

Friday, November 11 2022

Highlights for LPCs:

LPC November Member Network Meeting Details. Join us for the November LPC Member Network meeting, which will be next Thursday, November 17 at 2:00 PM ET. (We have moved the date up one week due to Thanksgiving.) Our panel will discuss the ever-hot topic, the consumer voice, and will include Teresa Scott, President and CEO of Penney Retirement Community, Michele Holleran, President, CEO and Founder of Holleran Consulting, and current residents of member LPC/ CCRCs. If you have not yet registered, or haven't received the calendar invite, please email Dee at dpekruhn@leadinage.org.

Ziegler Article on Mission Vs. Margin. In their latest [Z-News](#), Ziegler has put forth some thought-provoking talking points around the “no margin, no mission” debate. Now that COVID is more in the rearview mirror, organizations are reassessing their assumptions about the importance of margin management. Top among these include: that not-for-profit organizations should be ‘making money,’ that the runway is much shorter for organizations with poor financial performance, that internally-subsidized service lines may no longer be a risk-free strategy, and that missions can and do evolve over time, and business decisions should align with those changes. Driving these conversations is the purview of the board, and LeadingAge offers a robust set of governance [resources](#) on the Learning Hub.

LeadingAge Joins National Policy Coalition for Energy Efficiency and Climate Resilience. Today, LeadingAge participated in a new coalition group planning equitable distribution of Inflation Reduction Act funding for energy efficiency and climate resilience. The new funding is being administered by various federal agencies, including HUD, the Department of the Treasury, and EPA, as well as by state and local governments. In recent comments to HUD, LeadingAge advocated for equity and scalability of green initiatives impacting older adults with low incomes living in HUD-assisted housing; stay tuned for more information as the funding distribution planning continues.

Update Reporting Requirements for Provider Relief Funds: HRSA updated the “PRF Distributions and American Rescue Plan Rural Distributions Post-Payment Notice of Reporting Requirements” on October 27. The latest draft is updated to reflect the fact that PRF funds continue to roll out and the addition of the ARP Rural funds. Under the revisions, there are now 7 reporting periods that take us through funds distributed through June 30, 2023 with final reports being submitted September 30, 2024. In addition, the rules are updated to reflect how ARP Rural funds are reported. Here are a couple of key items members should pay attention to:

- For all providers who received general distribution PRF and/or ARP rural payments, HRSA will only allow them to apply these funds to lost revenues through the end of the quarter in which the Public Health Emergency ends. Providers will be able to continue to apply these funds to COVID-19 related expenses through the end of the relevant period of availability.
- When providers who received both PRF and ARP rural funds go to report on those funds, COVID-19- related expenses and lost revenues must first be applied to their ARP rural payments, and the remainder will be applied to their general PRF distributions (e.g., Phase 4).

- In cases where a parent organization received ARP rural payments on behalf of its qualifying subsidiaries, the parent entity must report on the use of the funds not the subsidiary. Reminder that qualifying entities were not permitted to transfer or allocate any ARP rural funds to another entity.

We will be drafting an article with more details on the changes to these reporting requirements in the coming days and share that link as soon as it is ready.

QuickCast for Members on How to Educate Residents and Clients on their Medicare Choices During Current Open Enrollment Period Through December 7. It is Open Enrollment Time right now for Medicare beneficiaries, this is the one time of year when all Medicare beneficiaries decide how they want to receive their Medicare benefits –either through traditional FFS Medicare or a Medicare Advantage or Special Needs Plan. Open Enrollment happens every year from October 15 through December 7. We heard from members that many beneficiaries enroll in MA/SNP plans but don't really understand what that means for accessing post-acute care services later. So, this is a great time for members to do some pre-education with residents and clients in all their settings to help beneficiaries and their families make informed choices. LeadingAge has put together a member-only QuickCast with resources entitled, [The Importance of Medicare Open Enrollment](#). In this 18-minute QuickCast, Nicole Fallon reviews what providers can (and cannot) do to educate older adults and their families about Medicare and Medicare Advantage plans.

Profile: “The Vision Centre” Offers Hope for Workforce Challenges. As described in the recent [Z-News](#), a coalition of associations (including LeadingAge,) aging services sector experts, providers and academic organizations have formally formed [The Vision Centre](#), a renamed iteration of Vision 2025 that is now a 501(c)3. One of the Centre's stated goals is to 'create a clear path forward for young professionals to enter the sector through a defined academic program.' Just one inspiring initiative is to create 25 university and college programs and 1,000 paid internships within the field. Yet another resource is a [guide](#) for working with universities to advance senior living leadership programs. You can read more exciting [news](#) about the Centre, and check out [resources](#) by visiting the website.

Medical / COVID-19 Related Updates:

“Test Soon, Treat Early” Resources. The CDC has developed a flyer to educate people on how important it is to “TEST SOON – TREAT EARLY.” With COVID cases expected to rise in the coming weeks and months, the importance of testing and of early treatment cannot be overstated. Here is the [CDC's new flyer](#). If there is an available “test to treat” site nearby, [this jpg](#) from HHS's Administration for Strategic Preparedness Response will also be useful.

White House Summit on COVID-19 Equity and What Works Showcase, November 16. On November 16, the White House will hold a Summit on COVID-19 Equity to highlight interventions and approaches that have moved the needle on equitable COVID outcomes and map a path forward. Panel discussions will be live streamed. You can register [here](#).

No Correlation Between Immigration from Border Countries and COVID-19 Infection Rates. Today, November 10, the peer reviewed journal Health Affairs published findings related to the relationship between COVID-19 spread and immigrant entry across the southwest U.S. border. The researchers used seasonal guest worker entry data as well as estimates of border crossings from the Border Patrol and comparing the data to COVID-19 rates. They found that there was a small, statistically significant

relationship in border counties, but that the estimate is modest when held against month-to-month changes in case rates. The modest increase became non-significant with increasing local vaccination rates. An [abstract](#) of the article is available for free on the Health Affairs website.

Falls Prevention Grants. The Administration for Community Living has released a new falls prevention Notice of Funding Opportunity. The “2023 Empowering Communities to Deliver and Sustain Evidence-Based Falls Prevention Programs” will distribute \$3.5 million to six awardees to reduce falls and/or falls risk among older adults and adults with disabilities in their community through the implementation of evidence-based falls prevention programs, focusing on those older adults in underserved areas/population. The two primary goals of these awards are to develop capacity to increase the number of older adults and adults with disabilities who participate in evidence-based falls prevention programs to empower them to reduce falls and/or their risk of falls and to identify and implement one or more robust strategies that will promote the sustainability of evidence-based falls prevention programs. Eligible applicants include nonprofit organizations. View the grant announcement [here](#). An informational conference call will be held on November 16, at 1pm ET: 888-455-0043, passcode: 9989425. A recording will be available approximately one hour after the call concludes at the following number: 800-835-8069.

Advocacy Updates and Hill News:

Homeland Security Extends TPS for Some Beneficiaries. Today, November 10, the [Department of Homeland Security extended Temporary Protected Status](#) for beneficiaries from El Salvador, Nicaragua, Honduras and Nepal as well as certain individuals from Haiti and Sudan. This means that the individuals covered by this announcement will be able to remain in the United States and continue working, so it may apply to some employees of LeadingAge member organizations. The TPS extension is in response to several court orders issued by federal district courts. The extension will run through June 30, 2024 (the current expiration is December 31, 2022).

Senate Hearing on Affordable Food for Older Americans. On November 16 at 10:30 AM ET, the Senate Special Committee on Aging will hold a hearing titled “Setting the Table: Promoting Healthy and Affordable Food for Older Americans.” Witnesses include a nutrition program participant from Pennsylvania, a nutrition coordinator from Georgia state government, the founder and director of the Baylor Collaborative on Hunger and Poverty, and a volunteer at a community outreach program in South Carolina. At present there is no plan for a video broadcast of the hearing. The content may be of interest to HCBS and affordable housing members of LeadingAge specifically. LeadingAge will monitor and report on any major points.

