



Expanding the World of Possibilities for Aging



In-Depth

January 25, 2012

CONNECT



A weekly broadcast of fiscal, policy and regulatory news & analysis as it affects providers of senior housing, care and services.

Top Stories

Aging Services of Washington Posts 2012 Legislative Session Advocacy Briefs

Aging Services of Washington is pleased to share our 2012 legislative introduction and [Advocacy Briefs](#) of January 6, 2012. As you know, the regular Legislative Session began Monday, January 9, and we trust you will find these documents useful as together, we continue our advocacy for seniors and their housing, care and service providers. Contact jmartin@agingwa.org for assistance or additional information. NOTE: Contact arunnels@agingwa.org for log-in and password access.

HUD Service Coordinator Grant Extension Guidance

On Jan. 5, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) announced the release of the [FY 2012 guidance](#) providing instruction on requesting service coordinator grant extension funds. HUD estimates that there will be sufficient FY 2012 funds to fund all eligible grants that expire on or before Dec. 31, 2012, including a 2.5% increase over funds awarded or expended in FY 2011.

PRAC Contracts To Be Funded, Per HUD

According to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), there will be funds available to renew all Project Rental Assistance Contract (PRAC) agreements as well as for implementation of new authorities.

[READ MORE](#)

Legislative News - Conference Calls Each Friday

Don't forget! Aging Services hosts a member call-in each Friday afternoon during legislative session from 3:00-3:30 pm for Nursing Homes issues, and then again from 3:45-4:15 pm for Assisted Living topics. Contact [Paul Montgomery](#) or [Julie Martin](#) for access numbers and further assistance.

Caregiver Training & Background Checks for Assisted Living, Home Care & Health

Many members have been asking clarifying questions about the new laws for home care aides, formerly known as caregivers, as they contemplate compliance requirements for new hires and existing employees of assisted living, adult family homes and home care. This is a comprehensive compilation of the topics discussed with members to date:

Contact [Julie Martin](#) for assistance, additional information or if you have challenges with any of the embedded links below.

[READ MORE](#)

January 11, 2012 Issue of In-Depth Available Online

Missed an issue? Want to review a piece of news or regulation? Stay current with all of the regulatory, legislative and fiscal news & analysis from Aging Services of Washington: [Click/Bookmark this link](#).

For assistance, contact [Julie Martin](#).

Grant Applications Being Accepted for Transportation Services

These grants are open to any provider of transportation for seniors, which may include housing providers who offer transportation services. Applicants do not have to be a sole provider of transportation services. Applications are only being accepted during a two week period: Jan 15-29, 2012.

[READ MORE](#)

Hoarders a Focus of Emergency Personnel & First Responders, Too

This is a great [article](#), with accompanying video, published by the National Fire Protection Association and offers pointers for managing hoarding behavior.

Lobby / Rally Day Next Wednesday, February 1

If you have not sent in your "Rally Day Reservation" – there's still time. We are working on Legislative appointments for your staff and residents – and want to be sure everyone is taken care of. If you have any questions, contact [Cassi Meritt](#).

Federal News

PAs to Perform SNF Level of Care Certs and Recerts

CMS has recently released an article allowing Physician Assistants to Perform Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF) Level of Care Certifications and Recertifications, with an implementation date of Feb. 13, 2012.

[READ MORE](#)

Report on Not -for-Profit Jobs Just Released

A report on year-to-year changes in employment in the not-for-profit sector was released January 18, 2012. Based on Bureau of Labor Statistics data, it covers the decade between 2000-2010.

[READ MORE](#)

Face-to-Face Encounter Documentation Requirements for Home Health Agency (HHA) Services

This is an excellent resource for the [CMS guidelines](#) that allow patients to be admitted to a home health agency following an acute or post-acute stay.

This applies to Jurisdiction 11 Home Health and Hospice//Home Health Agencies.

Nursing Home RAI Manual Updated

The latest MDS 3.0 version of the RAI Manual, [MDS3.0 V1.08](#), that will be effective April 1, 2012, is now available for download.

Also download [AllChange Tables and Pages](#) and the [MDS3.0 Training Aids Slides Instructor Guides](#).

Contact [Paul Montgomery](#) @ Aging Services of Washington for assistance.

Exceptions to Therapy Caps Ends Feb. 29, 2012

Contact [Paul Montgomery](#) for assistance with this issue.

In a letter to members of a U.S. House of Representatives and U.S. Senate conference committee, LeadingAge's Larry Minnix advocated for a year-long extension of the Medicare therapy caps exceptions process. He also urged the conferees not to impose new Medicare or Medicaid cuts on long-term services and supports providers who already have absorbed significant payment cutbacks. The therapy caps exceptions process is part of H.R. 3630, which would extend a number of other Medicare provisions, the payroll tax holiday, and unemployment compensation. The House-Senate conferees are working to resolve differences in the legislation as passed by the House and Senate. Without this extension, the exceptions process is due to expire as of February 29.

Your feedback is important to us.

Should you have questions, comments or would like assistance with any of the issues discussed in this email, please contact Julie Martin, Director of Senior Living & Community Services at jmartin@agingwa.org

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