

LPC Weekly Report

Friday, March 31 2023

Highlights for LPCs:

CCRC Occupancy Report Card: News from NIC. The National Investment Center has published provocative [findings](#) for not-for-profit CCRCs, following a review of occupancy performance from Q4 of 2022. Generally speaking, the report offers ‘good news’ for LeadingAge members. Specifically, NIC found that CCRCs outperformed non-CCRCs in terms of occupancy, and not-for-profit CCRCs fared better than for-profit CCRCs. Interestingly, entrance-fee CCRCs also demonstrated stronger occupancy rates over rental CCRCs. Two underlying takeaways are key to recognize amidst these findings; one, that those communities that experienced the biggest declines in occupancy also showed the fastest recovery in occupancy, because two, those same communities also suppressed rates growth and/or lowered their rates in order to recover occupancy more quickly. The report also breaks down the occupancy growth by region; not-for-profit occupancy was strongest in the Mid-Atlantic and Northeast regions, and for-profit occupancy in the Pacific and Mid-Atlantic regions. The Southeast region experienced the greatest losses and the slowest recovery in occupancy, overall. Monthly fees remained highest in not-for-profit, entrance fee CCRCs, and while inventory in the for-profit CCRCs decreased, not-for-profit inventory remained stable or increased - also an indicator of the model’s occupancy resiliency.

LPC March Call Materials Now Available. If you weren’t able to join us for the March LPC Member Network Call on innovative workforce recruitment and retention, or would like to review it again, you can now access the [recording](#) and [handouts](#). We apologize for the abrupt ending, where Jim Moran (Sodexo) was still speaking; technical difficulties were the culprit. We plan to have these issues resolved before our April call. Save the Date! That call will be on Thursday, April 27 at 2pm ET, and the discussion will feature a panel of members and developers who will discuss the business case for going green. All members are welcome; email Dee at dpekruhn@leadingage.org to join.

April 13 CCAH Member Network Meeting. Mark your calendars for the next meeting of the Continuing Care at Home Member Network, which will be held on Thursday, April 13 at 2:30 - 3:30 PM ET. Our guest speaker will be Mia Barkham of the Federal Savings Bank, and she will discuss alternative funding sources for prospective clients of CCAH programs. To join the meeting, you can click [here](#) or email [Dee Pekruhn](mailto:DeePekruhn) for the meeting invitation. All members are welcome.

Pew Charitable Trusts Releases State Budget Graphic. Each state’s budget is a composite of funding from state tax revenue, federal funding, and other sources. The graphic released on March 29 by Pew shows how each state’s funding breaks out. See how your state stacks up, [here](#).

Medical / COVID-19 Related Updates:

CMS Says PHE Waivers Still in Place Will Remain in Place Until May 11. On March 29 the Senate joined the House in approving a resolution to end the COVID National Emergency. LeadingAge members are asking if some of the waiver flexibilities authorized under the Public Health Emergency will also end a month earlier than planned. **They will not.** LeadingAge asked CMS staff on March 30 whether the Congressionally-approved resolution – if the President signs it as expected - means waiver flexibilities

will also end. The waivers LeadingAge members are concerned about (including but not limited to the 3 day stay waiver, home health therapy assessment waivers, and hospice volunteer requirement waiver) are connected to the Public Health Emergency, not the COVID National Emergency. These waivers will end at the end of the Public Health Emergency on May 11, as planned and previously announced.

Regarding the 3 day stay waiver, LeadingAge has written to the [Secretary of HHS](#) and to [leaders in Congress](#) seeking changes to extend the waiver or eliminate the requirement. We are working with HHS and Congress to continue to press to eliminate this outdated, unnecessary policy.

Regarding home health therapy assessments, LeadingAge will advocate for their continuation with Congress. We have asked [CMS to clarify the rules around the use of telehealth in routine home care for hospices](#) and to use enforcement discretion as hospices ramp back up to full volunteer loads.

Telehealth services helped reduce opioid overdose fatalities. On March 29, a study was published indicating that medication treatment for opioid use disorder via telehealth helped to significantly reduce overdoses during the pandemic, though not as much as in-person treatment in an office setting or via certified opioid treatment programs. The large study from CDC, CMS and NIH researchers in JAMA Psychiatry concluded that between September 2019 and February 2021, patients receiving telehealth drug therapy for opioid use disorder had 33 percent lower adjusted odds of a fatal overdose than those receiving no medication treatment. That's compared with a 38 percent lower risk of a fatal overdose among patients being treated in-person and 59 percent among those in opioid treatment programs certified by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration at HHS. [Read the full study here.](#)

CMS Releases New Video Tutorial for GG0170C: Lying to Sitting on Side of Bed. CMS released a short video tutorial to assist providers with coding GG0170C. Lying to Sitting on Side of Bed. This 5-minute video is designed to provide targeted guidance using simulated patient scenarios. To access the video, click on the following link: [GG0170C. Lying to Sitting on Side of Bed.](#) If you have questions about accessing the resources or feedback regarding the trainings, please email [PAC Training](#).

CMMI Hosts Webinar on Approach to Person-Centered Care: Commitment to Patient Partnership Across the Model Lifecycle. The CMS Innovation Center is hosting a March 31 webinar on these topics:

- Updates on the Center's patient and caregiver experience and engagement strategy;
- Key Innovation Center focus areas for 2023;
- How the Center is using tools, such as patient journey mapping, to promote partnership and to improve the beneficiary experience; and
- Recommendations from patients, caregivers, and their representatives to improve access, care coordination, and partnership in key Innovation Center priority areas.

The listening session is scheduled for Friday, March 31, from 2:30 - 3:30pm ET. Please [register here](#)

Advocacy Updates and Hill News:

House Speaker to the President: "You are on the clock." On March 28, House Speaker Kevin McCarthy wrote a letter to President Biden urging him to negotiate spending cuts in order to raise the debt limit. Speaker McCarthy and President Biden last met to discuss the debt limit in February. Speaker McCarthy and his Republican colleagues have vowed to use the debt ceiling to achieve their own priorities, like major spending cuts, and they want President Biden to come to the bargaining table before the country defaults. In his March 28 letter, Speaker McCarthy laid out five broad ideas to save money: 1) Cut non-defense spending; 2) Claw back unspent pandemic aid; 3) tighten work requirements for entitlement programs; 4) Enact policies to lower energy costs; and 5) Secure the boarder to stop illegal importation

of fentanyl. The letter doesn't go into any details on Speaker McCarthy's proposals, some of which would result in [devastating cuts to programs that support older adults and their families](#), including [cuts to affordable senior housing programs](#). In response to the letter, the President's press secretary said in a statement that President Biden is willing to talk about fiscal policy, but not as a condition of raising the debt limit. [Click here to read Speaker McCarthy's letter in full.](#)

Hearing Highlights Need to Bolster U.S. Refugee Admissions Program. On, March 22, the Senate Judiciary Subcommittee on Immigration, Citizenship, and Border Safety Subcommittee, Chaired by Senator Alex Padilla (D-CA), held a hearing, "Living Up to America's Promise: The Need to Bolster the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program." The hearing examined the current status of the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program, the refugee vetting process, the contributions refugees and former refugees make to our economy and our communities, and innovations in refugee processing and resettlement. Additionally, the importance of Congress passing bipartisan legislation supported by LeadingAge that would expand the number of refugees permitted to enter the United States was raised at the hearing. These programs could also assist all refugees and asylum seekers to find employment more quickly and shorten the waiting period to receive work authorization. The hearing was an opportunity to discuss the lawful pathways to come to the U.S. through the Refugee Admissions Program. During the hearing, the Subcommittee heard from Dauda Sesay, founding member and President, Louisiana Organization for Refugees and Immigrants; William (Bill) Canny, Executive Director of Migration and Refugee Services of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops; and BG Christopher M. Burns, U.S. Army (Ret.). In a final exchange, Subcommittee Chair Padilla and Mr. Canny discussed how refugees are employed and how resettlement agencies help them get settled in the country. Chair Padilla closed the committee hearing by calling on lawmakers to work together in the historically bipartisan spirit of the refugee program to uphold our "moral duty" to help those fleeing their homeland looking for safety. The hearing can be viewed on the Subcommittee's website, [here](#). Chairman Padilla's press release is available [here](#).

Cuts a "Five-Alarm Fire" for Older Adults, White House Says. Contemplated House cuts to domestic discretionary programs in FY24 would equate to a ["five-alarm fire" for older adults](#), the White House said on March 23. Individual [departmental assessments](#), requested and received by House Committee on Appropriation Democrats, describe how the House Freedom Caucus's suggested cuts would impact programs. The March 23, White House assessment takes a cross-department view of the discussed cuts' impact on older adults and says the suggested cuts would worsen Social Security and Medicare wait times, rob seniors of healthy meals, cut housing for seniors, and reduce other vital services for older adults. "By suggesting cuts that would rob a million older adults of nutrition services, deny thousands of seniors access to paid work opportunities, and put seniors across the country at risk of homelessness, the Republican proposal shows that they are willing to turn their backs on this vulnerable portion of our population at a time when they need the support the most," a March 23 [press release](#) from Appropriations Democrats says.

HHS Secretary Becerra Continues Testifying on Capitol Hill. After providing testimony on March 23 at the [Senate Finance Committee](#) and the Senate Appropriations Labor-HHS Subcommittee, HHS Secretary Xavier will be testifying at several more hearings the week of March 27 on the President's 2024 Budget Proposal:

- **House HHS Appropriations Subcommittee:** On March 28 at 10am ET, the [House Appropriations Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Subcommittee will hold a hearing](#) on the Health and Human Services (HHS) Department's fiscal 2024 budget request with testimony from HHS Secretary **Becerra**. [Click here for more.](#)

- **House Ways and Means Committee:** On March 28 at 2pm ET, the House Ways and Means Committee will hold a hearing on President Biden's fiscal 2024 budget request with testimony from HHS Secretary Becerra. [Click here for more.](#)
- **House Energy and Commerce Health Subcommittee:** On March 29 at 10am ET, the House Energy and Commerce Health Subcommittee will hold a hearing on the Department of Health and Human Services' fiscal 2024 budget request with testimony from HHS Secretary Becerra. [Click here for more.](#)

Legislation Introduced to Support Senior Food Insecurity and Workplace Discrimination Protections.

U.S. Senator Bob Casey (D-PA), Chairman of the U.S. Senate Special Committee on Aging, [introduced](#) two bills to support senior economic security across, including protections from workplace age discrimination and increased access to healthy, affordable meals for older adults and adults with disabilities. An estimated 5.2 million older adults struggle to put enough food on the table and many older Americans have trouble finding consistent employment due to age discrimination.

News from LeadingAge:

Strategic Foresight: A Critical Tool for Innovative Strategy Webinar. Does your organization have the strategic foresight to anticipate future changes? Join strategy and governance experts Olivia Mastry, JD, MPH, and Anne Jin Soo Preston on April 11 at 2 p.m. ET for a virtual workshop to help your organization take strategic action now based on anticipated changes to our sector. [Learn more and register.](#)

Committing to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI). There has never been a more important time to raise our individual and collective awareness, explore shared values, and identify scalable ways to cultivate ongoing practices of diversity, inclusion, and belonging. [Committing to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion \(DEI\) is a new Shared Learning Series](#) designed to guide LeadingAge provider members through a six-part educational series of peer-to-peer learning and self-reflection that will enhance your understanding of the principles and practices associated with diversity, equity, and inclusion. [Learn more and register by April 28.](#)