



LPC Weekly Report

Friday, April 2 2021

LPC Specific Content:

- 1. Launch of New Group: LPC Operations/ Tactical Advisory Group.** All Life Plan Community members are invited to join a new advisory group that will discuss operations and tactical issues unique to this special member group. Each month will have a theme, guest speakers, and member discussion; this month's theme is "Reopening," and will immediately be followed by a special call (below) with CDC on updates to the [reopening](#) and [vaccination](#) guidance that concerns LPCs, Independent Living, and Affordable Housing members. The first LPC Ops/ Tactical Advisory meeting will be: Friday, April 9 at 11:30 AM Eastern. Members may join the Zoom using [this link](#). This is geared towards LPCs, but all members are welcome.
- 2. Special Member Dialogue Call with CDC on Guidance for Retirement Communities, Independent Living, and Affordable Housing.** At LeadingAge's request, CDC will host a special member call next Friday, April 9 at Noon Eastern to discuss the upcoming updates to the [Considerations for Retirement Communities and Independent Living Facilities](#). CDC leaders from the task forces that write this guidance and the vaccination guidance will be on-hand to talk about soon to be released updates that affect reopening, and to hear member questions and feedback. Log in information will be forthcoming shortly.
- 3. Spring Reopening for LPCs: Member Solutions article.** One of our great current debates is how to reopen the independent living areas of our communities in a post-vaccine world. The essential question has become, how do we enable both vaccinated and unvaccinated people to safely co-mingle in both public and private spaces? And along the way, how do we protect the privacy of people's vaccination choices in an environment where some – especially residents and families – want to know if the people around them are vaccinated? We have carefully listened to and compiled member stories, ideas, questions and solutions on this issue. Here's an [article](#) that summarizes these member solutions.
- 4. LeadingAge Learning HUB Quickcast on Continuing Care at Home.** Are you curious about the continuing care at home model? Want to learn more? There's a new QuickCast on the Learning Hub, entitled "The Essentials of Continuing Care at Home," that you can view and learn the basics on the model, its design, how it is financially structured, and why it is different than the traditional Life Plan / Continuing Care Retirement Community contract. Click [here](#) to view it and to check out other resources in the HUB.
- 5. New Alzheimer's website.** The National Institute on Aging, part of the National Institutes of Health, recently rolled out a new website to educate and support people whose lives are touched by Alzheimer's and related dementias. [Alzheimers.gov](#) is the new federal portal for

resources, information, tips, clinical trials and studies, and updates on what the government is doing to address Alzheimer's and related dementias.

COVID-19 Related Updates:

1. **New LeadingAge resources for visitation.** As CMS updated visitation guidance for nursing homes, LeadingAge collaborated with Pathway Health on a [Visitation during Covid-19 Toolkit](#) for members. The 10 segment toolkit helps an organization navigate visitation guidance through a leader's guide, implementation checklists, competency tools for managers and all staff, and a pre and post test for all staff. The toolkit can be modified or edited to your organization's needs. The elements of the toolkit also may be used by various providers and service line in the continuum of care.
2. **Ensuring Access to COVID-19 Vaccines.** We continue to work with CDC to ensure access to COVID-19 vaccines for aging services providers and the individuals they serve. The Long-Term Care Pharmacy Partnership has now wrapped up, and since mid-March the federal government has been providing direct allocation of COVID-19 vaccines to long-term care pharmacies under the Federal Retail Pharmacy Program through 3 group purchasing organizations: Managed Healthcare Associates, GeriMed, and Innovatix. Long-term care pharmacies partnered with these organizations or enrolled through the state can administer vaccine to residents and staff in long-term care. Long-term care providers should reach out to their existing long-term care pharmacy to discuss options for continued access. If the long-term care provider's existing long-term care pharmacy is unable to provide vaccine, long-term care providers can check with other long-term care pharmacies in the area identified through the state health department or [this list](#) from CDC. More information can be found [here](#).
3. **FEMA Funeral cost reimbursement.** We reported last week on a program that will begin officially this month. FEMA will begin [providing financial assistance for funeral expenses incurred after Jan. 20, 2020 for deaths related to coronavirus](#) (COVID-19) to help ease some of the financial stress and burden caused by the pandemic. The policy was finalized yesterday, and FEMA is now moving rapidly to implement this funeral assistance program nationwide. To find out if you qualify, view the [COVID-19 funeral assistance program policy](#). FEMA will publish a contact number; applicants must call. There is no option to apply online. We'll send a longer article tomorrow on the program and keep members apprised as it rolls out.
4. **PCORI to fund research on vaccine confidence in long-term care.** We learned from CDC earlier that the patient centered outcomes research institute - PCORI will soon open a Funding Announcement – aimed at the issue of increasing COVID-19 vaccine confidence and uptake among long-term care staff, with the primary outcomes of the interventions to include, vaccine uptake and/or vaccine series completion. The opportunity officially opens April 13, 2021. For more information visit, [Increasing Vaccine Confidence among Long-Term](#)

[Care Workers: Expedited COVID-19 Targeted PCORI Funding Announcement -- April 2021 | PCORI.](#)

5. **Provider Relief Fund Survey Results – Most (75%) Members Need More:** Nicole wrote an [article](#) summarizing what we heard from 164 members about their experience with and need for additional Provider Relief Funds, as well as what is driving this need. Organization name and address was inadvertently left off the survey when we initially launched it so only about half of the responses can be traced back to a state or particular provider.
6. **New web tool shows staff interconnectivity.** How many staff in a nursing home work in other nursing homes as well? In those other nursing homes, what’s the extent of shared staff? Dave Wilkinson, Executive Director of the Yale Tobin Center for Economic Policy, spoke on our Update Call about a new web tool, [Protect Nursing Homes](#), to help understand the extent of shared staff at nursing homes. The user-friendly tool uses anonymous cell phone data to illustrate connections. It can help a nursing home as an early warning system that will let the provider know when there is an outbreak in another organization with whom they share staff. It shows “connectivity risk” and can help prepare for future outbreaks – of COVID as well as other contagious conditions. Dr. Wilkinson and others are seeking feedback on how to improve the site and would welcome input from LeadingAge members who take it for a test run.
7. **PPP Application Period Extended.** President Biden signed legislation today extending the PPP deadline to May 31 for borrower applications and June 30 for banks to process applications. The program was set to expire tomorrow, but prospective borrowers now have until the end of May to get applications in. See more here: <https://leadingage.org/legislation/ppp-loan-application-period-extended-may-31>
8. **Drive for 75: Week Five Summary Article.** This week’s Drive for 75 focused on reframing the vaccination process in view of “the customer experience,” and taking steps to make the administration of the vaccines as “consumer friendly” as possible. Also, we offered a two-part series on the much-hyped variants of COVID-19, and referenced studies that indicate the current vaccines will offer some protection from the UK, Brazil, and South African variants. You can read more [here](#).

Advocacy Alerts and Hill News:

1. **LeadingAge Blueprint for Better Aging Infrastructure.** Today, LeadingAge held a press conference, sent [letters](#) to Congressional leadership, and published the [Blueprint for a Better Aging Infrastructure](#). The blueprint is comprised of five sections – workforce, services in the home and community, affordable housing, nursing homes, and long-term care structural and financing reform. Our Blueprint is based on the principle, confirmed by President Biden’s American Jobs Plan, that building an aging services infrastructure for the 21st century is a critical element of any overall infrastructure conversation. The LeadingAge Blueprint includes bold proposals like a 10% bump in the federal Medicaid match, funding for more than 54,000 new HUD Section 202 homes, and reimbursement for providers to pay

their employees a locally-determined living wage. Members participating in LeadingAge Lobby Day on April 21 will have a chance to present elements of the Blueprint to their members of Congress.

- 2. Support for establishing a House Select Aging Committee.** Today we joined with others in the LCAO to [support](#) Rep. David Cicilline's (D-RI) [H. Res. 821](#), legislation to re-establish a Permanent House Select Committee on Aging in the House of Representatives. Like the Senate Special Committee on Aging, the House Select Committee on Aging would not have legislative jurisdiction but it would complement the work of the Senate Special Committee on Aging, and explore a range of issues that cross jurisdictional lines. The Select Committee would also help to promote member understanding on a range of issues that deal with policies and programs affecting older Americans, including: income maintenance, housing, health, employment, poverty, long-term care, and the COVID-19 pandemic.