



VDA WEEKLY E-MAILING

April 21, 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.nasud.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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April 15, 2015

**White House Conference on Aging
Releases Healthy Aging Policy Brief**

The White House Conference on Aging released a policy brief on healthy aging, a key focus area for the 2015 Conference.

The [Policy Brief on Healthy Aging](#) examines how Americans can enjoy long and healthy lives by maximizing their physical, mental, and social well-being. Members of the public are encouraged to share their thoughts in the comments section of the brief. By providing input, you'll be contributing to the 2015 Conference in a meaningful and concrete way.

More briefs will be released in the coming weeks on other key topics including long-term services and supports, elder justice, and retirement security.



April 16, 2015

**Minority Health Month: Reducing
Unmet Health Needs for People with
Intellectual and Developmental
Disabilities in Communities of Color**

This week, Secretary Sylvia M. Burwell highlighted the importance of addressing racial and ethnic health disparities on the HHS blog. In [Minority Health Month: Making Progress on Health Disparities](#), Secretary Burwell noted that:

“African-Americans have the highest mortality rate of any racial and ethnic group for cancer.... Latino communities also suffer from disproportionate rates of illness, including cervical cancer. Asian-Americans and Pacific Islanders are more likely to have hepatitis B than non-Hispanic whites, and African-Americans, Latinos, and American Indians are all more likely to have diabetes.”

Research also shows that people with intellectual and developmental disabilities who live in communities of color face greater unmet health needs than non-Hispanic whites. We know that children with special health care needs from diverse communities are more likely to experience gaps in insurance coverage, loss of care, delays, or have to forgo



essential medical care ... [read more here](#)



April 20, 2015

EEOC Issues Proposed Rule on ADA Compliance for Wellness Programs

The U.S Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) published a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking today that provides guidance to both employers and employees on how wellness programs offered as part of employers' group health plans can comply with Title I of the American with Disabilities Act.

Workplace wellness programs are often used to encourage healthier lifestyles or prevent disease. Some of these programs use health risk assessments and biometric screenings to measure blood pressure, cholesterol, and body weight. Incentives such as lower monthly premiums can be rewarded to individuals for participation.

Although the ADA limits the circumstances in which employers may ask employees about their health or require them to undergo medical examinations, it allows such inquiries and exams if they are voluntary and part of an employee health program.

The EEOC's Notice of Proposed Rulemaking clarifies the circumstances in



which employers are allowed to obtain medical information from employees under the American with Disabilities Act:

- If an employee health program seeks information about employee health or medical exams, the program must aim to promote health or prevent disease, and not just collect information.
- Employees are not required to participate in a wellness program, and they may not be denied health coverage or disciplined if they refuse to participate.
- Companies may offer incentives of up to 30 percent of the total cost of employee-only coverage in connection with wellness programs. These programs can include medical examinations or questions about employees' health (such as questions on a health risk assessment).
- Discrimination based on disability is prohibited and individuals with disabilities must be provided with reasonable accommodations that allow them to participate.

The Commission seeks comments from the public that will shape the final regulation. The preamble includes 6 specific questions on which public comment is requested; public comment on the proposed rule and these 6 questions will inform the final content of the rule. The questions can be found on pages 19-22 of the document.

Key issues include how voluntary disclosure should be defined in the context of this rule and how – and to what extent – notice requirements under this rule apply.



Comments can be submitted to the Federal Register until **June 19, 2015**.

Click [here](#) to read the proposal and make comments.

Related Content:

Click to read this set of [Frequently Asked Questions from the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission](#).

Click to read this set of [Frequently Asked Questions from Department of Labor, HHS and the Treasury](#).

Click to read this set of [Frequently Asked Questions from the HHS Office for Civil Rights](#).



April 21, 2015

Funding Opportunity: Senior Medicare Patrol and State Health Insurance Assistance Program

Seeking Applications for Hard-to-Reach Beneficiary Project

The Administration for Community Living oversees two programs geared toward educating and empowering Medicare beneficiaries; the Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP) and the State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP). The SMP helps beneficiaries spot and report fraud related to their use of Medicare, and the SHIP provides



information and counseling to help Medicare beneficiaries select health insurance programs that best meet their needs.

ACL seeks to assist these state-based programs in providing their services to hard to reach beneficiaries. Cooperative agreements of up to \$150,000 will be awarded to successful applicants proposing to develop new and creative strategies and tools for connecting with hard to reach beneficiaries. Entities eligible to apply include domestic public or private non-profit organizations. Hard to reach populations include, but are not limited to, the following groups:

- Medicare Beneficiaries under age 65
- Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Medicare Beneficiaries
- American Indian/Alaska Native Medicare Beneficiaries
- Beneficiaries located in rural areas
- Limited-English Speaking Beneficiaries
- Medicare Beneficiaries of Racial/Ethnic Minority Communities

An informational conference call will be held on **Thursday, May 7, 2015 at 2:00 p.m. ET**. To participate in the call, dial 1-888-566-5976, when prompted, enter passcode: 5922266.

Letter of Intent Due: April 30, 2015

Application Deadline: June 14, 2015

[Click here](#) to see the full announcement.



Human Services Program Coordinator Position

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

I am very pleased to announce that Elizabeth Havenner has accepted the position of Human Services Program Coordinator at DARS-VDA, filling the position left vacant by Ellen Nau's retirement in February. In this capacity, she will be responsible for providing technical assistance and program monitoring for numerous OAA programs, including Adult Day Care, Personal Care, Homemaker, Care Coordination, Chore, Checking, and the National Family Caregiver Support Program. In addition, she will provide staff support for the Virginia Caregiver Coalition and the Lifespan Respite Care grant and voucher program.

For the past five years, Liz has served as the State SHIP Director for the Virginia Insurance Counseling and Assistance Program. Prior to coming to VDA, Liz was a Social Worker and the Admissions Coordinator for The Hermitage at Cedarfield. As a Masters of Social Work student at Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU), she completed internships at both Senior Connections, the Capital Area Agency on Aging and VDA. Liz received her BS in Psychology from VCU in 2005 and her MSW, with a Certificate in Aging Studies, in 2008. She just recently achieved her LSW.

Liz is the proud mother of three sons and grandmother to Maddy. When not working, she volunteers as a board member for a community organization. She is very excited about learning a new role and expanding her opportunities to serve Vintage Virginians.

National Healthcare Decisions Day Follow-up Survey

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

Dear National Healthcare Decisions Day Team:

NHDD 2015 was a great success. Among other things, it was the first year in which we made the Trend list for Twitter!

Please complete the short survey so we can really measure our success.

The participant survey is here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NHDD2015Survey>. It only takes a few minutes to complete.

Stay tuned for a report of our activities.



Appreciatively,

Nathan Kottkamp

Chair

National Healthcare Decisions Day Initiative

www.nhdd.org or www.nationalhealthcaredecisionsday.org

[Twitter](#) | [Facebook](#) | [LinkedIn](#)

Join us by clicking [here](#).

Updated Aging Monthly Report (AMR) – Other Contractors

Brenda Cooper, Performance and Compliance Analyst

The AMR-OC has been updated to allow agencies to reflect current contracts. The changes should not impact anyone, but as always if you have a question, please contact Brenda Cooper at Brenda.Cooper@dars.virginia.gov. The new form has been posted on the website at <http://www.vda.virginia.gov/reportsandinstructions.asp>.

Older Virginians Month Activities

A. J. Hostetler, Communications Director DARS

Many of you have organized activities for May to celebrate Older Virginians Month. If you take digital photos of your events and are willing to share them with DARS for posting to the agency's Facebook page, we would appreciate the opportunity to share them with our audience. If you're interested, or have any questions about sharing the photos, please contact DARS Communications Director A.J. Hostetler at communications@dars.virginia.gov. Also, DARS will soon post a video from Governor McAuliffe in celebration of Older Virginians Month and will share that link with your organization in an upcoming mailing.

A.J. Hostetler

Communications Director



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VA Governor's Housing Conference Design Competition

Marcia DuBois, Livable Communities Coordinator



How can you help in designing safe, affordable, energy efficient homes that allow for people to "age in place" in Virginia? The Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) has announced a competition to design a home that meets affordability, energy and accessibility criteria as part of the 2015 Virginia Governor's Housing Conference (VAGHC).

DHCD is partnering with EarthCraft Virginia, Virginia Home Builders Association, Virginia Building and Code Officials Association, Easy Living Virginia and Habitat for Humanity, who has agreed to construct the winning design in Hampton, Virginia.

The competition is open to:

residents or businesses in Virginia

full-time students enrolled in a Virginia high school or institution of higher learning

amateurs or professionals

licensed or unlicensed

individuals or teams

Winning submissions will receive:

Winner: \$750 plus construction of their design by Habitat PWG

First Runner Up: \$500



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Second Runner Up: \$250

Best Student Submission: \$1000 Scholarship

[Design Criteria](#) | [Submission Requirements](#) | [Apply Now](#)

More information can be found on the VAGHC website
at www.vagovernorshousingconference.com.



www.vagovernorshousingconference.com

2015 Virginia Governor's Housing Conference LLC
600 East Main Street - Suite 300, Richmond, VA 23219

** The Virginia Governor's Housing Conference, LLC is a 501c3 nonprofit



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National Volunteer Week: N4A and NASUAD

Tim Catherman, Director Aging Operations



Honoring and Building: Volunteer Engagement Now and Into the Future

Celebrate National Volunteer Week

[National Volunteer Week](#), a program established by Points of Light in 1974, was developed to encourage individuals and their respective communities to be at the center of social change—discovering and actively demonstrating their collective power to make a difference.





Share your volunteer stories through social media - [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#) with #NVW2015.

Volunteer Engagement Webinar Series

On April 29, the Volunteer Resource Center will be kicking off a series of webinars on volunteer engagement acumen. Topics like volunteer recruitment, retention, on-boarding, roles and impact will be included, but these webinars will largely be driven by the information participants deem most valuable.

During this webinar, attendees will be asked to provide input via polls and discussion to help us target the topics to best meet their needs. Join us **Wednesday, April 29, 2:00 - 3:00 p.m. ET** for this interactive session.

[Register today!](#)

Resources

- [More information about PowerUP! Training](#)
- [Recruit volunteers through the Got an Hour? Campaign](#)
- [Login to see additional resources](#)

National Institute on Aging Weekly Digest

Tim Catherman, Director Aging Operations



National Institute on Aging

Connections: Alzheimer's News and Updates from NIA



04/13/2015

Spring 2015 | [View on the web](#)

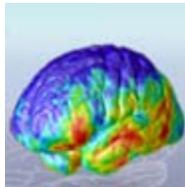
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CONNECTIONS

National Institute on Aging
National Institutes of Health

News from NIA's Alzheimer's Disease Education & Referral Center

Feature Stories



Summit sets the path ahead for Alzheimer's treatment, prevention

New partnerships, Big Data, technology, and citizen science help pave the way toward new therapies and prevention strategies.



NIH to estimate total funding needs for Alzheimer's research

"Bypass" budget will outline for the President, Congress what NIH needs to fulfill 2025 research goals.



Nations gather to coordinate global dementia research

G7 meeting at NIH and WHO global dementia conference build international momentum.



NIH-led effort launches Big Data portal for Alzheimer's drug discovery

New platform for scientists to share data for the Accelerating Medicines Partnership.

Updates



- [Alzheimer's disease funding: interim update on payline](#) – read the blog by Robin Barr
- [Supporting aging research in challenging times](#) – read the blog by Richard Hodes

New Resources



- [Volunteer for Alzheimer's Research](#) – Learn how you can make a difference by participating in studies
- [Alzheimer's and Dementia Resources for Professionals](#) – Find training materials, publications, toolkits, and more to support clinical practice

Remember, NIA has [resources in Spanish](#), too!

Research Highlights



- [Repurposed experimental cancer drug restores brain function in mouse models of Alzheimer's disease](#)
- [Physical activity associated with fewer aging brain-related movement problems](#)
- [Researchers develop "epigenetic clock" to measure aging in Down syndrome](#)
- [Use of anticholinergic drugs linked to higher dementia risk](#)
- [NCRAD offers genetic samples and data vital to Alzheimer's research](#) – read the blog by Creighton Phelps

Clinical Trials



To find more currently recruiting Alzheimer's and related clinical trials and studies, go to the [ADEAR Clinical Trials listing](#).

New Trials and Studies

- [AZD3293 in Early Alzheimer's Disease](#)
- [Behavioral Interventions to Prevent or Delay Dementia](#)
- [NOBLE: T-817MA for Mild to Moderate Alzheimer's Disease](#)

Major Studies Still Recruiting



- [Anti-Amyloid Treatment in Asymptomatic Alzheimer's Disease \(A4\)](#)
- [Alzheimer's Disease Genetics Study](#)

Registries

- [Alzheimer's Prevention Registry](#)
- [Brain Health Registry](#)

Online Studies

- [Caregiver Health-e Brain Study](#)
- [MindCrowd](#)

Find more Alzheimer's and dementia-related news and resources on the ADEAR Center website at www.nia.nih.gov/alzheimers.

Sign up for [NIA and ADEAR email alerts](#).



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Video: funding research through partnerships

04/15/2015

[NIA partnerships expand funding for research](#)



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Richard Hodes, Director of the National Institute on Aging

This week's blog is a 3-minute video. [Watch it now.](#)

InsideNIA
A Blog for Researchers