PARF 2012 Annual Membership Meeting on September 19

The 2012 PARF Annual Membership Meeting will be held this year on Wednesday, September 19, 2012, from 12:30 p.m. to 1:45 p.m. at the PARF Annual Conference at the Nittany Lion Inn, State College, PA. The membership meeting is part of the annual membership luncheon at the PARF 2012 Annual Conference. Conference registration information is available by contacting PARF at (717) 657-7608 or email parfmail@parf.org. The membership meeting features reports, reviews, awards, and celebrations. PARF members will also elect directors for open seats on the PARF Board of Directors beginning January 1, 2013 and will choose PARF officers for the upcoming year. A formal announcement of the meeting and an invitation to participate was made to all PARF CEOs and designates on August 17. Information on the PARF Annual Conference, including a schedule and description of all Conference activities, is posted on the PARF website at www.parf.org.

PA House Committee Assesses MH Funding Cuts

On September 11 the PA House Human Services Committee received public testimony on issues relating to mental health policy issues, mostly centering on the effects of eliminating the General Assistance (GA) program, cutting funding for select human services programs by 10%, and block granting funds to county programs for people with disabilities. Testimony began with a panel representing various advocacy groups around the state. The panel reported that recent budget cuts have hindered providing care for elderly persons with severe mental illness and threaten to jeopardize the effectiveness of mental health programs, hospitals and law enforcement. In addition to panelists, other witnesses offered testimony and criticized the new county-administered block grant system and the elimination of General Assistance cash assistance. They reviewed immediate challenges to mental health services, including funding for mental health needs and providing an adequate health care benefit packages in the new health care exchanges. The impact of budget cuts on law enforcement in navigating the state's mental health system was also discussed and it was recommended that substance abuse programs be more expansive and proactive and that more treatment centers be established. The committee was asked to revisit budget cut to mental health services provided through counties and not to proceed with "a rush to have all counties in the Block Grant without knowing what the true impacts are and miss the opportunity to more effectively and efficiently serve our communities." The committee was told that a recent survey showed that an overwhelming majority of mental health outpatient services are being run at a deficit. Of that number, she said, 69 percent reported those deficits have existed for five years or more. In response to the testimony, representatives offered comment ranging from concern with the availability of services to those most in need of the Commonwealth's support and gaps left by elimination of General Assistance cash payments to questions about the costs of the block grant program and the flexibility that the program promises. FMI: See http://www.pahousegop.com/NewsItem.aspx?NewsID=15186. See also http://www.genedigirolamo.com/. See also www.pahousegop.com.
PA Supreme Court Hears Oral Arguments on Commonwealth’s Voter ID Law

On September 13 the Pennsylvania Supreme Court heard arguments on appeal of the state’s new voter identification law which requires that citizens of Pennsylvania present a government-issued, college or long-term care facility photo identification card with an expiration date as proof of identity before voting in the November elections. Supporters say the voter identification required by the law will prevent voter fraud and protect the integrity of the process. Those opposed to the law say that the law will lower participation of minorities, people with disabilities, elderly citizens and people in poverty. They are seeking a delay in implementation of the law until after the November election. The Pennsylvania Department of State says that out of 8.2 million voters, about 759,000 were estimated to be without the appropriate identification. As of September 10, 7,833 people received their free identification cards from the Commonwealth. In his August ruling, Pennsylvania Commonwealth Judge Robert Simpson, Jr. ruled that the law will not disenfranchise voters. State elections officials say that anyone who does not have a valid driver's license or other form of identification can obtain a free voter card at one of seventy one (71) offices across the state. People who are not able to travel to the office can request that an alternate ballot be delivered to their home. Voters who lack proper identification when they arrive at the polls in November can cast a provisional ballot and then must provide the required documentation within six days. The appeal was brought by the American Civil Liberties Union and several other groups. A ruling is expected before the election. FMI: See http://www.aclupa.org/ and www.state.pa.us. For a copy of the brief see http://www.aclupa.org/downloads/Brief83012.pdf.

Federal Court Rules Fluctuating Workweek Overtime Method Not Allowed under PA Law

On August 27 the United States District Court, Western District Pennsylvania held that the "fluctuating workweek method" of calculating overtime compensation violates Pennsylvania’s Minimum Wage Act (PMWA), 34 Pa. Code. § 231.43(d)(3). See Foster v. Kraft Foods Global, Inc., No. 2:09-cv-00453 (W.D. Pa. Aug. 27, 2012) at http://www.legale.com/xmlresult.aspx?xmldoc=In%20FDCO%2020120828772.xml&docbase=CsLwAr3-2007-Curr. In Foster v. Kraft Foods Global, Inc., the federal district court for the Western District of Pennsylvania ruled that the PMWA requires employers to pay overtime at 150% the regular hourly rate, regardless of any agreement to utilize the FLSA approved fluctuating workweek method. Nonetheless employers may still use the total number of hours worked to calculate the regular rate (e.g., weekly salary amount divided by total hours worked in the given workweek), resulting in some savings from the traditional calculation of overtime. This decision, however, makes clear that compliance with the FLSA computation of the fluctuating workweek overtime rate does not equal compliance with the PMWA. In light of this decision, employers in Pennsylvania who use the fluctuating workweek method to calculate employee overtime are advised to revisit their policy and consult with their legal counsel to ensure they are complying with this latest court decision. FMI: See http://www.reedsmith.com/Federal-Court-Rules-Pennsylvania-Employers-Cannot-Use-Fluctuating-Workweek-Overtime-Method-09-12-2012/.
**PARF NEWS**  
**Dateline:** September 14, 2012

**DPW and DOH Agree to Offer Opportunities for Voter Registration**

On August 23 the Black Political Empowerment Project (B-PEP) and ACTION United entered a Court approved Settlement Agreement with the Secretary of the Commonwealth Carol Aichele, Secretary of Public Welfare Gary D. Alexander, and Secretary of Health Dr. Eli N. Avila resolving claims relative to the Commonwealth’s compliance with the National Voter Registration Act (NVRA). The plaintiffs’ initial complaint alleged that the majority of clients seeking public assistance services in Pennsylvania were not being offered voter registration opportunities in accordance with the law. Per the terms of the settlement, the Commonwealth has agreed to the following: DPW County Assistance Offices (“CAOs”) and WIC Local Agency Offices will distribute a voter registration application with each application for public assistance and with each renewal, recertification or change of address related to such assistance, except in cases where an applicant for Public Assistance declines in writing to receive a voter registration application. Each DPW-CAO and DOH Local Agency Offices shall prominently post a sign, provided by the Secretary of the Commonwealth, generally advising the public of the opportunity to register to vote when an individual submits a benefits application, recertification, renewal, or a change of address and encouraging them to do so. The term of the agreement will be three years – ending September 2015. FMI: For a copy of the settlement agreement see [http://www.demos.org/sites/default/files/publications/Signed%20Settlement%20Agreement%20PA%20NVRA.pdf](http://www.demos.org/sites/default/files/publications/Signed%20Settlement%20Agreement%20PA%20NVRA.pdf).

**DPW Issues Bulletin on Fees for Ineligible Residential Habilitation Services**

On September 7 the PA Department of Public Welfare (DPW) Office of Developmental Programs (ODP) issued ODP Bulletin 00-12-02 entitled, “Rate-Setting Methodology and Rates for Department-Established Fees for Ineligible Residential Habilitation Services.” The bulletin informs stakeholders that ODP has established the ineligible residential habilitation services rates for waiver residential service locations using a market-based methodology. The fee is for the Consolidated Waiver, Adult Autism Waiver (AAW) and for ODP Base-Funded individuals receiving services in a waiver residential service location. The fees for residential ineligible are effective for dates of service on and after July 1, 2012. The bulletin explains that prior to July 1, 2012 ODP had two methodologies for establishing ineligible residential rates at a Waiver service location. The ineligible residential habilitation rates for the ODP Consolidated Waiver and base-funded services were established and paid to the provider based on a cost-based methodology while the ODP-AAW methodology was based on a set fee established by ODP. ODP says that in an effort to continue to move in a direction to align rates and rate-setting methodologies, ODP has established a market-based methodology for the residential ineligible rates for all waiver-funded service locations. The DPW-established fee methodology and fees for the Consolidated Waiver and for ODP Base-funded services provided in a waiver Residential service location is at: [http://www.dpw.state.pa.us/ucmprd/groups/webcontent/documents/document/p_013025.pdf](http://www.dpw.state.pa.us/ucmprd/groups/webcontent/documents/document/p_013025.pdf). The DPW-established fee methodology and fees for the AAW services can be accessed at: [http://www.dpw.state.pa.us/foradults/autismservices/adultautismwaiver/index.htm](http://www.dpw.state.pa.us/foradults/autismservices/adultautismwaiver/index.htm)

The public notice which announced this methodology was published in the *Pennsylvania Bulletin* on Saturday, June 30, 2012 and may be accessed through the link titled: “Volume 42, Number 3828” on the internet at: [http://www.pabulletin.com/secure/data/vol42/42-26/1228.html](http://www.pabulletin.com/secure/data/vol42/42-26/1228.html)
DPW Agrees to Timely Response on HCBS Applications and Eligibility

On September 4 the Disability Rights Network of Pennsylvania (DRN PA) announced that a settlement was reached in Mosley v. Alexander, a federal lawsuit filed in April 2011 by the Disability Rights Network of Pennsylvania (DRN). The lawsuit was filed against the PA Department of Public Welfare (DPW) on behalf of the Center for Independent Living of Central Pennsylvania, six individuals with disabilities, and a class of individuals who tried to apply for or did apply for services under the Attendant Care Waiver, the AIDS Waiver, the COMMCARE Waiver, the Independence Waiver, or the OBRA Waiver (OLTL Waivers). The lawsuit alleged that some individuals who tried to apply for services under the OLTL Waivers were told they could not apply and were not given denial notices or the right to appeal. The lawsuit also alleged that individuals who were allowed to apply for OLTL Waivers did not receive eligibility determinations within 90 days as required by federal law and, in some cases, waited more than a year. These individuals also were not advised of their right to appeal the failure to receive timely eligibility determinations. The lawsuit alleged that DPW’s actions violated the federal Medical Assistance law and the Due Process Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution. DRN says that the settlement agreement results in systemic reforms to assure that all individuals can apply for OLTL Waivers, receive eligibility determinations in most cases within ninety (90) days of their applications, and receive written notice of their rights to appeal untimely determinations and adverse determinations. The agreement requires DPW to provide information and reports to DRN to allow monitoring of DPW’s compliance with the Agreement. Because the lawsuit is a class action, the court must hold a hearing to determine whether the agreement is fair, reasonable, and adequate. A hearing in Philadelphia is scheduled for November 27. Class members can participate in the hearing or submit comments on the Agreement. FMI: See http://drnpa.org/drn-and-the-department-of-public-welfare-dpw-reach-a-settlement-in-mosley-v-alexander/. More information about the Settlement Agreement, the hearing, and how to submit comments or participate can be found in the Class Notice which is at http://drnpa.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/09/MoselyClassNoticeFinalPosted.pdf.

OVR Revises Policies on College, Post Secondary Training and Vehicle Modifications

The Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry (L&I) Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR) is circulating revisions to its numbered memorandum on College and Other Post Secondary Training. In addition, OVR has also recently revised 4 of its 8 numbered memoranda on Vehicle Modification to include policy revisions. OVR is interested in any comments on its revisions to the policies. Comments must be submitted by Friday, October 12, 2012 to OVR. To obtain a copy of the changes to the memoranda contact Pamela Brauchli, M.Ed., Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist, PA Department of Labor & Industry, Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, Phone (717) 783-9964 | Fax (717) 783-5221. Email pbrauchli@pa.gov. Comments must be sent by October 12 to Pamela Brauchli, M.Ed., Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist, PA Department of Labor & Industry, Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, 1521 N. 6th Street, Harrisburg, PA 17102. Phone (717) 783-9964 | Fax (717) 783-5221. Email pbrauchli@pa.gov.
ODP Outlines Changes in Adult Autism Waiver Services and Rates


ODP Posts Cost Report Information

On September 12 the Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare (DPW) Office of Developmental Programs (ODP) circulated *ODP Announcement 081-12* to direct service provider staff who have a role in completing cost reports for Year 5 (historical reporting period of fiscal year (FY) 2011/2012, administrative entity (AE) staff who will have a role in desk reviews of cost reports, and Office of Developmental Programs (ODP) Regional staff that will have a role in overseeing the desk review process. ODP says that the purpose of *ODP Announcement 081-12* is to report that the cost report website user account request form and desk review assignment mapping have been added to the ODP Consulting website. New providers who did not submit a Cost Report in Year 4 and who need to establish a user account in order to upload their Cost Report submission for Year 5 are advised to complete the Request for Cost Report User Account Form. The Year 5 “Request for Cost Report User Account Form” has been posted to the ODP Consulting website. FMI: See [www.odpconsulting.net](http://www.odpconsulting.net)

ODP Warns Users of Interruptions to Services and Flow of Information

On September 13 the Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare (DPW) Office of Developmental Programs (ODP) issued *ODP Announcement #082-12* to notify all users that beginning Friday October 5th thru Monday, October 8th interruptions to services and information on the ODP Information Centers (AEIC, PIC, SCOIC, SCC & ODPConsulting.net) will take place to complete necessary system maintenance and upgrades. This announcement includes ODP Consulting Website – [http://www.odpconsulting.net](http://www.odpconsulting.net); AE Information Center – [http://aeinfo.odpconsulting.net](http://aeinfo.odpconsulting.net); Provider Information Center – [http://pic.odpconsulting.net](http://pic.odpconsulting.net); SCO Information Center – [http://scoic.odpconsulting.net](http://scoic.odpconsulting.net); SC Curriculum website – [http://sctraining.odpconsulting.net](http://sctraining.odpconsulting.net); and OCS Help Desk Information website - [http://help.odpconsulting.net/i/](http://help.odpconsulting.net/i/). ODP says that during this time users may experience an inability to access the websites or resources/information located on these websites. All website services are expected to be restored by Tuesday, October 9th. Please see the announcement for more specific details. FMI: See [www.odpconsulting.net](http://www.odpconsulting.net)
PA Bureau of Autism Services Announces Nonnemacher Appointed as Clinical Director

PA DPW ODP Bureau of Autism Services (BAS) has announced the appointment of Dr. Stacy Nonnemacher to the position of Clinical Director. In her six years with BAS she has served as clinical lead for the Adult Autism Waiver. Dr. Nonnemacher has conducted applied research and trainings in positive behavior support and fostering self-determination with publications focused on behavioral support. BAS also announced that Pamela Treadway, M. Ed., will be assuming the responsibilities of Senior Clinical Consultant. She has been a Clinical Consultant with the Bureau for the past five years. She holds a Bachelor’s degree in psychology from the State University College at Brockport and a Master’s degree in special education from Lehigh University. FMI: Contact BAS by phone at (717) 265-7760 or fax at (717) 265-7761. Call toll-free to (866) 539-7689. See www.autisminpa.org.

PA Governor’s Advisory Committee for People with Disabilities Meeting in September

The next meeting of the Governor’s Advisory Committee for People with Disabilities will be a one day, face-to-face meeting to be held on Thursday, September 20, 2012, from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm at the PA Department of Education’s Honor Suite, 333 Market Street, Harrisburg, PA 17126. If you need a reasonable accommodation under the ADA, please contact Lisa Anastasi at 717-346-4381, lanastasi@pa.gov, prior to September 17, 2012. FMI: Contact Devon D. Grant, Executive Director, Governor’s Cabinet and Advisory Committee for People with Disabilities, Room 333 Health & Welfare Bldg., Harrisburg, PA 17120. Phone: (717) 783-4285. Fax: (717) 772-2062.

PA Trainings on Supporting Youth in Transition from High School to Adult Life

Networks and Works for Me are presenting a two-part training series on best practices and successful strategies to support young people in transition from high school to adult life. Sessions will be offered in Scranton, Danville, Bethlehem, Philadelphia, State College, Camp Hill, Pittsburgh, and Edinboro, PA. The focus of the series will be on facilitating successful outcomes through customized employment strategies. The sessions are in two parts: Part I: Customized Employment & School to Work Transition Strategies and Part II: Let's Get Moving with Tools of Discovery. Participants are asked to attend both days. Parts I and II of this series will be held in each of the above locations approximately four to six weeks apart, beginning in September, 2012. Discovery and Profile manuals are included with registration. The event is free of charge, and refreshments will be provided. This series is sponsored by: Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) Medicaid Infrastructure Grant (CFDA #93.768). For details of the sessions and more information, contact Networks for Training and Development, Inc., Email julies@networksfortraining.org.
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U.S. House of Representatives Passes Continuing Resolution

On September 13 the U.S. House of Representatives voted 329-91 to approve a six-month continuing resolution to maintain government spending at $1.047 trillion. See http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/BILLS-112hjres117ih/pdf/BILLS-112hjres117ih.pdf. The continuing resolution (CR) funds the ongoing operations of the federal government from October 1, 2012 to March 27, 2013. The bill is based on the $1.047 trillion discretionary spending cap set by the Budget Control Act of 2011 (PL 112-25). The resolution provides for an increase to fiscal 2012 spending levels – an approximate 0.612 per cent increase for most programs. The continuing resolution also includes extensions through March 27, 2013 for several key programs due to expire at the end of this month, such as Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), but does not include recent changes to welfare that allow states to apply for waivers from TANF work participation requirements. The resolution is expected to be acted upon by the U.S. Senate next week. The Senate may choose to vote on the House version of the resolution or attempt to amend the bill. FMI: See http://appropriations.house.gov/news/documentsingle.aspx?DocumentID=308400. See also www.house.gov.

OMB Releases Report on Implementation of Sequestration

On September 14 the White House submitted its report to Congress detailing how sequestration – the $109 billion in automatic fiscal 2013 spending cuts scheduled to be implemented next year under the Budget Control Act (BCA) – would be implemented by federal agencies. The Sequestration Transparency Act of 2012 (STA) (P.L. 112-155) requires the President to submit to Congress a report on the potential sequestration triggered by the failure of the Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction to propose, and Congress to enact, a plan to reduce the deficit by $1.2 trillion, as required by the Budget Control Act of 2011 (BCA). In response, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) issued its report based on assumptions required by the STA. The report provides Congress with a breakdown of exempt and non-exempt budget accounts, an estimate of the funding reductions that would be required across non-exempt accounts, an explanation of the calculations in the report, and additional information on the potential implementation of the sequestration. The report outlined the details of how the sequestration will be implemented. The sequestration bill required a cut in the deficit of $1.2 trillion over 10 years. The OMB said $984 billion will come from program cuts; $216 trillion will come from interest savings. That works out to an annual cut of $109 billion $56.667 a year each from defense and other federal programs. In non-defense spending, cuts will be wide-spread as the law requires. Medicare will be cut 2% which is the maximum the law allows Medicare to be cut. Other mandatory qualification-based domestic programs such as Medicaid and the food stamp program will be cut 7.6%. For a copy of the report see http://images.politico.com/global/2012/09/120914_omb_report_sequestration.html See http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2012/09/14/letter-president-regarding-sequestration-transparency-act. See www.omb.gov and http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/.
HHS OIG Recommends CMS Recoup Payments to IRFs with Late PAI Submissions

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Office of Inspector General (OIG) has released its report on overpayments to inpatient rehabilitation facilities related to late submissions of the patient assessment instrument (PAI). The report entitled *Medicare Overpaid Inpatient Rehabilitation Facilities Millions of Dollars for Claims with Late Patient Assessment Instruments for Calendar Years 2009 and 2010 (A-01-11-00534)* is available at [http://go.usa.gov/rAYh](http://go.usa.gov/rAYh). HHS OIG says that based on its sample results it estimated that Medicare Administrative Contractors (MAC) made a total of $8.4 million in overpayments to IRFs because IRFs often did not receive reduced case-mix-group payments for claims with PAIs that were transmitted to the Database after the 27-day deadline. Of the 108 claims that HHS OIG sampled, which had dates of service in calendar years 2009 and 2010, 20 were either canceled or paid correctly. For the remaining 88 claims, IRFs did not receive reduced case-mix-group payments for PAIs that were transmitted to the Database after the 27-day deadline. HHS OIG says that the overpayments occurred because IRF and Medicare payment controls were inadequate. HHS OIG recommended that CMS: (1) Adjust the 88 sampled claims for overpayments of $696,000 to the extent allowed under the law; (2) Work with the Office of Inspector General to resolve the remaining 2,306 non-sampled claims with potential overpayments estimated at $7.7 million and recover overpayments to the extent allowed under the law; (3) Continue to provide specific education to IRFs on the importance of reporting the correct PAI transmission dates on their claims; (4) Complete the process that would allow the Fiscal Intermediary Shared System to interface with the Database to identify, on a prepayment basis, IRF claims with incorrect PAI transmission dates; and (5) Support the MACs’ and Recovery Audit Contractors’ efforts to conduct periodic post payment reviews of IRF claims. CMS concurred with the HHS OIG findings and recommendations and outlined steps for implementing its recommendations. FMI: See [http://oig.hhs.gov/oas/reports/region1/11100534.pdf](http://oig.hhs.gov/oas/reports/region1/11100534.pdf)

Cahaba Rescinds Proposed LCD on IRF Admission after Single Joint Replacements

On September 13 Cahaba Government Benefit Administrators®, LLC (Cahaba GBA) – the J10 A/B Medicare Administrative Contractor (MAC) for the states of Alabama, Georgia and Tennessee and the Part B Carrier for Mississippi – rescinded its proposed local coverage determination policy on admissions to inpatient rehabilitation facilities after single joint replacements. On its website Cahaba posted a notice that LCD – Surgery: IRF Admission after Single Joint Replacement with CMGs A0801-A0806 (DL32816) has been rescinded and will not be finalized. The LCD would have considered admissions to IRFs for patients with single joint replacements with CMGs A801-A806 as not medically necessary. PARF had submitted a two page appeal to Cahaba asking that the draft LCD be withdrawn. PARF noted that the proposed LCD would deny access to IRFs for patients who needed rehabilitation and that the LCD ran counter to various Medicare policies. FMI: See [http://www.cahabagba.com/news/lcd-surgery-irf-admission-after-single-joint-replacement-with-cmgs-a0801-a0806-dl32816-update/](http://www.cahabagba.com/news/lcd-surgery-irf-admission-after-single-joint-replacement-with-cmgs-a0801-a0806-dl32816-update/).
AARP Publishes State-by-State Survey on Long-term Services and Supports

The AARP Public Policy Institute has published its ninth edition of its national and state-by-state long-term services and supports reference report. Published for the past 18 years, the Across the States series was developed to help inform policy discussions among public and private sector leaders in long-term services and supports throughout the United States. The publication Across the States 2012 presents comparable state-level and national data for more than 140 indicators, drawn together from a wide variety of sources into a single reference. The publication presents up-to-date data and is displayed in easy-to-use maps, graphics, tables, and state profiles (366 pages). Across the States 2012 comes in two volumes. Volume 1 is a full report with an overview of key findings and trends, maps and graphs, and individual profiles for each state, the District of Columbia, and the nation as a whole. The full report provides a comprehensive picture of long-term services and supports in each state. Volume 2 is an executive summary with an overview of key findings and trends, and ranking tables for each indicator, such as percentage of Medicaid long-term services and supports spending for older people and adults with physical disabilities going to home and community-based services. This permits readers to easily see variations among states. Copies of Across the States 2012 are available free of charge. To order, please call the AARP Public Policy Institute at (202) 434-3890 or email jgasaway@aarp.org. For electronic copies see http://www.aarp.org/home-garden/livable-communities/info-09-2012/across-the-states-2012-profiles-of-long-term-services-supports-AARP-ppi-ltc.html.

HHS Announces Awards for Aging and Disability Resource Centers (ADRCs)

On September 11 the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) announced $12.5 million in awards to Aging and Disability Resource Centers (ADRCs) to support older Americans and people with disabilities stay independent and receive long-term services and supports. These grants, funded by the Affordable Care Act and the Older Americans Act, support counselors who help individuals and their caregivers identify and access long-term services and supports, regardless of income or financial assets. FMI: See http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2012pres/09/20120911c.html.

CMS Medicare Shared Savings Program Information Available

National Provider Call: Audio Recording and Written Transcript from August 23 Medicare Shared Savings Program Application Process Question and Answer Session Call are now available. The audio recording and written transcript from the August 23 Medicare Shared Savings Program Application Process Question and Answer Session National Provider Call are now available on the August 23 call web page in the “Presentation” section. See http://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Outreach/NPC/National-Provider-Calls-and-Events.html.
CMS Special Open Door Forum on IRF Quality Reporting Program on September 20

On September 20 from 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 pm ET the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) will host an IRF Quality Reporting Program Special Open Door Forum. The session is the 3rd in a four (4) part series of Inpatient Rehabilitation Facility (IRF) Quality Reporting Program Special Open Door Forums. To participate, dial phone number 800-837-1935 and enter Conference ID Number 25074257. The main focus of this Special Open Door Forum will be issues related to the reporting of pressure ulcer data (i.e. - staging of pressure ulcers, documentation of pressures in the Quality Indicator section of the IRF-PAI, etc.). However, other topics may be discussed as well. Also, at the conclusion of this Open Door Forum, CMS will offer a Question and Answer session, in which it invites any questions that are related to the IRF Quality Reporting Program. The 4th and final Special Open Door Forum in this series will be held on Thursday, October 18 from 1:00 pm to 2:30 pm ET. Call in information will be provided approximately 1-2 weeks prior to the date of the Special Open Door Forum. See www.cms.gov See http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Quality-Initiatives-Patient-Assessment-Instruments/IRF-Quality-Reporting/Spotlights-Announcements.html

CMS Provides New Recorded Training Sessions for IRFs

On September 10 the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) made available two new recorded training sessions for IRFs on the QIES Technical Support Office (QTSO) website. The sessions are as follows: (1.) IRF-PAI Assessment Submission Process – which provides the necessary instructions for submitting IRF-PAI assessment data to the ASAP IRF-PAI Submission System beginning October 1, 2012. (2.) CASPER Reports for IRFs – which provides information about accessing and interpreting the ASAP system-generated IRF-PAI Facility Final Validation Report, identifies other reports available to IRFs and gives an overview of the basic functionality of the CASPER Reporting application. The recordings can be accessed via the e-University page on the QTSO website at https://www.qtso.com/webex/qiesclasses.php. Please contact the QTSO Help Desk at (800) 339-9313 or help@qtso.com if you have questions regarding this training session.

CMS Updates IRIS Software

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has updated three files (medical school codes, residency type codes, and August 2012 IRISV3 Operating Instructions) in the Intern and Resident Information System (IRIS) software programs (IRISV3 and IRISEDV3). IRIS is used for collecting and reporting information on resident training in hospital and non-hospital settings. CMS added seven new IRIS residency type codes to the IRIS Residency Code Table. CMS also added two new IRIS medical school codes to the IRIS Medical School Code Table. Providers may begin using the new medical school and residency type codes in the IRIS programs for cost reporting periods ending on or after Mon, Apr 30, 2012. The IRIS programs are available for downloading on the IRIS website. See http://www.cms.gov/Research-Statistics-Data-and-Systems/Computer-Data-and-Systems/IRIS/index.html and http://www.cms.gov/Research-Statistics-Data-and-Systems/Computer-Data-and-Systems/IRIS/index.html.
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CMS Announces Stage 2 requirements in EHR Incentive Programs

On August 23 CMS announced the final rule for Stage 2 requirements and other changes to the EHR Incentive Programs. This National Provider Call will provide an overview of the final rule. Providers can learn what should be known to receive EHR incentive payments. The final rule can be found at CMS Stage 2 Final Rule. For more information on the EHR Incentive Programs, visit the CMS EHR Incentive Programs website. See http://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Legislation/EHRIncentivePrograms/index.html?redirect=/ehrincentiveprograms/

CMS Provider Call on PQR System and Electronic Prescribing on September 25

National Provider Call on Physician Quality Reporting System and Electronic Prescribing Incentive Program will be held on Tuesday, September 25 from 1:30 pm to 3:00 pm ET. CMS will host the National Provider Call on the Physician Quality Reporting System (PQRS) and Electronic Prescribing (eRx) Incentive Program. This National Provider Call provides an overview of the 2011 PQRS and eRx Incentive Payments and Feedback Reports. The target audience is: Eligible Professionals, Medical coders, physician office staff, provider billing staff, health records staff, vendors and all other interested Medicare Fee-For-Service (FFS) health care professionals. In order to receive call-in information, you must register for the call on the CMS Upcoming National Provider Calls registration website. See http://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Outreach/NPC/National-Provider-Calls-and-Events.html

CMS National Provider Call on Hospital Value-Based Purchasing

The National Provider Call on Hospital Value-Based Purchasing: FY 2013 Actual Percentage Payment Summary Report will be held on Thursday, October 4 from 1:30 pm to 3:00 pm ET. CMS will host the National Provider Call (NPC) with a question and answer session on the FY 2013 Actual Percentage Payment Summary Report. The purpose of this call is to discuss the Actual Percentage Payment Summary Report as well as important operational details for FY 2013—the first year in which value-based incentive payments will be made under the Hospital Value-based Purchasing Program. Additionally, CMS will discuss a review and corrections process and an appeals process for the program. Hospital users with an active My QualityNet account and granted the Hospital Reporting Feedback - Inpatient role can access the reports in their My QualityNet file exchange inbox. For technical questions or issues related to accessing the report, contact the QualityNet Help Desk at the following email address: qnetsupport@sdps.org or call 866-288-8912. This National Provider Call is intended for hospitals, Quality Improvement Organizations, medical coders, physician office staff, provider billing staff, health records staff, vendors, and all Medicare FFS providers. In order to receive call-in information, you must register for the call on the CMS Upcoming National Provider Calls registration website. http://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Outreach/NPC/National-Provider-Calls-and-Events.html
PARF NEWS
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DOL Awards National Center for Preparing Youths with Disabilities for Employment

On September 10 the U.S. Department of Labor announced a $1.1 million grant to the Institute for Educational Leadership in Washington, D.C., to manage and operate the Office of Disability Employment Policy's new National Technical Assistance and Demonstration Center on Preparing Youth with Disabilities for Employment. The center will build capacity within and across youth service delivery systems to improve employment and postsecondary education outcomes for youths with disabilities. The center will have three areas of focus: career exploration, management and planning; youth development and leadership; and professional development. It will provide technical assistance, training and information to organizations operating youth programs funded by the Workforce Investment Act, as well as current and former Labor Department grantees, to aid them in integrating evidence-based, effective practices for improving transitional results for young people with disabilities who are enrolled in their programs. The center will work in collaboration with federal, state and local agencies across multiple systems, including education, workforce, juvenile justice, foster care, transportation, mental health, vocational rehabilitation and others, on effective practices and issues related to the transition of youths. FMI: See http://www.dol.gov/opa/media/press/odep/ODEP20121853.htm. Additional information about ODEP can be found at http://www.dol.gov/odep/.

U.S. Department of Education Funds Centers for Parents of Students with Disabilities

On September 11 the U.S. Department of Education announced the award of more than $9.8 million in grants to 16 states to operate 25 Parent Training and Information (PTI) Centers for parents of students with disabilities. The Department also awarded $1.1 million to provide funding for 11 Community Parent Resource Centers (CPRCs) in nine states and Puerto Rico. With the new grants, the Department now funds 101 information centers for parents of children and youth with disabilities. Every state has at least one PTI that assists parents as they work to ensure their children receive a free, appropriate public education as guaranteed by federal law. In addition, CPRCs provide services to underserved parents of children with disabilities in targeted communities throughout the country. FMI: See http://www.ed.gov/news/press-releases/us-department-education-awards-more-98-million-fund-centers-parents-students-dis.

Federal Disability Report Shows Gains in Hiring People with Disabilities

On July 25 the U.S. Office of Personnel Management (OPM) released a report on Executive Order 13548 - Increasing Federal Employment of Individuals with Disabilities. OPM announced that in FY 2011, federal employees with disabilities represented 7.41 percent of the overall workforce and 11 percent when the figures include veterans who are 30 percent or more disabled. According to the report, in FY2011, new hires of persons with disabilities rose from 10.3 percent to 14.7 percent. In total, in FY 2011, the Federal Government hired 18,738 people with disabilities. In total, more than 200,000 people with disabilities now work for the federal government - the most in 20 years. FMI: See http://www.opm.gov/news/disability-report-demonstrates-great-strides-in-hiring-people-with-disabilities,1757.aspx.