

PACE Organization Update

May 7, 2021



LeadingAge Update Call Fan Favorite coming up! What are the pros and cons? And will life be “normal” by the summer? On **Monday, May 10**, we will hear from Dr. Monica Gandhi with her latest insights on what is happening with the pandemic. She always offers bold predictions and sometimes controversial viewpoints on what is coming next and we typically hear from members with comments along the lines of: “I feel so much better hearing Dr. Gandhi’s comments!”. Dr. Gandhi is a frequent commenter on COVID issues in the news; here’s a recent [interview](#) with her from KQED. If you haven’t registered for Update Calls and wish to, you can do so [here](#).

CDC Webinar on Adult Day Services and COVID-19: On May 13 at 12 PM EST, CDC will host a webinar for providers that operate day centers on COVID-19 vaccination and information about the public health aspects of managing adult day service programs, as COVID vaccination rates are increasing. Time will be dedicated to open discussion and Q+A. PACE organizations that are planning day center reopening, or those that are open now, may be interested in attending to hear what others are doing and to share your own organization’s insights. Registration required, available here:

<https://cdc.zoomgov.com/j/1614738490?pwd=QlVqbnpUQ3FhanYxSIY0cjJ0V0ZYdz09>

New Telehealth Legislation Action Alert for Members. LeadingAge national sent an action alert to all members asking them to urge Congress to support and pass key legislation that will maintain and enhance telehealth for providers and older adults, including the PACE audio-only telehealth bill. If you have not already done so, please consider sending the action alert to your representatives at this link: <https://mobilize4change.org/NfVsqy>

Rescue Plan OAA State Funding Disbursed. The White House announced that the \$1.4 billion for OAA programs were disbursed to states and grantees this week. ACL released [by-state/by-OAA title allocations](#) for the American Rescue Plan funding for Older Americans Act programs. Read more here: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/05/03/fact-sheet-biden-harris-administration-delivers-funds-to-support-the-health-of-older-americans/>. Most of these dollars will flow to area agencies on aging, and while they won’t directly go to PACE organizations, the enhanced funding for the AAA network could create local partnership opportunities between AAAs and PACE organizations.

The Hill This Week: Both the House and the Senate come back from recess this week. Some hearings of interest are linked below. We expect the Senate to begin voting on the confirmation of Deputy HHS Secretary Nominee Andrea Palm.

May 11, Senate committee hearing with Dr. Fauci, Dr. Wallensky and other top health officials: <https://www.help.senate.gov/hearings/an-update-from-federal-officials-on-efforts-to-combat-covid-19>

May 12, House committee hearing with the HHS Secretary on the president’s budget proposal: <https://energycommerce.house.gov/committee-activity/hearings/hearing-on-the-fiscal-year-2022-hhs-budget>

As always, we will report back on Hill activity and how members can engage.

Trust for America's Health Releases New Report on Homebound Vaccination. [*Ensuring Access to COVID-19 Vaccines for Older Adults and People with Disabilities Who are Homebound*](#), recommends actions that federal, state, and local government, state and local health agencies, the healthcare sector and community partners should take to ensure that people who are homebound are vaccinated. The report is an outgrowth of two national expert convenings hosted by Trust for America's Health. Funding for the report and convenings was provided by The John A. Hartford Foundation and the Cambia Health Foundation. LeadingAge participated in the expert convenings.

Where Things Stand with Vaccines. On May 12, CDC will vote on and likely approve the use of the Pfizer vaccine for children ages 12-15. Such an approval would open the Pfizer product to millions of teens, including children of workers in aging services settings. The webcast for this meeting will be here: <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/acip/index.html>. In addition, Pfizer and Moderna have indicated this week that they will soon apply for their respective vaccines to be fully approved rather than via an emergency use authorization. If a full approval occurred, more provider settings and/or employers may condition employment on vaccine status. Speaking of...

Vaccinations as a condition of employment. Andrew Banoff of Jewish Senior Services joined one of this week's Coronavirus Update Calls. As of this month, vaccination will be a condition of employment for all staff at Jewish Senior Services (which provides a mix of nursing home, assisted living, home care, and day services). While not a PACE organization, PACE members may find insights from this interview helpful if/as they consider similar mandates for their staff. Read a summary of the interview here: <https://leadingage.org/regulation/vaccination-condition-employment-interview-andrew-banoff-may-6-2021>

Building Communities of Strength: Campaign Launch. Join us throughout May as we mark Older Americans Month (OAM) and advocate for support of the aging services care infrastructure. Each May, the Administration for Community Living recognizes OAM to acknowledge the contributions of older adults. This year, the theme "Communities of Strength" is especially relevant. Join us all month and check out our [toolkit](#) of materials and ideas on how to participate.

Photo Request: Show Us YOUR Strong Communities. We are looking for photos from members that we can share throughout May. Help us showcase themes such as building endurance, overcoming challenges, and celebrating the joy in little. Did your PACE center recently reopen? Are your participants vaccinated? All great photo ideas. Please send your photos to communications@leadingage.org. Thank you for your help!

Update archive

- 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>