Department of Health & Human Services

ACL News & Info

Administration for Community Living

For seniors and people with disabilities

Monday, October 22, 2012

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Administrator Greenlee Contributes Article on Elder Abuse to *Generations*

The topic of the Fall 2012 issue of the American Society on Aging's (ASA) quarterly journal *Generations* is *Elder Abuse and the Elder Justice Movement in America*. Administrator for Community Living & Assistant Secretary for Aging Kathy Greenlee authored the article "Take a Stand Against Elder Abuse." To read the article on AgeBlog, go to http://www.asaging.org/blog/take-stand-against-elder-abuse

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ONC Announces Two Innovation Challenge Winners

New tools to help patients better manage and access information in their electronic health records (EHRs) have been selected as challenge winners by the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC) at the US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) during the Health 2.0 Sixth Annual Fall Conference in San Francisco. With this announcement, patients will have more tools to better manage their health care. The EHR accessibility module will make it easier for people with disabilities access their electronic health records.

The Blue Button Mash Up Challenge, launched on June 5, 2012, builds on a prior Blue Button challenge to make personal health information more usable and meaningful for the individual consumer or patient. The winner, iBlueButton, submitted by Humetrix of San Diego, Calif., is a dual-app system that provides an intuitive, patient-centered, secure two-way mobile solution, where patients can connect to their Blue Button and other health records.

The EHR Accessibility Module Challenge, launched on Jan. 30, 2012, asked solvers to create and test a module or application that makes it easy for people with disabilities to access and interact with the health data stored in their EHRs. The winning team, Pinaxis, created Apollo, a fully accessible Internet portal that will allow patients to interact with any provider's existing EHR system over the Web.

The challenges are part of ONC's Investing in Innovation program which utilizes prizes and challenges to facilitate innovation and obtain solutions to intractable health IT problems. A list of ONC challenge winners can be found here.

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Funding Opportunities

Funding Opportunity in Safety and Health for Older Women

Funding through this request from the Department of Health and Human Service Office of Women's Health is available for activities and events that enhance access to information and health care resources that promote the safety and health of older women (women 50+) in the United States and its affiliated territories.

John Snow, Inc. (JSI) will be the lead contractor for administration of this RFP. OWH contracted with JSI to provide general program support to its Central

Office and ten Regional Offices on Women's Health to manage regional health projects and activities in women's health in the ten HHS regions.

Proposed activities should focus on one of the three general topic areas:

Preventive and Behavioral Health such as:

Chronic Disease Self Management
(http://www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/AoA_Programs/HPW/ARRA/Index.aspx)

Cardiovascular Disease and/or Heart Attack Symptoms in Women
(http://www.womenshealth.gov/heartattack/;
http://www.womenshealth.gov/heart-truth/; http://millionhearts.hhs.gov/)

HIV/AIDS in Older Women
(http://www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/AoA_Programs/HPW/HIV_AIDS/index.aspx)

Oral Health in Older Women
(http://www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/AoA_Programs/HPW/Oral_Health/index.aspx)

Abuse in Older Adults – including but not limited to interpersonal and domestic violence prevention, elder rights protection, and trauma
http://www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/AoA_Programs/Elder_Rights/index.aspx
http://www.womenshealth.gov/violence-against-women/types-of-violence/domestic-intimate-partner-violence.cfm#h
http://www.womenshealth.gov/aging/safety-abuse/elder-abuse.cfm

Care Giving – including the role of older women as caregiver for spouse, parent and/or as guardian for grandchildren/children
http://www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/AoA_Programs/HCLTC/Caregiver/index.aspx
http://www.womenshealth.gov/aging/caregiving/raising-children-again.cfm
http://www.medicare.gov/campaigns/caregiver/caregiver.html

Priority consideration will be given to proposals which demonstrate collaboration among two or more local community resources. Community resources may include (but are not limited to) senior services, Area Agency on Aging, health care providers, patient advocacy and education organizations, local hospitals, health care professional organizations, and local media.

Projects will be funded up to a maximum amount of $2,500. Proposals must be received no later than **November 15, 2012,** at 5:00 p.m. Mountain Time.

Important Notes:

For help with this RFP, e-mail: owhapplication@jsi.com or phone toll-free: 1-866-224-3815.

A conference call will be held to clarify instructions for submitting a proposal. The call will be held on Tuesday, October 23, 2012, at 3:00 p.m. ET/2:00 p.m. CT/1:00 p.m. MT/12:00 p.m. PT.

To join the conference call, please dial 1-866-393-5407. Upon dialing in, please provide the conference ID number: 47016050. The title of the conference call is "Safety and Health for Older Women." Advance registration is not required to join the call.

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Superstar Foundation Invites Nominations for Veronica Awards to Honor Social Service Professionals

The Superstar Foundation, a nonprofit organization committed to recognizing and rewarding great social service professionals for the invaluable work that they do, is accepting nominations for the 2012 Veronica Awards.

The awards are given to honor and reward outstanding direct service professionals who have demonstrably and consistently improved the lives of their clients through the development of transformational relationships. Submissions are evaluated on the basis of evidence including letters of recommendation and staff performance data.

Eligible applicants are direct service staff at 501(c)(3) organizations who directly serve program participants.

Self-nominations are encouraged. The program also accepts nominations on behalf of direct service workers by colleagues and/or supervisors.
In 2011, the foundation made four awards of $5,000 to direct service workers.

The application deadline is November 21, 2012 at 8pm (EST).

Link to Complete RFP

Cardinal Health Foundation Offers Grants to Improve Patient Safety

Cardinal Health Foundation has announced that, for the sixth consecutive year, it will award grants to help United States, Canadian and Puerto Rican hospitals, health systems, community health clinics, and other nonprofit healthcare institutions improve the efficiency and quality of their patient care.

The foundation's E3 Grant Program Focus areas includes those designed to improve medication safety, particularly as patients transition from hospital environments to home and other healthcare settings. The program supports the implementation of evidence-based practices that have been identified as successful and lead to positive patient outcomes. While the implementation of evidenced-based practices with quantifiable outcomes is the goal, the program also encourages grantees to be innovative in the way the projects are implemented so that the work can be sustained as well as spread to other institutions.

The foundation anticipates awarding approximately twenty-five grants of between $15,000 and $35,000. Deadline is December 7, 2012.

The foundation will host two webinars to provide an overview and to answer questions. Note that the capacity for each of these webinars is 150. They will be first come, first served so it is recommended that you join early.

- *October 23rd at 2:00 p.m. EST/ 1:00 p.m. CST*

    - Call-in toll-free number (Verizon): 1-866-692-5721 (US)
      Call-in number (Verizon): 1-517-444-9940 (US)
      Attendee access code: 214 109 4

      WebEx Information

      Meeting Number: 746 448 840
      Meeting Password: E3

      To start this meeting:
      1. Go to
      https://cardinalhealth.webex.com/cardinalhealth/j.php?J=746448840&PW=NODM0M2MxZTZj
      2. Log in to your account.
      3. Click "Start Now".
      4. Follow the instructions that appear on your screen.

- *October 26th at 11:00 a.m. EST / 10:00 a.m. CST*

    - Call-in toll-free number (Verizon): 1-866-692-5721 (US)
      Call-in number (Verizon): 1-517-444-9940 (US)
      Attendee access code: 214 109 4

WebEx Information

Meeting Number: 742 714 353
Meeting Password: E3

To start this meeting:
1. Go to
https://cardinalhealth.webex.com/cardinalhealth/j.php?J=742714353&PW=NMTUzMzUwYmI5
2. Log in to your account.
3. Click "Start Now".
4. Follow the instructions that appear on your screen.

Complete proposal guidelines, an FAQ, and summaries from successful E3 Grant Program proposals including one that features a collaborative with an AAA are available at the Cardinal Health Foundation community Web site, http://www.cardinalhealth.com/us/en/CommunityRelations/Apply/E3

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Stay Informed

Twitter Chat on the Health Literate Organization

In honor of Health Literacy Month the Department of Health and Human Services' Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion (ODPHP) is hosting a health literacy Twitter Chat on October 25, 2012 at 3 p.m. EDT. Assistant Secretary for Health Howard Koh and the Department of Health and Human Services Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality's Cindy Brach will be among the participants.

Using the hashtag #healthlit, please join @healthfinder, @HHS_DrKoh, @AHRQNews, @HealthLitMo and others to discuss the Institute of Medicine's recent paper on the *10 Attributes of Health Literate Health Care Organizations*

(see http://iom.edu/~/media/Files/Perspectives-Files/2012/Discussion-Papers/BPH_Ten_HLit_Attributes.pdf).

Share your ideas on how organizations can help people navigate, understand and use information and services to take care of their health.

If you have health literacy resources that you'd like to share, either about this issue or related to other health literacy topics, please tweet those before the chat using the hashtag #healthlit.

Following the Chat, resources will be posted to http://health.gov/communication/literacy/.

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Addressing Depression in Older Adults through Evidence-based Programming

Join the National Council on Aging and leaders from the aging network who will share evidence-based programs that empower older adults to manage their depression and improve their quality of life. Two programs that meet the Administration on Aging's highest criteria for evidence-based programming will be highlighted—Healthy IDEAS (Identifying Depression, Empowering Activities for Seniors) and PEARLS (Program to Encourage Active, Rewarding Lives).

Date: Thursday, October 25, 2012
Time: 3:00 p.m. EDT

Speakers:

Lesley Steinman, PEARLS (Program to Encourage Active, Rewarding Lives), Seattle, Washington

Esther Steinberg, Healthy IDEAS (Identifying Depression, Empowering Activities for Seniors), Houston, Texas

Gordon Gibb, St Barnabas Senior Services, Los Angeles, California

Register here: https://cc.readytalk.com/cc/s/registrations/new?cid=9x9zpiloh3eu

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Senior Digital Literacy Day: How the Internet Can Benefit Older Americans

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) invites seniors in the metropolitan Washington, DC area to attend its seminar entitled *Senior Digital Literacy Day: How the Internet Can Benefit Older Americans*.

Participants will learn about:

the importance of computers in today's world,

the benefits of Broadband (a high speed Internet connection) and

strategies to stay safe and protect personal information while using the Internet.

Date: Tuesday, October 30, 2012
Time: 9:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. ET
Site: FCC Commission Meeting Room, 445 12th Street SW, Washington, DC

To RSVP, telephone 202-418-2372

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Webinar on Volunteering and Community Service

Hosted by the Social Security Administration, this webinar will address volunteering and community service as a path to employment for Social Security disability beneficiaries. A panel of experts will provide information on ways to make community service a part of your career path.

Date: Wednesday, October 31, 2012
Time: 3:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. Eastern Time

Register online at https://www.chooseworkttw.net/wise/jsp/wise.jsp or call 1-866-968-7842 or 1-866-833-2967 (TTY/TDD).

Visit Disability.gov for more information about community service and volunteer opportunities.

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Webinar Reminder

Integrating Medicare and Medicaid: What's Happening Now, and What It Means for Assisted Living and Other LTSS

Twenty-six states have applied to the federal government to combine Medicaid and Medicare. Under these applications, up to two million dual-eligibles

(persons eligible for both Medicaid and Medicare) would be transferred into an integrated Medicaid/Medicare health care system. In most cases, they would receive care through a managed care organization.

The changes will be dramatic. The potential benefits are substantial, but so are the potential risks for consumers. At the state and federal levels, consumer advocacy will be vital in assuring that the new systems fulfill their potential and properly protect consumers' rights to quality health care.

Join the Assisted Living Consumer Alliance for a free webinar explaining the dual integration process, with a focus on how the new systems will affect long-term services and supports (LTSS). The speakers will be Georgia Burke and Eric Carlson, attorneys from the National Senior Citizens Law Center.

Date**:** Tuesday, October 30, 2012
Time**:** 11:00 a.m. Pacific/2:00 p.m. Eastern

After registering you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the Webinar.

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Tools & Information

AoA Research Brief Now Available Online

The Administration for Community Living's Administration on Aging's (AoA) most recent research brief is now available for download from the AoA website. The brief, *Use of Transportation Services among OAA Title III Program Participants*, can be accessed at http://www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/Program_Results/docs/2012/AoA_6th_xation_Brief_Oct_2012.pdf

For more information about this study, please contact Kristen Robinson at Social & Scientific Systems, krobinson@s-3.com.

This AoA-funded research brief series presents analyses conducted by Social & Scientific Systems using data from AoA's National Surveys of Program Participants. These surveys collect information from Title III participants about their demographics, socioeconomic status, health, and functioning, as well as their service use and client-reported service impact and quality.

For review other briefs in the series, go to the AoA website's Older Americans Act Performance Information page, http://www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/Program_Results/OAA_Performance.aspx, and scroll down to the "Performance Outcomes" section.

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ACL/AoA Grantee Project Director Receives Prestigious Robert Wood Johnson Foundation 2012 Community Health Leaders Award

On October 17, 2012 the Foundation announced the names of the ten individuals who received their 2012 Community Health Leaders Award. Kathi Toepel, Project Director for the Administration on Aging (AoA)-funded Community Innovations for Aging In Place (CIAIP) program, within the Mother Lode Office of Catholic Charities in Stockton, California, was among the individuals receiving this esteemed award. The Community Health Leaders Award recognizes individuals who overcome significant challenges to improve health and health care in their communities, awarding them with $125,000, the majority of which is infused into the work for which they are being recognized.

To read more about Kathi and the other 2012 recipients, go to http://www.rwjf.org/en/about-rwjf/newsroom/newsroom-content/2012/10/community-leaders-honored-for-creating-healthier-places-to-live.html

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CDC Releases First 2012-2013 FluView

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recently issued the first "FluView" influenza activity report for the US 2012-2013 flu season. The 2012-2013 reporting season began on September 30. The report shows that influenza activity is low nationwide.

This season, FluView has new interactive visualization tools. To access the FluView report, go to www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly

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New AHRQ Tool Assesses Patient Safety Culture in Pharmacies

The Department of Health and Human Services Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) has released the *Pharmacy Survey on Patient Safety Culture* and a free toolkit of materials that helps community pharmacies assess their culture of patient safety. It is the latest survey in AHRQ's suite of

patient safety culture surveys now being used by hospitals, nursing homes and medical offices.

The new survey is designed for pharmacy staff, including clerks, technicians and pharmacists. It includes 36 survey items that measure 11 areas of patient safety culture such as physical space and environment, patient counseling, communication about prescriptions across shifts, and teamwork. It also includes items about the frequency of documenting mistakes and an overall rating on patient safety.

Toolkit materials include the survey form, a document identifying items by composite, a Survey User's Guide, and results from 55 pharmacies that participated in the 2012 pilot study. To download the survey, visit: http://www.ahrq.gov/qual/patientsafetyculture/pharmsurvindex.htm

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US Department of Labor Launches Virtual Workplace Flexibility Toolkit during National Disability Employment Awareness Month

The US Department of Labor has launched its online Workplace Flexibility Toolkit to provide employees, job seekers, employers, policymakers, and researchers with information, resources and a unique approach to workplace flexibility. Workplace flexibility policies and practices typically focus on when and where work is done. The toolkit adds a new dimension — an emphasis on flexibility around job tasks and what work is done. Funded by the department's Office of Disability Employment Policy in partnership with the department's Women's Bureau, the toolkit makes more than 170 resources easily accessible

Read more about the toolkit at http://www.dol.gov/opa/media/press/odep/ODEP20122014.htm#.UHwpRMU712w

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Social Security Announces 1.7 Percent Benefit Increase for 2013

Monthly Social Security and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits for nearly 62 million Americans will increase 1.7 percent in 2013. The 1.7 percent cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) will begin with benefits that Social Security beneficiaries receive in January 2013, and the increased payments to SSI beneficiaries will begin on December 31, 2012. The average monthly benefit that a Social Security Disability beneficiary receives, $1,113, will increase to $1,132.

Visit Disability.gov for more information about Social Security and other benefits programs.

Visit Disability.Blog to read and comment on articles about disability benefits, civil rights, housing, independent living, and other topics and issues.

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New Department of Education App to Identify US Currency
US Treasurer Applauds Department of Education's Accessibility Effort

The US Department of Education recently announced the launch of the "IDEAL Currency Identifier," a free downloadable application (app) to assist individuals who are blind or visually impaired to denominate US currency on some mobile devices. The app, which interacts with Google's "Eyes-Free" applications, can be downloaded for free on more than 1,250 different wireless devices.

Treasurer of the United States Rosie Rios applauded the Department of Education's role in the app's development. "Treasury is committed to providing meaningful access to US currency and, by using technology, we can help hundreds of thousands of individuals who are blind or visually impaired. Our collaboration with the Department of Education allowed us to be resourceful and, in turn, more individuals will have the means to independently denominate the U.S. currency they use in daily commerce."

This new app is one of several measures the government is developing to assist people with vision impairments to denominate currency. For more information about the IDEAL Currency Identifier and other accessibility apps, please visit www.moneyfactory.gov

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Happy Birthday to NOD

The National Organization on Disability (NOD) turned 30 on October 17, 2012. On its 30th anniversary, NOD reaffirmed its commitment to solving one of the last remaining major gaps in the quality of life between Americans living with and without disabilities: employment.

For more information, go to http://www.nod.org/

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National Residents' Rights Month

Residents' Rights Month is an annual event designated by the Consumer Voice (http://www.theconsumervoice.org/) and is celebrated in October to honor residents living in all long-term care facilities, including nursing homes, sub acute units, assisted living, board and care and retirement communities. It is a time for celebration and recognition offering an opportunity for every facility to focus on and celebrate awareness of dignity, respect and the value of each individual resident.

The theme for Residents' Rights Month 2012 is, "My Voice, My Vote, My Right" with the goal of encouraging residents' right to vote and participation in the political process.

To learn more about residents' rights and to download promotional materials, go to http://www.theconsumervoice.org/resident/nursinghome/residents-rights#Residents-Rights-Month

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Go Direct Caregiver Tool Kit

If you care for a loved one who gets federal benefit payments by paper check or if you receive a check on behalf of someone else, you should know that the US Department of the Treasury is requiring that these payments be switched to an electronic option by March 1, 2013. View Tool Kit » for more details.

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NSCLC Celebrates 40 Years

The National Senior Citizens Law Center (NSCLC) Board of Directors and staff invite you to join them celebrate their 40th anniversary.

When: Friday November 9, 2012 from 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. EST
Where: Tuscana West, 1350 Eye Street NW, Washington, DC 20005

RSVP Now! I can't make it

If you have questions about the event, please contact Candice Marks at cmarks@nsclc.org or (202) 289-6976.

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Recent Reports

Transforming Medicare into a Premium Support System: Implications for Beneficiary Premiums

http://www.kff.org/medicare/upload/8373.pdf
Source: Kaiser Family Foundation
Date: October 2012

Annual Report on the Federal Work Force Part I EEO Complaints Processing: Fiscal Year 2011
http://www.eeoc.gov/federal/reports/fsp2011/upload/FY-2011-Annual-Report-Part-IMaster.pdf
Source: United States Equal Employment Opportunity Commission
Date: October 2012

Communicating with Older Adults: An Evidence-Based Review of What Really Works
https://www.geron.org/Resources/Online%20Store/gsa-products/communicating-older-adults
Source: The Gerontological Society of America
Date: October 2012

Understanding the Impact of Family Caregiving on Work
http://www.aarp.org/content/dam/aarp/research/public_policy_institute/ltc/2012/understanding-impact-family-caregiving-work-AARP-ppi-ltc.pdf
Source: AARP Public Policy Institute
Date: October 2012

ACS NSQI P ®/AGS Best Practice Guidelines: Optimal Preoperative Assessment of the Geriatric Surgical Patient
http://www.jhartfound.org/blog/wp-content/upLoads/2012/10/ACS-NSQIP-AGS-Geriatric-2012-Guidelines6.pdf
Source: American College of Surgeons National Surgical Quality Improvement Program (ACS NSQIP) and the American Geriatrics Society and the John A. Hartford Foundation
Date: October 2012

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