



Medicaid HCBS and PACE Weekly Recap

September 8, 2023

LeadingAge Policy Update Calls; all calls are at 3:30 PM ET. On a recent call both our guest, Darcie Baggott and Jenna talked about connecting younger kids with aging services early. LeadingAge member, the James L. West Center for Dementia Care has a program that engages middle school students in care. **Kristie Boiles**, who created and runs that program, will join us on **Monday, September 11** to talk about it. Join us for this fruitful conversation.

Students participating in medical, nursing, and therapy programs rarely identify working with the geriatric population as a primary goal. Two key elements that have been associated with improving students' openness to pursuing a career in geriatrics are increased clinical education opportunities with older adults and rigorous program curricula covering geriatric competencies outlined by professional organizations. Join us on **Wednesday September 13** to hear from Jessica Dunn, Director of Clinical Education at Seton Hall University talk about the barriers related to staffing and retention as well as best practice strategies to improve recruitment, retention, and engagement of quality geriatric practitioners.

Social isolation and loneliness have been associated with an increased risk of dementia and premature mortality from all causes. The pandemic has exacerbated the loneliness issue, but it has also increased acceptance of virtual engagement to meet social needs. Join us on **Monday September 18** to hear from Meghan Young, Associate Director for Opening Minds through Art (OMA) at the Scripps Gerontology Center, Miami University. She will talk about a new virtual tool has been developed to engage older and younger adults in meaningful conversations and fun activities.

Members and other interested individuals can sign up to join LeadingAge's Policy Update calls [here](#). You can also find previous call recordings of every 3:30 LeadingAge call [here](#). Note that to access recordings of the calls you need a LeadingAge password. Any staff member of any LeadingAge member organization can set up a password to access previous calls and other members-only content.

PACE Organizations - HPMS Memos on Risk Adjustment Updates and Contract Option Elections. On September 1, CMS released memos to PACE organizations and other Medicare Advantage plans about eligibility to select full risk or new enrollee categories for all Part A only enrollees. More information is available in the [full memo](#). In a separate memo also issued on September 1, HPMS issued notice of updates and model output reports risk adjustment factors. Information is included on the CMS-Hierarchical Condition Category (HCC) changes set to begin in 2024 including how data from multiple years will be blended to determine risk adjustments through model recalibration and reclassification. The full memo is available [here](#).

HHS Issues Proposed Rule to Protect People with Disabilities from Discrimination. A new [proposed rule](#) from the Department of Health and Human Services' Office of Civil Rights would mandate that treatment decisions are not made based on preconceptions of a person's disability by any program receiving funding from HHS. This rule would update critical sections of regulation pertaining to Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. Comments on the proposed rule are due Monday, November 13. More specifically, the proposed rule would:

1. Ensure that medical treatment decisions are not based on biases or stereotypes about individuals with disabilities, judgments that an individual will be a burden on others, or beliefs that the life of an individual with a disability has less value than the life of a person without a disability.
2. Clarify obligations for web, mobile, and kiosk accessibility.
3. Establish enforceable standards for accessible medical equipment.
4. Clarify requirements in HHS-funded child welfare programs and activities.
5. Prohibit the use of value assessment methods that place a lower value on life-extension for individuals with disabilities when that method is used to limit access or to deny aids, benefits, and services.
6. Clarify obligations to provide services in the most integrated setting appropriate to the needs of individuals with disabilities.

LeadingAge CMMI Webinar Recording on the GUIDE Dementia Model is Now Available. On August 30, LeadingAge hosted a webinar where the CMS Innovation Center (CMMI) staff discussed the Guiding an Improved Dementia Experience (GUIDE) model and how aging service providers might lead or participate in the model. If you missed it or want to listen to it again, the recording is now available on the LeadingAge Learning Hub and can be found [here](#). Those who may be interested in being part of the model are reminded that the Letter of Intent to participate is due on September 15.

CMMI Announces New State Model. The CMS Innovation Center announced a new [Advancing All Payer Health Equity Approaches and Development](#) (AHEAD) Model on September 5. It is the first state total cost of care model, which seeks to transform state and regional health care and utilize multi-payer alignment. Under the model, the state will be responsible for controlling overall growth in health care expenditures. Interested states will be able to apply to participate in one of two application periods – Fall 2023 and Spring 2024. CMS will select up to 8 states to participate and includes options for states who need more time to implement the model to participate. Selected states will be eligible to receive up to \$12 million in funding over the first 6 years of the 11-year model. CMS indicates that the model seeks to promote health equity, increase primary care access, establish a sustainable health care spending trajectory and lower per patient health care costs. The model is designed to serve all payer populations – duals, Medicare only, Medicaid only, and private pay. CMS will be hosting a webinar on September 18 from 3:00 - 4:30 PM ET on the details of the model. Registration information for the webinar is not yet available.

Last Week's HCBS and PACE Weekly Update. Here is the September 1, 2023 [HCBS and PACE Update](#).