 Annual Meeting Call for Sessions

Submit your proposals now for next year's Annual Meeting + EXPO, October 16-19, 2022 in Denver, CO. Learn more, get answers to common questions, and complete your submission [here](#).

Transgender Awareness Week: November 13-19, 2021. Members of the trans community face striking disparities in their access to health care, employment, and housing opportunities. November 13-19 is Transgender Awareness Week, which is a perfect opportunity to connect with content on the LeadingAge Learning Hub that explains how your community can be [inclusive to trans employees](#) and provide [great care to trans older adults](#).

LeadingAge LTSS Center @UMass Boston Resource Library. Have you checked out the [LTSS Center's Resource Library](#)? Find an array of resources relating to research in the areas of workforce, housing, nursing homes, financing, aging and health, and consumer engagement.