



Nursing Home Weekly: Recap of LeadingAge Updates

May 13, 2022

LeadingAge COVID Update Calls May 16 & 18. Now that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (NASEM) report on nursing homes has been released, we are looking for next steps and what lies ahead. Policy makers and providers of aging services will need to work together to make changes happen and LeadingAge members can play an important role in this process. On **Monday, May 16, at 3:30pm ET**, we will be joined by leading NASEM report researcher Dr. David Grabowski as he shares his insights on the study's goals and addresses the path forward. LeadingAge members will be able to ask questions and find new ways to help shape the future of aging.

On **Wednesday, May 18, at 3:30pm ET**, we will welcome LeadingAge member Zachary Richards from the Jenkins Senior Living Community and The Neighborhoods at St. Elizabeth Rehabilitation and Nursing Center in Baltimore that recently hosted CMS Administrator Brooks-LaSure. He will talk about the experience and provide some insights on how CMS is looking for feedback on policy proposals. 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.

CMS LTSS Webinar on Culture Change in Long-Term Care. On Wednesday, May 25 at 2pm ET, CMS will host a webinar with UNITE (Uniting Nursing Homes in Tribal Excellence). The organization's mission is to partner with and be a resource for Native American, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian tribes to improve the quality of life for tribal elders by implementing evidence-based practices and culturally relevant education and training. Participants will learn how tribal nursing homes have incorporated culture change and Native language into their approach to care, get an explanation on why culture change matters in tribal long-term care settings, have an opportunity to share common challenges associated with the incorporation of culture change, and hear about best practices for honoring death and dying with culture change. [Register here](#).

Healthy Homes for Older Adults. As part of Older American's Month, HUD's Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes is sharing a webinar it coordinated by Sarah L. Szanton, PhD, ANP, FAAN, Patricia M. Davidson Health Equity and Social Justice Endowed Professor, and Director, Center on Innovative Care in Aging, Johns Hopkins School of Nursing. Dr. Szanton's presentation was on "Equity Through the Built Environment: Healthy Home for Healthy Aging." Dr. Szanton examined the challenges and opportunities for aging in community with a specific emphasis on addressing health equity. HUD says the webinar "will be useful to patient advocates, social workers, healthcare professionals, community action agencies, state health department staff, state Medicaid programs, Area Agencies on Aging, and others." Watch the free webinar [here](#).

U.S. News “Best of Senior Living” Report Now LIVE. On Monday, U.S. News and World Report published a "[Best of Senior Living](#)" report that lists and rates aging services providers in Independent Living, Assisted Living, Memory Care and Continuing Care Retirement Community categories. We wrote an [article](#) that reviews important components of that study, ranging from how the data is gathered, to the listings and ratings process, and shares the key fact that all providers - regardless of participation - will have webpages for their organization hosted with U.S. News. These webpages will lead the potential consumer either to a third-party consumer broker, or to the provider organization itself, depending on whether that provider participated in the report. All members are encouraged to seek out their webpages and check the accuracy of the information found there.

Medicaid coverage at the end of the PHE. The PHE has most recently been extended to mid-July 2022. As [this](#) new KFF analysis shows, millions of people could lose coverage, but most older adults will remain eligible. States largely be responsible for managing the unwinding of the continuous enrollment requirement, and their efforts to conduct outreach, education and provide enrollment assistance can help ensure that older adults who remain eligible for Medicaid are able to retain coverage. When states resume redeterminations, it is likely that there could be a lot of enrollment churn as individuals who are eligible lose coverage and then re-enroll in a short period of time. This of course will impact providers. The Biden Administration has said that it will give states [a 60-day notice](#) before the PHE expires. If states are not notified by mid-May, the PHE will likely be extended further.

Nursing Home Network. The Nursing Home Network monthly call was held on Tuesday, April 26. Read a summary of the call [here](#). The Nursing Home Network meets on the last Tuesday of every month. LeadingAge members can register for calls [here](#) using their LeadingAge login.

NHSN Reporting Alerts. NHSN recently emailed providers with a reminder to submit COVID-19 vaccination data by May 16. This email relates specifically to reporting for the SNF Quality Reporting Program and would require submission of the Monthly Reporting Plan in NHSN. However, recall that CDC has temporarily delayed the Monthly Reporting Plan for SNFs to September 25, 2022. Therefore, **you do not need to take any additional action at this time.** We confirmed with CDC that the COVID vaccination data you submit on a weekly basis will automatically transmit to the SNF QRP until further notice.

Provider Relief Updates:

- Deadline to submit [late reporting requests](#) to HRSA for Reporting Period 2 has been extended to Wednesday, May 18 at 11:59 pm.
- Providers who submitted late reporting requests for Reporting Period 1 should be notified by HRSA this week about whether their request was approved or denied. This notice will come from this email address: UHG_HRSA@ProviderEmail.uhc.com. Members who submitted a request should check their inboxes and junk mail or spam email for a message from this address. Providers whose requests are approved will only have 10 days from notification to submit their report.

NHSN Changes and Training: The NHSN changes are coming. Previously announced for May 23, we received communication today that changes are scheduled for implementation on May 30. CDC has announced 4 training opportunities for these changes. You must register in advance.

Updates to LTCF COVID-19 Module and COVID-19 Vaccination Module
May 17, 2022, 1:00 – 2:30pm ET [REGISTER HERE](#)

May 19, 2022, 1:00 – 2:30pm ET [REGISTER HERE](#)

Updates to LTCF COVID-19 Module ONLY (no COVID-19 Vaccination Module)

May 24, 2022, 3:00 – 4:00pm ET [REGISTER HERE](#)

May 26, 2022, 3:00 – 4:00pm ET [REGISTER HERE](#)

New SNF PPS Rule Resource Page: LeadingAge has created a separate webpage for resources related to the FY 2023 SNF PPS Proposed Rule. On this page, you will find the LeadingAge summaries of the rule, our letter writing campaign Action Alert, and our tips for commenting on the rule. Access the page [here](#). Some resources on this page require LeadingAge login. Members who do not currently have a LeadingAge login can go [here](#) to create one using their work email addresses.

KHN Reports on the Decline of Travel Nurses. A new in-depth [report](#) from Kaiser Health News looks at the rise and decline of travel nurses. As COVID relief funds are being exhausted across the country, contracts for traveling nurse staff are starting to decrease. The report includes an overview of the trends of travel nurse hiring during the pandemic as well as a look at the potential exploitation of the workforce by private equity firms.

More ARP Rural Payments Distributed May 10: HRSA sent out \$450 million in American Rescue Plan (ARP) Rural payments to 2200 providers. It has now distributed \$.7.9B of the \$8.5 billion appropriated by Congress to provide relief to rural providers. With this latest distribution, 99% of applications have completed review. Providers who have not yet received a communication about their ARP rural application will receive a notification of its status as soon as HRSA has completed its review and processing. LeadingAge has heard from a handful of members who had received notices months ago indicating that they qualified for the payments but have been waiting ever since. Members should check their bank accounts to see if they've received a payment even if they aren't physically located in a rural area as the payments were distributed to providers based upon where the Medicare or Medicaid beneficiaries served by the provider reside.

The Indian Health Services Funds Alzheimer's Care. Indian Health Service (IHS) [announced funding](#) for Alzheimer's disease within tribal communities across the United States. IHS announced Monday it is allocating \$5 million to help tribes, tribal organizations and urban Indian organizations develop comprehensive and sustainable approaches to addressing Alzheimer's and other causes of dementia. Eligible tribes and tribal organizations can begin applying for the money now. The application deadline is July 18.

What Providers Should Know About Asian American Family Caregivers. May marks [Asian Pacific American Heritage Month](#), which celebrates the histories of Americans hailing from across the Asian continent and from the Pacific islands of Melanesia, Micronesia and Polynesia. [This](#) Diverse Elders Coalition fact sheet highlights unique caregiving perspectives and needs for Asian American Family caregivers. The Diverse Elders Coalition provides technical support to providers as we continue to build welcoming, supportive programs. To download a "Caring For those Who Care: Meeting the Needs of Diverse Family Caregivers" toolkit and enroll in free online trainings, please visit <https://diverseelders.org/caregiving/are>

Webinar Reminder: LTQA May 17 Virtual Briefing on The Future of New Supplemental benefits in Medicare Advantage. Long-Term Quality Alliance (LTQA), in collaboration with ATI Advisory and with support from The SCAN Foundation, will be holding a virtual briefing on the *CHRONIC Care Act* and the

future of non-medical supplemental benefits in Medicare Advantage (MA). This expert briefing will provide the latest research on the landscape of supplemental benefits and the current state of SSBCI and other non-medical supplemental benefits in MA and look to the future of these important benefits. Speakers and panelists include Senator Mark Warner, Dr. Meena Seshamani (CMS Center for Medicare), Kelly Cronin (ACL), Christine Aguiar Lynch (ACAP), Marc Cohen (LTSS Center @UMass Boston), Tyler Cromer (ATI Advisory), and Mary Kaschak (LTQA). Those interested can register for the free event here: <https://bit.ly/3tUUaFi> LeadingAge is an active member of LTQA and participates in advising on the research conducted and policies pursued related to the MA supplemental benefits.

1135 Federal Blanket Waivers (Nursing Homes): The first round of 1135 blanket waivers terminated over the weekend, including waivers related to physician visits and physician delegation of tasks. We have updated the LeadingAge blanket waivers chart [here](#) to help members to stay up to date with what waivers are in play. The next round of waivers, including the nurse aide training waiver, will terminate in just under a month on June 6. At this time, the Qualifying Hospital Stay (3-day stay) waiver remains in effect until the end of the national public health emergency.

Senator Casey letter to CMS about SFF survey delays. On Monday Senator Bob Casey (D-PA) sent [a letter](#) to CMS Administrator Chiquita Brooks-LaSure expressing concerns about the timeliness of surveys in the Special Focus Facility program. He said that one in five SFF surveys, which are supposed to be conducted every six months, were not conducted as of February of this year. Senator Casey asked the Administrator a series of questions about the steps CMS is taking to get SFF surveys back on track and to make the process more transparent to consumers. He noted that his requests are consistent with the Administration's nursing home quality initiative. The letter does not focus on all survey activity or all nursing homes, but rather cleaves closely to a discussion of Special Focus Facility survey activity.

White House Announces Free Internet Under Affordable Connectivity Program. The White House and HUD announced improvements and expansion of the FCC's Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP). The White House has negotiated broadband packages of \$30 a month or less, which after the ACP program's \$30 discount, would make these programs free for ACP participants.

New Monthly Report on Climate and Health. A little-known office in the Department of Health and Human Services, the Office of Climate Change and Health Equity, [released](#) the first edition of the Climate and Health Outlook. The Climate and Health Outlook is an effort to inform health professionals and the public on how our health may be affected in the next 30 and 90 days by climate events and provide resources to take proactive action. This edition focuses on the 2022 early summer season and uses the most current long-term temperature forecasts that come from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to illustrate how extreme heat poses a health risk for all Americans. In May, 203 counties across 14 states are projected to have 5 or more extremely hot days. Of the 203 counties, 26% have a high number of people over 65 living alone. The issue goes on to list resources for people at high risk of heat-related health problems as well as best practices for emergency managers and clinicians to deal with heat related issues.

Dementia Webinar: Public Health and Faith. Join the Public Health Center of Excellence on Dementia Caregiving on June 8 at 11 a.m. ET, for a panel on "Public Health and Faith" to hear how public health organizations can partner with faith organizations to support people living with dementia and their caregivers. [Register today.](#)

Breaking Down Stereotypes Between Young and Old: A Creative Campus Program. [View a short QuickCast](#) about a creative engagement program designed to help organizations build positive intergenerational relationships with high school and college age students.

What's New on The Mentor's Voice. Don't miss May's episodes of [The Mentor's Voice](#), a podcast, designed for students and NextGen leaders. Listen to [Kendra Roberts, Vice President of Operations for HumanGood Affordable Housing](#).