



Home Health and Hospice Weekly: Recap of LeadingAge Updates

September 24, 2021

LeadingAge Coronavirus Update Calls: On Monday, September 27 at 3:30pm ET, we'll talk again with Dr. Bill Mansbach about his national survey of healthcare providers levels of stress and psychological burden. He will also describe a follow up survey that will compare prior levels of stress with current levels. In addition, Dr. Mansbach and his team created a stress reduction program that has minimum burden for providers, called "15 for Me." He'll talk about this program, which can be used from cell phones and has been validated and shown to reduce stress and increase employee retention. If you haven't registered for LeadingAge Update Calls, [you can do so here.](#)

Moody's calls for increased funding for HCBS. An economic report from bond rating company Moody's calls for increased government funding of home-and-community-based services. Economists Mark Zandi and Bernardo Yaros wrote in a [report for Moody Analytics](#) that expanding HCBS as proposed through the [\\$3.5 trillion reconciliation package](#) would provide higher-quality care for seniors and better wages for caregivers, lifting the U.S. economy.

Deadline Extended to Wednesday for Workforce Survey. Many members across the continuum have responded to the [LeadingAge Snap Survey on Staffing](#). We are extending the deadline to Wednesday, September 29 to encourage as many members as possible to take a few minutes to respond. Answers from members provide good context as we talk about the workforce situation aging services providers are facing.

FROM CDC:

1. **Upcoming webinar - What Clinicians Need to Know About the Latest CDC Recommendations for Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Booster Vaccination:** [Webinar September 28, 2021 - What Clinicians Need to Know About the Latest CDC Recommendations for Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Booster Vaccination](#)
2. **Immunization Program Manager Contacts** – If your members are having trouble arranging COVID-19 vaccinations for their residents and staff, they can contact their state or local health department's immunization program. The appropriate contact for each immunization program can be found at this link [AIM-LTC Contact Info v.1.xlsx \(ymaws.com\)](#) *The attached PDF is this same information found in the link.* More information can be found here as well: [Immunization Program Manager Contacts - Association of Immunization Managers \(AIM\)](#)
3. **CDC vaccine access and planning resources** – Web resources for vaccine access planning developed to support long-term care settings, such as nursing homes, assisted living, residential care communities, group homes, and senior housing. Providers and jurisdictions can use these resources as they plan for and coordinate COVID-19 vaccine access for residents and staff. This includes access to COVID-19 booster doses (if approved by the U.S. Food & Drug Administration and recommended by CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices), as well as continued access to the primary vaccine series.

There is a new webpage for LTC administrators and managers, linked below, that outlines steps to ensure LTC settings have access to vaccine. LTC providers are encouraged to consider the option that works best for their residents and staff when coordinating access to COVID-19 vaccines, either in the local community or at their facility.

- [COVID-19 Vaccine Access in Long-term Care Settings | CDC](#)
- [Long-term Care Administrators and Managers: Options for Coordinating Access to COVID-19 Vaccines | CDC](#)
- [How Jurisdictions Can Ensure COVID-19 Vaccine Access for Staff and Residents in Long-term Care Settings | CDC](#)
- [Connecting Long-term Care Settings with Federal Pharmacy Partners | CDC](#)

Continuing Resolution Would Carry Programs Until December 3. House leadership has put forth a continuing resolution (CR) that, absent final fiscal year 2022 appropriations bills, would keep the federal government open past the October 1 start of the federal fiscal year. House leadership has also paired the CR with a suspension of the statutory limit on government debt. This year, a debt ceiling suspension is opposed by Republicans. If Congress cannot agree to a CR and there is a federal shutdown, federal agencies will implement their individual contingency plans. Agency contingency plans identify the types of activities that can take place during a shutdown. The House and Senate have until midnight on September 30 to pass a CR.

LeadingAge Emphasizes Reconciliation Priorities to House Leadership. On September 21, LeadingAge sent a letter to House leadership as the House finalizes the Build Back Better infrastructure reconciliation bill to be brought to the House floor as soon as the week of September 27. The letter calls out provisions critical to older adults and aging services providers from bills passed the week of September 13 by four committees as the House works to pull together its \$3.5 trillion Build Back Better package for passage. “Thank you for your leadership to make historic, structural investments for older adults and aging services providers in the Build Back Better reconciliation legislation. As the pieces of the proposal have emerged from individual House committees, we would like to highlight the investments we believe to be particularly impactful to meet the critical and pressing needs facing older adults,” LeadingAge President and CEO Katie Smith Sloan says in the letter. “Older adults and aging services providers are desperate for these investments and are deeply grateful for your leadership to secure them. LeadingAge stands ready to support the funding levels reflected in the committees’ bill through enactment, which cannot come soon enough.” Read more in this LeadingAge [article](#).

Letters to House Leadership on Preserving Provisions in Reconciliation. We sent letters to leaders of the House [Education and Labor](#), [Energy and Commerce](#), [Financial Services](#), and [Ways and Means](#) Committees today, along with a letter to Nancy Pelosi. The letters thank these leaders for their provisions related to aging services and list the sections in their bills that we hope to see them continue pushing as the House bill is finalized. Members can add their support by taking action to contact their own members of Congress with a similar message, using this [Action Alert](#).

Senate Parliamentarian Rules Against Including Immigration Plan in Reconciliation. On Sunday, the Senate Parliamentarian ruled against the Senate Democrats’ plan to provide essential workers, DACA recipients, agricultural workers and those with Temporary Protected Status (TPS), the opportunity to apply for lawful permanent resident (LPR) status, as part of the \$3.5 trillion budget reconciliation bill. This provision extends to workers who were essential workers during the pandemic, which includes health care and HCBS workers. The Parliamentarian’s written guidance concludes that granting LPR

status has no federal fiscal equivalent, and “changing the law to clear the way to LPR status is a tremendous and enduring policy change that dwarfs its budgetary impact.”

Senate Majority Whip Dick Durbin (D-IL), Chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee, and Senator Alex Padilla (D-CA), Chair of the Senate Judiciary Subcommittee on Immigration, Citizenship, and Border Safety, have prepared a stand-alone alternative proposal for the Parliamentarian’s consideration that will be announced in the coming days. The House Judiciary Committee included the essential workers, DACA, and the other categories in its portion of the Democrats’ reconciliation bill that could provide up to 8 million workers permanent residency through green cards.

Additional Details on CDC Strike Team Announcement. As we reported on Friday, CDC announced Friday morning that they will be [investing \\$2.1 billion to protect patients and health care workers](#) from COVID and future infectious diseases. Of that total \$500 million will go directly to supporting nursing homes. Authorized in [the American Rescue Plan](#) (Sections 9402 and 9818), the funds may be used for clinical support, staffing, and infection control. We learned that many of the details are being worked out within HHS and OMB and guidance will likely be available later this month, with funds awarded in October. The funds are being awarded to state health departments through a larger cooperative agreement; the total amount of funds available to each of the jurisdictions to support these nursing home strike teams will be determined by the number of nursing homes and residents in the jurisdiction. A number of questions remain but are expected to be answered when the final language is released before the end of the month.

Insights From LeadingAge Partners. LeadingAge’s Corporate Alliance Program partners work with thousands of providers across the continuum of care. Join us for a free one-hour webinar on Thursday, September 30 to hear valuable insights directly from our Gold Level partners, as they share emerging trends, opportunities, and areas of collaboration within the aging services field. [Learn more and register.](#)

Mission-Driven Aging Services Leaders Receive Top Accolades. Three executives in aging services will be celebrated next month for their innovation, leadership, and advocacy successes at the LeadingAge Annual Meeting & EXPO at the Georgia World Congress Center. Congratulations to award winners Paul Winkler, Erica Thrash-Sall and Kristen Schulmerich. [Read the press release](#) to learn more about the winners.