

Friday, September 23 2022

Highlights for LPCs:

Next Week: LPC September Member Network Meeting. Mark your calendars for a seminal member network meeting on Thursday, September 29, at 2pm ET. Our topic of discussion will be on inflation, rising costs, and financial planning, and will feature a powerhouse panel of experts including Dan Hermann, President and CEO, Ziegler; Stuart Jackson, Senior Vice President, Greystone; Dana Anders, Senior Living Segment Leader, CliftonLarsonAllen; and Chet Chandler, ValueFirst GMO. You can register for the call series, if you haven't already received the invitation, by emailing Dee Pekruhn at dpekruhn@leadingage.org. All members are welcome.

Free CARF/ Baker Tilley Financial Trends Webinar for LPCs. Join CARF International, Ziegler, and St. Catherine's Village for an informative webinar on understanding and utilizing financial benchmarks to inform strategic planning and budget development. The webinar will be held on Thursday, October 13 at Noon - 1:30 p.m. ET. The content is a preview of and formulated from the 30th Annual Edition of CARF's *2022 Financial Trends and Ratios* publication. CEUs are available. You can register for the webinar by clicking [here](#).

Ladders and Lattices: Grow the Aging Services Workforce

We're one week away from our virtual event with aging services thought leaders discussing the importance of aging services providers to develop career ladders and lattices for their workforce. Join us Wednesday, September 28 at 1 p.m. ET. As the sector struggles with a workforce crisis, they urge a focus on practical ways to build formal advancement opportunities and support the personal and professional goals of individual staff members. [Register here](#).

LeadingAge Article on Deadline to Claim PRF funds, Action Required. Here is a [link](#) to the information we reported on Monday, Sept 19 that HRSA has set an October 21, 5 p.m. Central Time deadline by which providers must complete Optum Pay enrollment or forgo Phase 4/ARP Rural PRF funds for which they have already been determined eligible. We have every reason to believe that Phase 4 payments will be the final round of PRF distributions and as such, encourage providers to act quickly.

HRSA Deadline for Providers to Claim Phase 4 and ARP Rural PRF – Oct. 21, 5:00 PM CT: The Health Services and Resources Administration (HRSA) asked for assistance in getting providers to establish Optum Pay accounts so their Phase 4 and/or ARP Rural PRF payments can be claimed. HRSA has now established a deadline for providers to complete this account enrollment - October 21, 5:00 PM CT. It should be noted that meeting the enrollment deadline means that providers cannot just submit the required documentation by this deadline but the enrollment must be COMPLETED prior to the deadline. Providers have encountered challenges when trying to set up these accounts in the past and therefore, providers should initiate this enrollment process now. The process to establish an Optum Pay Account can take up to 10 business days.

HRSA noted that it has made repeated attempts to reach out to these eligible providers and have them set up an Optum Pay Account. We know from past situations members have encountered, that it is

possible that these emails are stuck in a spam folder or the key contact that HRSA has for the organization is no longer with the organization. Members who are still awaiting a determination about their Phase 4/ARP Rural PRF application should reach out to the Provider Support Line (866-569-3522) to check their status as only 1% of applications are still awaiting a final decision. We don't want members to miss out on potential Provider Relief because of a communication issue.

Provider Relief Reporting Period 3 Deadline is September 30, 11:59 PM ET. This is a friendly reminder that all providers who received Provider Relief Fund payments January 1 – June 30, 2021 must submit a report for Reporting Period 3 (RP3) by September 30 at 11:59 p.m. ET on how those funds were used. If members have questions that are preventing them from completing their reports, they can reach out to Nicole (NFallon@leadingage.org) for assistance.

2022 Annual Meeting Guide for CC@H. For continuing care at home members, we have crafted this [Session Guide](#) of educational opportunities that are of greatest relevance for this member group. All are welcome, and we hope to see you in Denver!

LPC Annual Meeting Session Guide. Of the abundant educational sessions offered this year at Annual Meeting, we've carefully curated this [Guide](#) of sessions that may be of especial interest to LPC members. Selected to represent the broad array of interests concerning LPCs, these sessions include topics ranging from data analytics, to DEI, federal policy updates, operational strategy and designing the LPC of the future. All are welcome, and we look forward to seeing you in Denver!

Medical / COVID-19 Related Updates:

Flu Vaccines for 65+: For the 2022-2023 flu season, CDC is recommending individuals aged 65 years and older receive different vaccines than the rest of the population. CDC recommends higher dose vaccines or adjuvanted vaccines over standard vaccines based on studies that suggested these vaccines are more effective than standard vaccines in individuals aged 65 years and older. CDC recommends that individuals aged 65 years and older should not get a nasal spray flu vaccine. Read more about these recommendations [here](#).

Kaiser Health News Highlights Effects of Pollution on Risk of Dementia. Judith Graham [explores](#) the connection between pollution and the risks of developing dementia. Highlighting a growing body of research, KHN discusses how air pollution affects older adult's brain. One study found in areas with improved air quality, the rate of cognitive decline was delayed by up to 1.6 years. Experts provide tips for those concerned with air quality issues including taking early morning walks when ozone levels are higher which means more protection and for individuals in the American west exposed to wildfires consider wearing a KN95 mask on days when fires effect air quality.

Study Finds Adult Day Closures Linked to Participants' Cognitive Decline. A study [published](#) in the American Journal of Public Health found that pandemic-related closures of adult day services left older adults and caregivers without critical supports and services. Unlike childcare centers, which were deemed essential during the pandemic, adult day centers were not treated the same way. However, the magnitude of the impact of adult day closures on well-being, particularly among members of racial/ethnic minority groups, has yet to be measured with any form of "big data" because large-scale, nationally representative data sets consisting of participant-level information and outcomes associated

with adult day center participation do not yet exist. Study authors call on adult day centers to link rigorous collection of racial and ethnic data to quality measures of access to equitable “age-friendly” care as a means

Advocacy Updates and Hill News:

HRSA Announces Geriatric Academic Career Awards (GACA). The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) released its funding [announcement](#) for the Geriatric Academic Career Awards. The purpose of the GACA program is to support the career development of junior faculty as academic geriatricians or academic geriatrics specialists to provide health care for older adults. Applications are open until November 3, 2022. The award amount for each candidate would be up to \$81,746, per year and there will be 26 awards for the period July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2027. The GACA program supports the career development of junior faculty as academic geriatricians or academic geriatrics specialists and is open to accredited health professions schools or graduate programs approved by the Secretary including:

- schools of allopathic medicine, osteopathic medicine, nursing, dentistry, pharmacy, allied health, physician assistant programs, chiropractic, podiatric medicine, optometry, public health, and veterinary medicine;
- accredited graduate programs in health administration and behavioral health and mental health practice including clinical psychology, clinical social work, professional counseling, and marriage and family therapy;
- Tribes and tribal organizations are eligible if they otherwise meet the eligibility requirements.

Hearing: Examining Long-Term Care in America: The Impact of the Coronavirus in Nursing Homes. On September 21, the House Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Crisis held a hybrid hearing, “Examining Long-Term Care in America: The Impact of the Coronavirus in Nursing Homes.” Initially, the Select Subcommittee indicated the hearing would explore structural problems in nursing homes and what improvements might be needed to ensure residents and staff are protected from the coronavirus and other public health risks. Immediately prior to the hearing, the Select Subcommittee issued a press release, “[New Evidence of Dire Conditions at For-Profit Nursing Home Chains in 2020](#),” announcing “new evidence of dire conditions inside for-profit nursing home chains during the early months of the pandemic, as well as documents that shed light on how convoluted corporate structures have been used by for-profit nursing home chains and may have helped these companies to obscure profits and avoid accountability.” The hearing subsequently focused on the Subcommittee’s key findings, as noted in the press release. In a forthcoming article, LeadingAge will provide an overview of the hearing, including details on how we will continue our dialogue with Congressional leaders and those on the Select Subcommittee. Hearing witnesses were: Dr. Alice Bonner, Senior Advisor for Aging, Chair, Institute for Healthcare Improvement, Moving Forward Nursing Home Quality Coalition; Dr. David Grabowski, Professor of Health Care Policy, Department of Health Care Policy, Harvard Medical School; Adelina Ramos, Certified Nursing Assistant, Greenville, RI; Dr. Jasmine Travers MHS, RN, Assistant Professor of Nursing, New York University Rory Meyers College of Nursing; and, Daniel Arbeen, son of a nursing home resident. You can watch the hearing [here](#). LeadingAge’s statement on the hearing is [here](#).

House Passes Immigration Bill; Heads to President’s Desk. On September 19, the House passed the “[Bridging the Gap for New Americans Act](#),” which requires the Department of Labor to submit to Congress a study on the factors that affect employment opportunities for certain individuals with

professional credentials obtained in a non-US country, specifically those who are lawfully present noncitizens or naturalized US citizens. The bill passed the Senate in June. The study must include policy recommendations for better enabling such individuals to obtain skill-appropriate employment in the US. The HHS Secretary is one of the Departments instructed to work with the Labor Secretary on this study, so this presents an opportunity to identify barriers impacting staff for aging services organizations.

ACL Releases National Family Caregiving Strategy. On September 21, ACL released the [2022 National Strategy to Support Family Caregivers](#), which was developed jointly by the RAISE Family Caregivers and the Supporting Grandparents Raising Grandchildren advisory councils. LeadingAge's LTSS Center was involved in developing and providing technical and practical assistance for the strategy. The strategy is open for comments starting October 1 and LeadingAge will be writing an article on its contents in the coming days.

News from LeadingAge:

LeadingAge Voting Resources. September 20 was National Voter Registration Day, an important reminder that having a plan to vote is really important for this upcoming election. Coming out of the pandemic, many states are once again changing the way citizens can vote in their communities. Some are expanding opportunities to vote and unfortunately some states are limiting options. LeadingAge has been passionate about ensuring that older adults have access to voting and the ability to register to vote. We have created an easy to use website, www.leadingage.org/votingplan that will allow anyone to look up their registration status, register to vote, request a mail-in ballot, find their polling place and even look up local candidates. Please share this tool with members and help ensure that everyone has a plan for how they are going to vote this election.

Call for Sessions Now Open: 2023 LeadingAge Annual Meeting + EXPO

Do you want to drive the conversation forward and contribute to progress in aging services? The sector's most prominent event is coming to Chicago, IL from November 5-8, 2023. Start planning your proposals to present at the 2023 LeadingAge Annual Meeting + EXPO. Session proposals must be submitted by December 5, 2022. [Learn more and submit proposals here.](#)

