

PACE Organization Update

May 21, 2021



LeadingAge/BMA Op-Ed on PACE Audio-Only Bill: Earlier this week, Katie Smith Sloan of LeadingAge and Allyson Schwartz of the Better Medicare Alliance published a piece in Morning Consult calling for the passage of the PACE/Medicare Advantage Audio-Only bill. You can find the op-ed here:

<https://morningconsult.com/opinions/audio-only-technology-can-bridge-the-telehealth-divide/>

Action Alert on Home and Community-Based Services: All LeadingAge members received a received an action alert urging them to contact Congress regarding support for HCBS, including PACE by name. The asks in the action alert include a long-term FMAP increase and support for PACE expansion legislation and the audio-only bill. See the action alert here: <https://mobilize4change.org/SGzUHmF>

Reminder on HCBS FMAP Guidance: As a reminder from last week, the [CMS guidance](#) for state Medicaid directors on the enhanced (ten point) FMAP increase for Medicaid HCBS includes direction on how states can fund PACE through the Medicaid program. Specifically, the guidance states “An increase to the PACE Medicaid capitation rate can be implemented as part of the state’s regular annual rate update or on a temporary basis as an interim rate increase, but must comply with existing submission, review, and approval requirements. States are not permitted to provide supplemental funding to PACE organizations outside of the PACE Medicaid capitation payment due to regulatory requirements.” We are working to determine whether and how non-Medicaid relief can go to PACE organizations.

CMS Administrator Update: The Senate is scheduled next week to vote on the nomination of Chiquita Brooks-LaSure to be CMS Administrator.

Senate Hearing on COVID-19 Flexibilities, PACE Discussion: The Senate Finance Committee (which has jurisdiction over Medicare and Medicaid) held a hearing on May 19 regarding COVID-19 flexibilities in Medicare, Medicaid, and other programs. Three Senators mentioned legislation LeadingAge support that are of relevance to PACE members, including Sen. Cortez Masto on the audio-only bill, Sen. Hassan on expanding access to all HCBS, and Sen. Casey on the PACE Plus Act. See more in our article here:

<https://leadingage.org/legislation/recap-senate-covid-19-flexibilities-hearing>

LeadingAge Holds Telepresser on Care in the Home and Community: On May 19, LeadingAge held a telepresser and issued a statement highlighting providers of home and community-based care and calling on Congress to support these providers in upcoming legislation, such as any infrastructure package. Included in the discussion was the need for a long-term investment (e.g., FMAP increase) across all HCBS categories, including PACE organizations. See more on our press release here:

<https://leadingage.org/providers-detail-crisis-facing-older-americans-needing-home-and-community-based-care>

HPMS Update: CMS announced that it will launch the redesigned HPMS marketing module for all users, PACE and otherwise, on May 28. There will be a training session for PACE Organization users on May 24 at 2:30 PM EST. LeadingAge will attend and share any materials we receive. Participants must register, using this link: https://cms.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_WCCYfecfRsSJ-ZFGJCqzRA

Resources for Compliance with Vaccine Reporting Rule: We have received several requests for resources to comply with the requirement in new interim final rule CMS-3414-IFC that nursing homes and ICF/IIDs must provide education on and offer the COVID-19 vaccine. CMS mentions several resources in the rule and in memo QSO-21-19-NH. We have compiled these resources and added a few of our own that we think will be helpful. Find this resource compendium here:

<https://leadingage.org/sites/default/files/tool%20vaccine%20education%20resources%202.pdf>. Note that while PACE organizations themselves are not subject to the IFR, these resources should be helpful to those members who have participants at nursing homes and/or inpatient hospices that must comply with the IFR.

Do Know All You Should About the 21st Century Cures Act? New rules around the 21st Century Cures Act are now in effect—but do you know how it applies to your organization? And if it does, what are the government requirements you should know about? This virtual event will cover all the implications for aging services and other LTPAC providers. The webinar on Tuesday, May 25 from 1:00-3:00 p.m. ET will walk through how the recently released rules support the seamless and secure access, exchange and use of electronic health information. Speakers include staff from CMS and the Office of the National Coordinator (ONC) for Health IT. This virtual event is free, but registration is required, available here: <https://learninghub.leadingage.org/courses/virtual-update-the-21st-century-cures-act>

Free Access to Providers! 2021 Collaborative Care & Health IT Innovations Summit: PACE organizations should note that LeadingAge is offering **free** registration to aging services providers for this year’s Collaborative Care & Health IT Innovations Summit. This event will take place virtually and run from June 8-10. The Summit is a great opportunity for the LeadingAge members to stay current with the very latest technology and innovations that can improve care, reduce costs, and lead to better health outcomes for older adults. Read more and register for the Summit here: <https://web.cvent.com/event/d75ae811-5119-459a-bae1-34c9ae0c560a/summary?RefId=Register>

State by State Mask Mandates Tracking Available: Check out this new tracker on the LeadingAge website, showing mask mandates and related guidelines in each state, as of May 19. Following the CDC guidelines on masks, several States have modified their mask mandates to align with the federal guidelines while others have relaxed rules in most settings. Twenty state governments require people to wear face coverings in most indoor public settings to curb the spread of COVID-19. The District of Columbia and Puerto Rico also have mask orders in place. To date, 19 states that had mask orders covering the general public have mostly lifted them. Eleven states did not impose mask mandates at any point during the pandemic. We will update this tracker weekly. See here, updated last on May 19: <https://leadingage.org/regulation/state-state-face-mask-mandates>

Are you part of the COVID Community Corps yet? Earlier this week, Yvanna Cancela from HHS joined our Member Update call to talk about the role of trusted messengers in the We Can Do This campaign. Join the COVID Community Corps with a simple form and gain access to toolkits, updates and more. See more here: <https://leadingage.org/regulation/covid-community-corps-interview-yvanna-cancela-%E2%80%93-may-19-2021>

Strengthening the Direct Care Workforce session coming up: Mathematica Policy Research’s Center for Studying Disability Policy, will hold an event, “Strengthening the Direct Care Workforce: Scaling Up and Sustaining Strategies That Work” on Thursday, June 3, from 12:00 to 1:30 PM ET. The session will highlight state and local initiatives that scaled up evidence based recruitment, retention, training, and career advancement strategies, as well as discuss COVID-related adaptations. Robyn Stone of

LeadingAge is a featured speaker. Other panelists include Bea Rector (Washington State Department of Social Services), Robert Espinoza (PHI), and Zulma Torres (Cooperative Home Care Associates). It's free and you can register here:

<https://event.on24.com/eventRegistration/EventLobbyServlet?target=reg20.jsp&referrer=&eventid=1829725&sessionid=1&key=27CE9C0222E15D25ED8361A86862C00A®Tag=&V2=false&sourcepage=register>

Nominate Someone Today! The LeadingAge Annual Awards honor individuals that embody excellence in mission-focused aging services leadership, are models of quality and innovation, and are making outstanding contributions to our field that merit national recognition. Nominations are currently being accepted in three categories: Award of Honor, RWJF Award for Health Equity presented by LeadingAge, and Joan Anne McHugh Award for Leadership in LTSS Nursing. The deadline to submit your nomination is June 18, 2021. Learn more about the award criteria and nomination process. Questions? Please contact Amanda Marr (amarr@leadingage.org). Read about each award and all the details here: <https://my.leadingage.org/awards/>

Upcoming Member Update Calls: On Monday, May 24, we'll welcome Dr. Lee Fleisher, CMS Medical Director and head of the Center for Clinical Standards and Quality. On Wednesday, May 26, hear from LeadingAge member Gus Keach-Longo as he explains how his community worked with residents and staff to change their rules around masking in public areas. Our Thursday, May 27, conversation will include Lori Summers from LeadingAge member community the Park Danforth who will help unpack how her organization achieved high vaccination rates with staff through communication and workplace culture. If you haven't signed up yet, you can join the call by registering here. <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/2218416852977539339>

Update archive

- May 14: <https://leadingage.org/sites/default/files/PACEupdate51421.pdf>
- May 7: <https://leadingage.org/sites/default/files/PACEupdate5721.pdf>
- April 30: <https://leadingage.org/sites/default/files/PACEupdate43021.pdf>
- April 23: <https://leadingage.org/sites/default/files/PACEupdate42321.pdf>
- April 16: <https://leadingage.org/sites/default/files/PACEupdate41621.pdf>
- April 9: <https://leadingage.org/sites/default/files/PACEupdate4921.pdf>
- April 2: <https://leadingage.org/sites/default/files/PACEupdate4221.pdf>
- March 26: <https://leadingage.org/sites/default/files/PACEupdate32621.pdf>