



VDA WEEKLY E-MAILING

November 12, 2014

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ACL News & Information

Here is a link to news & information from the Administration for Community Living (ACL):

<http://www.acl.gov/NewsRoom/NewsInfo/Index.aspx>

NASUAD Weekly Update

Here is a link to the weekly update from NASUAD:

<http://www.acl.gov/NewsRoom/NewsInfo/Index.aspx>

Note: The web links in this document may change over time. DARS-VDA does not attempt to refresh the links once the week has passed. However, this document is maintained on the web for a period of time as a reference. Some links may require registration.

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UPDATES

November 4, 2014

The Administration for Community Living: Supporting Those Who Care for Others

By Greg Link, Aging Services Program Specialist, Administration for Community Living

At the Administration for Community Living (ACL), we recognize the sacrifices caregivers make so the people they love can age with dignity and remain in their homes and communities as long as possible. Caregivers juggle personal and home care, transport their loved ones to medical appointments, and often make tough financial decisions. They offer emotional support to family members and serve as a communication hub between medical practitioners. They do all this while balancing the competing demands of their own families, jobs, and personal lives.

As President Obama noted in his [National Family Caregivers Month, 2014 Proclamation](#), "In the United States, more than 60 million caregivers provide invaluable strength and assistance to their family members, and as the number of older Americans rises, so will the number of caregivers." That is why ACL is committed to supporting a wide range of programs to develop and expand the



caregiver support infrastructure across the nation. [Click here](#) to read more.



UPDATES

November 3, 2014

Protecting the Voting Rights of People with Disabilities

In this blog, we feature a conversation about voting rights for people with disabilities between **Commissioner Aaron Bishop, Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities** and **Melvenia Wright, Program Specialist, Administration for Community Living** who manages grants related to the Help American Vote Act. [Click here](#) to read more.



UPDATES

November 6, 2014



ACL and the Conversation Project offer Advance Care Planning Webinar

Webinar: Thursday, November 13, 2014 at
3:00 p.m. ET

In observance of National Family Caregivers Month in November, the Administration on Aging, a program division of ACL, has partnered with the Conversation Project to offer a webinar focusing on how the nation's aging network can support caregivers in the advance care planning process. This 75-minute webinar, "[The Conversation Project: A Resource for the Aging Network and Family Caregivers](#)," will include an introduction to the Conversation Project and best practices for incorporating advance care planning into work with family caregivers. In addition, participants will share success stories and lessons learned from Area Agencies on Aging that are already engaging with family caregivers and their communities on this important topic.

By working together, we can ensure that caregivers have the support and resources they need to care for their loved ones, while also taking care of themselves. [Click here](#) to register.



UPDATES

November 6, 2014

**Request for Applications - Targeted
Technical Assistance to Build the
Business Capacity of Community-Based
Aging and Disability Organizations for
Integrated Services Partnerships**

The Administration for Community Living ([ACL](#)) is announcing an opportunity for up to ten (10) networks of community-based aging and disability organizations to participate in a learning collaborative and receive targeted technical assistance related to business acumen. Applicants must be seeking to build their business capacity and align their service capabilities in order to contract with integrated healthcare entities to provide community-based long-term services and supports and/or evidence-based preventive health programs and services. ACL is particularly interested in working with networks that include a diverse mix of organizations that serve people with disabilities and older adults. No direct funding will be provided through this initiative; rather, this collaborative will receive targeted technical assistance through a variety of different means, as noted within the announcement.

Applications must be submitted electronically via email to



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VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT FOR AGING
AND REHABILITATIVE SERVICES

Lauren.Solkowski@acl.hhs.gov by 11:59
p.m., Eastern Time, on **Monday,**
December 8, 2014.

[Read the request for applications.](#)



UPDATES

November 7, 2014

**Medicare Coverage of Speech-
Generating Devices**

CMS is beginning work to update policy on coverage of speech-generating devices to reflect changes in the technologies and usage. While this work is being done, the devices are eligible for coverage under Medicare.

To view the new benefit category analysis or to submit comments, please click [here](#). CMS is accepting comments through December 6.

Caregiver News

Ellen M. Nau, MA, Program Coordinator

It's officially **National Family Caregivers Month!** Help spread the word about the 2014 theme, "Care Comes Home." This theme focuses on the care provided by unpaid friends and family within the home and community.



The Family Caregivers Alliance is pleased to share a social media kit for the month with suggested posts, key links, and social media graphics. [Get it here!](#)

Key Links for the Month

- [Presidential Proclamation](#)
- [National Family Caregivers Month Social Media Kit](#)
- [More on National Family Caregivers Month](#)
- Institute of Medicine Future of Home Health - Caregiving Video: <http://bit.ly/HomeHealthCares>
- ReACT Caregiver Experience: <http://bit.ly/CareJourney>

Webinars and Media Request

- **Free Webinar for Military/Veteran Caregivers - Beyond the Blues: When Sadness Becomes Depression.** Thursday, Nov. 13th (1pm CT/2pm ET)
Speakers include: Elizabeth Dole Foundation Caregiver Fellow - Debbie Sprague; Leah Eskenazi - Family Caregiver Alliance and Christina Irving - Family Caregiver Alliance; with resource support from Meg Kabat, VA Caregiver Support Program. Register at: www.easterseals.com/carewebinar-reg
- **Media Request - Diabetes Type 2 Caregivers:** A reporter with Everdayhealth.com is looking for an adult caregiver, caring for another adult who has Type 2 Diabetes. If you or someone in your network matches this description, please call (985) 285-5185.
- **Free Webinar for Financial Caregivers - Managing Mom's Money. Thursday, Nov. 20th (4pm/1pm PT).** Hosted by the Family Caregiver Alliance and Naomi Karp, J.D., Older Americans Senior Policy Analyst at the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau's Office for Older Americans. [Learn more and register here.](#)
- **ACL and the Conversation Project offer Advance Care Planning Webinar**
Webinar: Thursday, November 13, 2014 at 3:00 p.m. ET
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By working together, we can ensure that caregivers have the support and resources they need to care for their loved ones, while also taking care of themselves. [Click here](#) to register.

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Commonwealth of Virginia 2014-2015 Holiday Calendar

Tim Catherman, Director of Aging Operations

The Virginia Department of Human Resource Management has issued the holiday schedule for 2015. The DARS will be closed in observance of the following holidays for the remainder of 2014 and 2015.

2014

Tuesday, November 11 - Veterans' Day (observed)
Wednesday, November 26 (Close at Noon)
Thursday, November 27 - Thanksgiving Day
Friday, November 28 - Day After Thanksgiving
Wednesday, December 24 - (Close at Noon)
Thursday, December 25 - Christmas
Friday, December 26 - Offices Closed

2015

Thursday, January 1 - New Year's Day
Friday, January 2 - Offices Closed
Friday, January 16 - Lee-Jackson Day
Monday, January 19 - Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
Monday, February 16 - George Washington's Birthday
Monday, May 25 - Memorial Day
Friday, July 3 - Independence Day



Monday, September 7 - Labor Day
Monday, October 12 - Columbus Day and Yorktown Victory Day
Wednesday, November 11 - Veterans' Day (observed)
Wednesday, November 25 - (Close at Noon)
Thursday, November 26 - Thanksgiving Day
Friday, November 27 - Day After Thanksgiving
Thursday, December 24 - (Close at Noon)
Friday, December 25 - Christmas

The calendar can also be found at <http://www.dhrm.virginia.gov>. If you have any questions, please call let me know.

2015 Medicare Premiums, Deductibles, & Cost-Sharing Amounts (Attachment)

Tim Catherman, Director of Aging Operations

Please see the attached chart showing Medicare premiums and deductibles for 2015.

2015 Medicare Premiums, Deductibles, and Cost-Sharing Amounts

Part A (Hospital Insurance)	Beneficiary pays:
Hospital Deductible	\$1,260/benefit period
Hospital Copayment	\$315/day for days 61-90
	\$630/day for days 91-150
Skilled Nursing Facility Copayment	\$157.50/day for days 21-100
Part A Premiums*	\$407/month for those with fewer than 30 quarters of Medicare-covered employment
	\$224/month for those with 30-39 quarters of Medicare-covered employment
Part B (Medical Insurance)	Beneficiary pays:
Annual Deductible	\$147
Part B Premium for those with incomes below \$85,000 if single, \$170,000 if married**	\$104.90/month
Most Part B covered services, including doctors' visits, outpatient therapy, durable medical equipment, and outpatient mental health services***:	20% of amount Medicare approves

* Most people with Medicare do not pay a monthly premium for Part A because they have (or a spouse has) 40 or more quarters of Medicare-covered employment (meaning they worked at a job where they paid into Medicare).

** See October 10, 2014 [Federal Register](#), Vol. 79, No. 197, page 61316 for Part B income-related monthly premium adjustment amounts (IRMAA) for people with higher incomes. Also note, Medicare Advantage plans may charge an additional monthly premium.

***See our publication [Medicare Parts A and B](#) for more on Part B services and cost-sharing amounts.

Source: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, [2015 Medicare Part B premiums and deductibles to remain the same as last two years](#), October 9, 2014 and [Federal Register](#) Vol. 79, No. 197, October 10, 2014.