



VDA WEEKLY E-MAILING

March 10, 2015

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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.nasuad.org/newsroom/friday-update>

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

March 03, 2015

Webinar: Dementia Outreach to Hard-to-Reach Populations

Thursday, March 12, 2015, 3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. ET

Join the National Alzheimer's and Dementia Resource Center (formerly the ADSSP National Resource Center) next week for a webinar on outreach to and engagement of people with dementia and their caregivers in hard-to-reach populations. The webinar will include practical examples from experts working in rural areas and in the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender community.

[Click here](#) for more information and to register.



UPDATES

March 4, 2015

**Substance Abuse and Misuse: Impact on
Older Adults**

*Wednesday, March 11, 2015 1:30 p.m. -
2:30 p.m. EST*

The National Council on Aging's (NCOA) Center for Healthy Aging will be hosting a webinar, "Substance Abuse and Misuse: Impact on Older Adults," next week. This webinar will highlight the problem of substance abuse and misuse in the aging population, underscoring key data and trends around this issue. It will also explore the components of two interventions targeting older adults. [Click here](#) to register.



UPDATES

March 10, 2015

Senior Nutrition Programs: Saving Lives and Lifestyles

Each March, we celebrate National Nutrition Month® to highlight the importance of proper nutrition in promoting wellness. Along with improving physical health and well-being, ACL's nutrition program creates a positive ripple effect on the personal and social lives of older people.

Keith, a 94-year-old widower in Florida, was hospitalized but lived alone and could not prepare his own meals when he was well enough to leave the hospital. His doctors were concerned when he refused to move to a nursing home or an assisted living facility. Keith was clear: he wanted to live independently, in his own home, and is doing so today, thanks to a person-centered approach to planning services and supports that match his needs and preferences. [Continue reading.](#)

Caregiving in U.S. is Focus of New Congressional Caucus

Kathy B. Miller, Director of Programs, Division for the Aging

A new congressional caucus has been formed to focus on the needs of family caregivers in the United States. Please read the article in the Washington Post:

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/news/local/wp/2015/03/03/caregiving-in-u-s-to-be-focus-of-new-congressional-caucus/>



E-Update from the Alzheimer's Disease Education & Referral Center

Charlotte Arbogast, MSG, Dementia Services Coordinator

e-Update

from the ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE EDUCATION & REFERRAL CENTER

a service of the NATIONAL INSTITUTE ON AGING at NIH



[Early-onset Alzheimer's disease](#), occurring in people age 30 to 60, is rare but complicated. People living with early-onset Alzheimer's (like Julianne Moore's character in the movie "Still Alice") may face particular challenges in dealing with work, raising children, and finding the right support groups.

A new [online resource list](#) from the National Institute on Aging's Alzheimer's Disease Education and Referral Center may assist younger people with Alzheimer's, their families, and caregivers to find information and help. Topics include:

- Living with early-onset Alzheimer's
- Legal and financial planning
- Caregiving
- Clinical trials and studies

All of the resources on this list are free and accessible online.

Visit the [ADEAR Center website](#) for other resources like free publications, caregiving resources, and more information about Alzheimer's.

Share this resource via social media with the following message:
New resource list for people living w/ early-onset #Alzheimers & their #caregivers from @Alzheimers_NIH <http://1.usa.gov/1CiQi0Y>



ASA Article: The Aging Services Network – Has Its Time Come or Gone?

Kathy B. Miller, Director of Programs, Division for the Aging



Generations

Journal of the American Society on Aging



The Aging Services Network: Has Its Time Come – or Gone?

By Robert B. Blancato and Meredith Ponder

Symbolic milestones to celebrate in the year 2015 include the fiftieth anniversaries of the enactment of three landmark laws: the Older Americans Act, Medicare, and Medicaid. From the outset, the Older Americans Act (OAA) was intended to lay out the framework for national aging policy. Signed into law by President Johnson in 1965, the OAA, along with Medicare and Medicaid, was a response to concerns of policy makers about a growing elderly population and a dearth of social and community-based programs geared toward older adults.

The OAA has grown, not only in terms of its titles, but also in its reach throughout communities across the United States. Its scope has been aided by the work of the aging services network composed of more than fifty state agencies on aging (some combined with other departments in recent years), more than 600 area agencies on aging, an estimated 30,000 service providers, and more than 230 organizations serving Native Americans and Native Hawaiians. The aging services network was developed to administer the OAA at the local level but through the years, the network's roles and responsibilities have expanded.

The Changing Landscape

Today, the aging services network administers far more than just the Older Americans Act. Medicaid has grown as a source of home- and community-based services. Furthermore, the aging services network increasingly administers the Social Services Block Grant, the State Health Insurance Program sections of the Public Health Service Act, and state, local, and private sources of funding; in some areas of the country, the OAA is not the primary funding source for the aging services network. Finally, the development and potential expansion of Aging and Disability Resource Centers (ADRC) are also affecting the work of the aging services network. Simply put, the daily lives of millions of older adults are reached and enhanced by the aging services network.



Yet a question persists: What is the future of the aging services network as we know it? This question gains in prominence each year the OAA fails to be reauthorized. We are now entering the fourth year with no clear path carved out allowing this successful Act's authority to be renewed – as it has been more than thirteen times since 1965.

In the current state of uncertainty, it is important to look at the changing landscape involving health and related social services at the national, state, and local levels. Opportunities and challenges abound, whether they involve adapting and emerging stronger, or having the landscape change so radically as to render the network obsolete.

Implications of the Affordable Care Act

The Affordable Care Act (ACA) represents one such opportunity and challenge. It is ironic that the ACA became law the same year (2010) that the next reauthorization of the OAA was to occur. As we await a reauthorization, the ACA has provided several tremendous opportunities for the aging services network.

One example may be illustrative of an opportunity and a daunting challenge for the aging services network: the Care Transitions Program under OAA Section 3026. This section tests models for improving transitions from hospitals to other settings and reducing readmissions for high-risk Medicare beneficiaries, while documenting measurable savings.

According to the Administration for Community Living (ACL), upward of 90 percent of the more than 100 grants awarded involve participation by the aging services network, including area agencies on aging and ADRCs. These care transition grants fit into the traditional role that the network has played over the years, linking people and services and targeting those in greater need, as well as coordinating services and measuring outcomes. These grants to some extent also allow localization in how they are operated.

In response to the care transition grants being awarded, ACL has worked to help the aging services network through initiatives such as the 2012 Enhanced ADRC Options Counseling Program and the 2013 Business Acumen Learning Collaborative, in order to assist them in properly using the grants.

These care transition grants operate in ways to show the value of not only the traditional aging services network, but also what are now being called the ACL networks that involve Centers for Independent Living. The prior work of the ACL networks in chronic disease self-management, prevention, and a renewed focus on evidence based care have been able to be incorporated into the work of these care transition grants.



What is growing clearer with time is the fact that care transitions provide opportunities for the aging services network through building and diversifying capacity, enhancing human resources, building new partnership, and promoting culture change.

Yet the fulfillment of these opportunities hinges on results and metrics being reached. A number of these grants may or may not be renewed, depending upon what is produced and documented. There is the national goal of reducing thirty-day readmissions by 20 percent that has to be reached to provide a solid base for future care transition grants. Answers to other questions are just as important. Are metrics being met in individual programs? Are community-based organizations getting a good return on their investment of staff time in terms of new revenue sources? Have these grants at the community level led to better working relationships between the network's social and health models through business?

Also, models should be scrutinized: Are there too many? And do some clearly work better for the aging services network than others? As an example, models that do not specifically include nutrition might prove to be less effective.

The year 2014 is pivotal for the ACA, especially in its delivery system reform sections. The grants, contracts, and projects awarded through the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation will be showing results that hopefully can lead to further reforms.

Questions About Future Directions

Just as the Older Americans Act passed in 1965 is far different than the one in use today, so too is the aging services network. In some parts of the country, network entities' roles and responsibilities have been weakened through consolidations; in other areas, they have been enhanced. In a general sense, it is about the future adaptability of the network to change that will occur not only in the kinds of services being provided, but in who provides them.

Managed care

The growing activity around managed care in U.S. communities is a very real part of the network's future direction. Do we see the creation of separate for-profit business entities where coordinated services once were provided? Do we see the need to segment the aging market between those from ages 60 to 65, and those of older ages, so aging services programs can be relevant to both and to ensure future growth?

Advocacy



The aging services network also should work on focused and improved advocacy. Too often, the interests of individual groups overtake the interests of the network as a whole and, more importantly, the interests of older adults and their families. Groups working in the field of aging also are sometimes slow to react to changes in the political field and to know how best to work together and position themselves to take advantage of such changes – this can be deadly in an era of rapid-fire exchange and the increased prevalence of social media campaigns.

That the OAA has fallen into limbo might be due to political stalemates that have plagued Washington for years. Bipartisan tendrils of growth have started to emerge, however, with advances such as the Murray–Ryan budget agreement and in bills such as the Farm Bill, the Sustainable Growth Rate Bill, the Child Care and Development Block Grant, and now, the OAA.

The Rally for Reauthorization

It now is up to the aging services network to drive home the necessity of reauthorization with a concentrated advocacy effort that places first and foremost the interests of older people and their families; that advances the value proposition associated with aging services programs; and that educates and informs elected officials about the need to invest in these programs to shape a future that produces more efficient federal spending and improves the quality of life for America’s older adults. After all, what three more forward-thinking and relevant policy and political goals could there be?

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Meredith Ponder, J.D., is a senior associate at Matz, Blancato, & Associates. She can be contacted at mponder@matzblancato.com.

Editor’s Note: This article is taken from the Summer 2014 issue of ASA’s quarterly journal, Generations, an issue devoted to the topic “The Future of Aging Services.” ASA members receive Generations as a membership benefit; non-members may purchase subscriptions or single copies of issues at [our online store](#). Full digital access to current and back issues of Generations is also available to ASA members and Generations subscribers at [MetaPress](#).

2015 Geriatric Mental Health Partnership Webinar Series Announcement (attachment)

Charlotte Arbogast, MSG, Dementia Services Coordinator



Attached is an announcement of the 2015 Mental Health and Aging Training webinars scheduled for March, April and May. Once again the events are supported by the Riverside Center for Excellence in Aging and Lifelong Health, the VCU Department of Gerontology and our Virginia Geriatric Mental Health Partnership.

As you will see from the flyer the first session is scheduled for March 19th on “Reducing the Risk of Medication-Alcohol Interactions in Older Adults” presented by Patricia Slattum, PharmD, PhD; the second webinar is scheduled for April 23rd on “Sexuality in Long Term Care: Ethical and Practical Issues” presented by Andrew L. Heck, PsyD, ABPP, LCLP, and Courtney Petley, MSW, LCSW; and the final webinar for the year is set for May 6th on “Assessing Risk and Managing Behaviors in Persons with Dementia” presented by Beth B. Ulrich, ACSW LCSW and Cindy Mann, RN.

A description and focus for each offering is available on the attachment. Registrations are now open for the series. <http://worldeventsforum.blogspot.com/>

Kinship Care Symposium (attachments)

Kathy B. Miller, Director of Programs, Division for the Aging

Please see the attached flyers related to the upcoming kinship care symposium and training opportunity scheduled to be held in Newport News on March 26th. For further information, please contact Chris Scott (cscott@nnva.gov).

2015 Health Center and Public Housing National Symposium

Tim Catherman, Director Aging Operations on behalf of Marcia DuBois

Call for Abstracts

March 3, 2015



Announcing the 2015 Health Center and Public Housing National Symposium

Healthy Together: Community Collaborations in Healthcare Delivery

Dear Colleagues,

We are excited to invite you to present at the 2015 Health Center and Public Housing National Symposium. Utilizing an engaging and participatory approach, with your help, we are hoping to get to the heart of the issues that are most important to our audience.

The Health Center and Public Housing National Symposium is hosted by the National Center for Health in Public Housing (NCHPH). The 2015 Symposium will highlight Aging, Public Housing, and Health Centers with a focus on 1) Fiscal and Program Management 2) Performance Improvement 3) Program Development and Analysis.

Abstracts must address issues relevant to low-income populations including:

- Health issues prevalent in residents of public housing
- Clinical, health, and community services for public housing residents
- Wellness promotion through the scientific study of the social, political, and economic contexts
- Delivery and effectiveness of Federal, state and local housing initiatives
- Best practices for improving the quality of life of public housing and low-income residents
- Resident Leadership and Capacity Building
- To view the full call for abstracts [click here](#).



Compassion Fatigue (attachment)

Charlotte Arbogast, MSG, Dementia Services Coordinator

COMPASSION FATIGUE

...A CONDITION

where, after witnessing the suffering and eventual decline of a loved one, you begin to lose sympathy for him or her. This seemingly hard-heartedness is a result of unrelenting stress and associated burnout.

...A LIVE WEBINAR

to be held **Friday, March 27, 2015, 1 pm ET** which will provide professionals the tools they need to:

1. identify caregivers who are at risk for developing compassion fatigue,
2. navigate the complex relationships involved in family caregiving, and
3. recognize when compassion fatigue is present and identify possible interventions that may reduce and prevent further compassion fatigue and abuse, neglect and exploitation.

Presenter: Katie Gilstrap, MBA

Moderator: E. Ayn Welleford, PhD

Funded by the Virginia Coalition for the Prevention of Elder Abuse (VCPEA).

More information on VCPEA can be found at: www.vcpea.org.

Register today for the free 90-minute webinar at <http://alzpossible.org/webinars-2/family/compassion-fatigue/>

Mental Health and Aging Training Initiative

Live Webinar Series IV

Register online - Free for all to attend* at <http://worldeventsforum.blogspot.com>

These presentations are intended for staff from many levels, disciplines, and settings (both facility and home-based), including staff involved in providing long term care (e.g., nursing facility and assisted living nursing staff and administrators), as well as behavioral health staff who work with older adults. Additionally, staff from Adult Protective Services, home health, adult day healthcare, respite care, area agencies on aging, Emergency Department staff of acute care hospitals, hospital discharge planners, and others serving older adults could benefit from the training.

Reducing the Risk of Medication-Alcohol Interactions in Older Adults

Thursday, March 19, 2015, 1:30-2:45 pm ET

This webinar will address medication and alcohol interactions in older adults and how they can have a significant impact on health and well-being as well as on other chronic health conditions. Thorough review of medications and open communication with patients can help to prevent these occurrences. Questions and discussion will follow as time permits.

Presenter:

Patricia Slattum, PharmD, PhD, Professor, Department of Pharmacy, Virginia Commonwealth University,

Moderator:

E. Ayn Welleford, MSG, PhD, AGHEF, Chair, Department of Gerontology, Virginia Commonwealth University

Sexuality in Long-Term Care: Ethical and Practical Issues

Thursday, April 23, 2015, 1:30-2:45 pm ET

This webinar will focus on sexuality in the aging adult and address ethical matters related to consent in those with and without dementia. Questions and discussion will follow as time permits.

Presenters:

Andrew L. Heck, PsyD, ABPP, LCP, Director of Psychology, Piedmont Geriatric Hospital

Courtney Petley, MSW, LCSW, Director of Psychosocial Rehabilitation, Piedmont Geriatric Hospital

Moderator:

E. Ayn Welleford, MSG, PhD, AGHEF, Chair, Department of Gerontology, Virginia Commonwealth University

Assessing Risk and Managing Behaviors in Persons with Dementia

Wednesday, May 6, 2015, 1:30-2:45 pm ET

This webinar will focus on tools and techniques that can be used in risk assessment and management of behaviors in patients with dementia. Questions and discussion will follow as time permits.

Presenters:

Beth B. Ulrich, ACSW, LCSW, Liaison, Senior Psychiatric Program, Centra Virginia Baptist Hospital

Cindy Mann, RN, Unit Manager, Geriatric Psychiatric Unit, Centra Virginia Baptist Hospital

Moderator:

E. Ayn Welleford, MSG, PhD, AGHEF, Chair, Department of Gerontology, Virginia Commonwealth University

**These events are made possible through a grant from the Virginia Center on Aging's Geriatric Training Education Initiative and supported by the Riverside Center for Excellence in Aging and Lifelong Health, the Virginia Geriatric Mental Health Partnership, and the VCU's Department of Gerontology.*

**For more information on the past three series and to register, please click below:
<http://worldeventsforum.blogspot.com>**

Thursday, March 26, 2015

Kinship Care Symposium

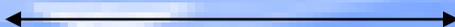
8:30 am to 3:00 pm

South Morrison Family Education Center
746 Adams Drive
Newport News, VA 23601

*A Free Symposium
with Information
on Kinship Care
for
Children*



Child Care Provided
MUST RSVP for Child Care
When Registering for
Symposium



WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

**Grandparents & Kin Caring for Relatives' Children, Foster Parents,
Adoptive Parents, Clergy, Counselors, and Family Service
Professionals**

**Pre-Register By Calling 369-6807
or, email Ms. Scott at cscott@nnva.gov**

Sponsors:

Newport News Child Advocacy Team, VFVPP Grant- Child Protective Services, Smart Beginnings Virginia Peninsula, Peninsula Health District, Family Focus-Mary Immaculate, Newport News Partnership for Youth member organizations: NNDHS Prevention Services Bureau, Newport News Public Schools, Newport News Library System, Big Brothers Big Sisters and Alternatives, Inc.



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