

## PACE Organization Update

April 9, 2021



**White House Budget Request:** On April 9, the White House issued its Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 Budget Request to Congress. This is a standard part of the appropriations process and covers discretionary spending (funding for PACE and other Medicare/Medicaid services are considered mandatory spending). Of note is increased funding for Older Americans Act services and increased investment across Health and Human Services. You can see the budget request here: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/FY2022-Discretionary-Request.pdf>. Congress will consider this request as part of its appropriations work but this request, like any White House budget request, is far from set in stone.

**Biden Nominee Updates:** Next Thursday, the Senate Finance Committee will hold a nominations hearing for Chiquita Brooks-LaSure (nominee for CMS administrator) and Andrea Palm (nominee for Deputy HHS Secretary). You'll be able to watch the hearing at the link that follows. We will provide an update next week on the hearing and any discussion that takes place of relevance to PACE and/or aging services. Hearing web page: <https://www.finance.senate.gov/hearings/hearing-to-consider-the-nominations-of-andrea-joan-palm-to-be-deputy-secretary-of-health-and-human-services-and-chiquita-brooks-lasure-to-be-administrator-of-the-centers-for-medicare-and-medicaid-services>

**Congress on Recess, No Legislative Updates:** With Congress on recess this week (and last), there have not been further developments on the Medicare sequester bill or other legislative items of interest to PACE organizations (e.g., the telehealth bill). We anticipate a vote on the sequester soon after the House reconvenes next week.

**Key Questions About Vaccine Mandates.** Kaiser released these [Key Questions About Vaccine Mandates](#). Top points are that it is unclear whether the federal government can issue a vaccine mandate, but state's do have the authority to do so. Some health care employers require them as a condition of employment as do some universities for students and employees. We'll cover this brief and some of the legal questions in the Update Call on Monday.

**FDA Approved Moderna's Plan to Increase Doses:** On Friday, the FDA [announced two revisions](#) regarding the number of doses per vial available for the Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine. The first revision clarifies the number of doses per vial for the vials that are currently available, in that the maximum number of extractable doses is 11, with a range of 10-11 doses. The second revision authorizes the availability of an additional multi-dose vial in which each vial contains a maximum of 15 doses, with a range of 13-15 doses that can potentially be extracted. [The Fact Sheet](#) for Healthcare Providers Administering Vaccine (Vaccination Providers) and Prescribing Information have been revised to reflect the new information and are intended to help frontline workers administering COVID-19 vaccines understand the number of doses that can potentially be extracted per vial.

**CDC Guidance for Older Adults:** CDC [updated their information for older adults](#). Risk for severe illness with COVID-19 increases with age, with older adults at highest risk. Certain medical conditions can also increase risk for severe illness. People at increased risk, and those who live or visit with them, need to take precautions to protect themselves from getting COVID-19.

**2021 LeadingAge Annual Awards Call for Nominations.** The [LeadingAge Annual Awards](#) honor individuals that embody excellence in nonprofit aging services leadership, are models of quality and innovation, and are making outstanding contributions to our field that merit national recognition. [Learn more about the award criteria and nomination process.](#)

**Registration is Open! Collaborative Care & Health IT Innovations Summit 2021.** Join us June 8-10 as we explore the latest innovations in managing population health in crises, across the collaborative care ecosystem—including pre-acute, acute care, LTPAC, payers, and solution providers—with a compelling look at tech-enabled care delivery and payment models. [Learn more and take advantage of early registration discounts.](#)

**Fraud Alert: Annual Meeting & EXPO Offers.** Please beware of any companies reaching out with hotel or other offers claiming to be related to the 2021 LeadingAge Annual Meeting & EXPO. These companies are not associated with LeadingAge. Hotel reservations and registration will be available only through the annual meeting website beginning in July. Questions? Email [meetings@leadingage.org](mailto:meetings@leadingage.org)

**Follow ups to Wednesday call.** On Wednesday's Update Call we talked with Mark Beggs from Edenwald in Maryland. He was talking about making vaccination a condition of employment for his staff; he reported that only four staff decided to leave. One of our callers sent [this article](#) afterwards, also about mandating vaccines in a member community. And here is a link to the [Washington Post – KFF survey of frontline staff](#) in health care, including in LTSS. The lead author of this study will be on our update call next week- more on that in the next item.

**Update calls next week on Monday and Thursday.** How can we reach homebound patients/clients and their caregivers with vaccines? Can other aging services providers help? What about improving the percent of home care and home health workers who are vaccinated (currently only 25%)? Join us on **Monday, April 12 at 3:30 PM ET** along with from Dr. Thomas Cornwell, Executive Chair of the Home Centered Care Institute as we tackle these questions. **On Thursday, April 15 at 3:30 ET** Ashley Kirzinger from the Kaiser Family Foundation will be join to talk about the findings from the [Washington Post – KFF survey of frontline healthcare workers](#). According to the survey half of LTC frontline workers have had at least one dose and another 15% either have an appointment or are planning to be vaccinated. If you haven't registered for Update Calls and wish to, you can do so here: <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/2218416852977539339>

**NO UPDATE CALL ON WEDNESDAY, APRIL 14. Instead, please join us for Lobby Day Training.** If you signed up for Lobby Day, you should have received correspondence for April 14. If you didn't, ask Brendan ([bflinn@leadingage.org](mailto:bflinn@leadingage.org)).

#### Update archive

- April 2: <https://leadingage.org/sites/default/files/PACEupdate4221.pdf>
- March 26: <https://leadingage.org/sites/default/files/PACEupdate32621.pdf>
- March 19: <https://leadingage.org/sites/default/files/PACEupdate31921.pdf>
- March 12: <https://leadingage.org/sites/default/files/PACE%20update%203.12.21.pdf>
- March 8:  
<https://leadingage.org/sites/default/files/PACE%20Organization%20Update%203.8.pdf>
- February 26: [https://leadingage.org/sites/default/files/PACE%20update%202.26.21\\_0.pdf](https://leadingage.org/sites/default/files/PACE%20update%202.26.21_0.pdf)