

**Highlights for LPCs:**

**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](#).

**November's LPC Advisory Group Call: Transitions in the Continuum of Care.** Join us for another dynamic discussion with a panel of experts on this prescient and far-reaching topic. Barbara Thomas, President and CEO of Kendal at Oberlin, Indira Palekar, Psychologist, and Brad Paulis, Continuing Care Actuaries, will discuss the operational, psychosocial and financial implications of residents transitioning – or **not** – through the continuum of care. The call will be on Monday, November 15 at 2:00 p.m. EST; please email [Dee](#) to register.

**COVID-19 Related Updates:**

**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](#).

**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

**OSHA Vaccination and Testing ETS Stayed by Court of Appeals.** On Saturday, November 6<sup>th</sup>, the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals issued an [order](#) blocking the OSHA Vaccination and Testing Emergency Temporary Standard (ETS) from taking effect on a nationwide basis until it could further review the merits of the case. The order requires briefs to be filed on the case by tomorrow so a decision from the 5<sup>th</sup> Circuit should be issued soon. The OSHA ETS is also facing challenges in the Sixth, Seventh, Eighth, and Eleventh Circuit Courts of Appeals and we will keep you posted as these cases make their way through the courts. Providers should review the OSHA ETS and prepare to implement the requirements if the ETS survives the legal challenges.

**Provider Relief Updates:** HRSA staff will join the LeadingAge Member Coronavirus call on Monday, November 15 to share information and answer questions about the Provider Relief Fund Reporting Process in advance of the November 30 deadline for providers to submit their first report.

- **Timing of Phase 4/ARP Rural Payments:** HRSA also recently updated the PRF Future Payments website indicating that they will share more information soon about the timing and distribution of the Phase 4/ARP Rural payments. When they announced the Phase 4/ARP Rural application, they indicated they were aiming to distribute the ARP Rural payments in mid to late November 2021, and the Phase 4 payments by the end of 2021 likely mid to late December. In conversations with their staff, they are striving to maintain these timelines even with the more than 110,000 applications they received.
- **If Members Had Issues Applying for Phase 4/ARP Rural:** HRSA also indicated that providers who encountered technical issues when applying for Phase 4 and/or ARP Rural payments can submit their questions and issues to HRSA at [ProviderReliefContact@hrsa.gov](mailto:ProviderReliefContact@hrsa.gov). While HRSA has made no exception to the application deadline for providers in these circumstances so far, we believe this inquiry is helping them size the problem and could result in an opportunity for these providers to submit an application. Members are asked to also CC Nicole ([nfallon@leadingage.org](mailto:nfallon@leadingage.org)) at LeadingAge on these communications to HRSA so we can determine how many members had these issues and advocate on their behalf for a chance to complete/submit an application.
- **Phase 3 Reconsideration Deadline is Friday:** Reminder that providers who wish to request reconsideration of their Phase 3 payments believing they were incorrectly calculated based upon the [Phase 3 methodology](#) published by HRSA have until Nov 12 at 11:59 p.m. ET to submit their reconsideration request. For more information on this Phase 3 reconsideration process, members can access information [here](#).

### ***Advocacy Alerts and Hill News:***

**Letter to House and Senate leaders.** Wednesday, Katie Sloan sent [a letter](#) to Nancy Pelosi, Speaker of the House, and Charles Schumer, Majority Leader of the Senate, urging that they strengthen the Build Back Better Act so that older adults' needs are addressed to the greatest extent possible. The letter reviews LeadingAge's request that the Section 202 funding from \$500 million to \$1 billion, and asks leadership to preserve the HCBS and workforce related provisions of the current draft. In addition, the letter asks for adequate funding and resources to implement two key nursing home provisions in the current House bill.

- The House bill includes a requirement that HHS conduct a "nurse staffing requirements" study to determine whether there is evidence to support a link between staffing ratios and quality (section 30720). Currently the provision in Build Back Better also directs HHS to implement the findings of the study. In today's letter to leadership, we say clearly that Congress must include provisions to adequately fund any new staff costs. In addition, we ask for assurances that nursing homes that demonstrate they are unable to meet any minimum staffing ratios will not be penalized.
- We ask that similar funding increases and protections be added to the House bill provision requiring registered nurse coverage on site 24/7 (section 132000).

**Build Back Better Provides More Than \$1.8 Billion to Support Older Americans Act Programs.** The November 3, 2021 version of the Build Back Better Act continues to invest more than \$1.8 billion in services for older Americans that are carried out by the

Administration for Community Living (ACL), particularly through Older American Act programs. It would allocate funds to ACL to support a few additional aging network and infrastructure initiatives, which includes \$20 million for the Technical Assistance Center for Supporting Direct Care and Caregiving and \$40 million, for FY 2022, that would be available to support unpaid caregivers behavioral health needs. You can access an article [here](#) that provides an overview of these initiatives.

**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.

#### ***News from LeadingAge:***

**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.

**2022 Annual Meeting Call for Sessions.** Have a great idea for a session that should be part of next year's LeadingAge Annual Meeting + EXPO, happening Oct. 16-19, 2022 in Denver, CO? You can begin submitting proposals now! Learn more, get answers to common questions, and complete your submission [here](#).