



Florida Association of Aging Services Providers e-Newsletter

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Guest Editor: Angela Vazquez, Southwest Social Services Program, Inc.

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Message from the President

by Karen Deigl, Senior Resource Association, Inc.

Dear Members:

The last two months have been extremely busy for all of us. Throughout the legislative process there were many individuals who travelled to Tallahassee to be seen and heard by the legislative committees in addition to visiting their local delegates at home. All delegation members received the Business Case for Home and Community Service for Elders.

Six extremely successful Regional Advocacy Summits were held throughout the state sponsored by local Lead Agencies, AAA's and friends of FASP & FCOA. And there were many other advocacy efforts made to ensure our State Representatives understood the importance of our mission to provide community based services to Florida's elders to improve their quality of life.

In particular, I would like to express sincere appreciation to Robert Beck and Margaret Lynn Duggar and Associates for their time and effort they put into this year's legislative session.

Through their efforts in combination with the efforts of our members, we have been successful in getting the word out as to how important it is to maintain the funding resources for our network.

Sincerely,
Karen Deigl



Advocacy Summit Overview

The Florida Association of Aging Services Providers and the Florida Council on Aging were the State-wide Sponsors of six Regional Advocacy Summits that reached over 515 Health Professionals in Florida's Aging Network.

Major Topics

The major topics covered were: General Revenue Funding for Aging Services; Medicaid Reform; Volunteer Background Screening and TABOR (Taxpayer's Bill of Rights; also now called "Smart Cap").

Margaret Lynn Duggar emphasized that, "while this discussion focuses on state funding for community-based and in-home services, FCOA strongly supports funding for quality in nursing homes and other long term care programs, too."

AARP Presentation

AARP sent a presenter to each of the six summits. (Tess Canja, Phil Koechlein, Kathy Williamson, Steve Rome, Frank Chicoine and Yolanda Rodriguez) The AARP representatives provided an overview of AARP programs, noting that there are 98 chapters representing 3 million members in Florida. AARP strongly supports community-based and in-home services. AARP has concerns about Medicaid Reform and totally rejects TABOR. (Taxpayer's Bill of Rights — also known as Smart Cap)

Emphasis was presented on the differences between the Consumer Price Index that TABOR is based on and how the state spends its dollars, and the impact that different age groups have on state spending and that TABOR does not take this into account. The representatives then described the devastating affects of TABOR in Colorado and described plans by some key Legislators to place TABOR on the ballot in 2012 or sooner as a constitutional amendment in Florida. AARP offered handouts and DVDs on the topic.



Questions/Comments centered on the following topics:

- a) Importance of the Memory Disorder Clinics, the Brain Bank and other Alzheimer's Disease related issues.
- b) Issues around Managed Care Companies taking over Medicaid. We want the best care for clients, we support Choice for clients in the long term care system, and we want the experience of our network to be recognized and utilized in any Medicaid Reform service delivery. One attendee said, "Legislators know that home and community based services save money. We need to have them say, "I support local service providers."
- c) Caregiver Issues – Caregivers provided over \$40 billion worth of care nationally last year. They are the backbone of long term care services. People need to assume a great deal more personal responsibility. One attendee said that in her Sunday school class, 8 people assist a member with care for her husband, who has Alzheimer's.
- d) Importance of community-based and in-home services.
- e) An elder law attorney spoke to the issue of Personal Services contracts and other spousal issues that involve income and assets that are not countable for Medicaid eligibility.



If you couldn't attend the summits and would like to review the documentation, handouts are located on the FCOA website <http://www.fcoa.org/advocacy.html>

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Recognize a Valuable Service Employee You Know with a FASP Award!

The FASP Awards Committee has begun accepting nominations for the 2011 Minotty Eye Foundation Best Direct Service Employee of the Year.

The deadline for submissions is **Monday, May 16, 2011.**

FASP Members are encouraged to nominate a Florida aging service employee who has:

- added value to the service being delivered that has benefited the elders served;
- gone above and beyond job requirements to provide customer service and ensure customer satisfaction;
- developed community resources and support to the services being provided; and demonstrated a high level of commitment to excellence.

The Minotty Eye Foundation Best Direct Service Employee of the Year Award acknowledges an employee who makes a difference in the lives of seniors individually or through a unit, group, agency or organization.

Due to the generosity of the Minotty Eye Foundation's sponsorship, the Award winner will receive complimentary registration on Tuesday, August 23rd to receive their award which includes \$500.00 for themselves and \$500.00 for their agency.

Each year, FASP presents this award during the Florida Conference on Aging to honor the dedication of Florida service employees. The 2011 Florida Conference on Aging will be held August 22-24, at the Tradewinds – St. Pete Beach, Florida.

Nomination forms can be downloaded then sent to FASP—1018 Thomasville Road, Tallahassee, FL 32303 or submitted online at www.fasp.net. If you have any questions, please contact moreinfo@fasp.net or call (850) 222-2575.



Join the Conversation

Facebook Group Allows Health Care Leaders to Collaborate

To facilitate dialogue with health care leaders across the country, and in response to requests for greater collaboration among disparate efforts to improve the quality of health care locally, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) created a 'Transformation Has Begun' group on Facebook.

The group provides an opportunity for national experts and local community health leaders to share resources, ask questions and trade insights in their quest to find ways to transform care in communities nationwide. While RWJF created the page, it is designed to be used by anyone interested in regional quality improvement.

Topics discussed by the group will include patient safety, readmissions, performance measurement, medical errors, HIT, payment reform, consumer engagement, health care disparities and many others. Anyone can join the group, become a member and initiate discussions. Members of the group will also receive access to relevant reports, tools and other resources on quality improvement.

[Join the Transformation Has Begun group today!](#)

Who Wins in Medicaid Overhaul?

By Jim Saunders - 04/18/11 © Health News Florida

As the Florida House and Senate transform the \$20 billion Medicaid system, they will create winners and losers.

One winner is easy to predict. The House and Senate both want to put almost all Medicaid beneficiaries into managed-care plans, giving HMOs a flood of new customers.

But numerous other groups will have to wait for the outcome of House and Senate negotiations to find out how they fare. With those talks expected to accelerate after the Passover-Easter break, here are some groups that have a lot at stake:

Disabled people: The House and Senate agree that a mandatory managed-care system should include seniors so frail they qualify for long-term care and a vast majority of other Medicaid beneficiaries --- such as low-income women and children.

But a critical difference is that the House's Medicaid bill, which was approved March 31, also would include people with developmental disabilities, such as autism, cerebral palsy, spina bifida and mental retardation.

Developmental-disability groups have argued they should not be included in the managed-care system. The Senate bill, which is ready for a vote in the full Senate, takes that position. But the House envisions a Medicaid system that would integrate all types of beneficiaries.

Hospitals: Looking to compete with HMOs, hospitals want to form "provider-service networks," a type of locally driven managed-care plan that aims to cut out the insurance middle man.

But hospitals say details of the bills could help determine whether the networks are successful. As an example, HMOs get paid a set amount of money each month to care for their members --- what is known as a capitation rate.

Hospitals, however, want to allow provider-service networks to initially get paid the same way they are now -- putting in medical claims after patients are treated and having Medicaid pay them -- rather than taking the risk of working within a capitation budget. They argue that provider service networks have historically had sicker enrollees, as HMOs avoided them, and they worry that the state's promise of higher premiums for sicker enrollees won't be enough to bridge the gap.

HMOs have argued that all types of managed-care plans should be treated the same.

The House bill would allow such fee-for-service payments for the first three years of a network's operation, but the Senate bill would not.

Medically Needy: Senate leaders want to give the Medically Needy program a less-catchy, less-empathetic new name --- the "Medicaid nonpoverty medical subsidy."

A new name is only a symptom of the huge change the Senate wants to make in the program, which covers people who don't normally qualify for Medicaid but who have extremely costly illnesses that are beyond their means. The Senate would continue providing physician services to people in the Medically Needy program, but would cut off funding for hospital and drug costs.

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The House has adamantly opposed the cuts and is backed by the hospital industry. They argue that Medically Needy recipients will still need expensive treatment, which would force hospitals to provide more uncompensated care.

Trial lawyers and doctors: Across the Capitol this spring, trial lawyers are scrambling to fend off bills that would limit lawsuits against doctors, hospitals, nursing homes and other types of health providers.

The House and Senate Medicaid bills include such limits, but to far-different degrees. Both bills would place new limits on damages in malpractice cases against physicians who treat Medicaid patients.

Senators, however, would go further by shielding nursing homes and other groups, such as developmental-disability service providers, from costly lawsuits. It remains unclear whether lawmakers will include such liability issues in the ultimate Medicaid bill or deal with them in separate measures.

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Background Screening Bill Advances!

Robert Beck, PinPoint Results

On April 14th, the House Judiciary passed out the Background Screening Bill that is critical to the Aging Network – our CCE Lead Agencies, Area Agencies on Aging, Senior Centers, Alzheimer's Providers, and others and especially to our Volunteers and Caregivers!

Seven amendments were adopted – none of them harmful/controversial or jeopardizing our efforts to get this legislation passed. Following the meeting, I spoke with Representative Holder who is personally committed to the passage of HB 7233. Representative Holder expressed his sincere gratitude for our Aging Network Service Providers, our volunteers, and our caregivers for what they do for Florida's seniors!

On April 28th, our bill passed the final vote in the Florida Senate! It contains the exemption (up to 20 hours per month for volunteers) and total exemption from background screening for caregivers who are the spouse or blood relative of the senior being cared for.

On May 4th, Senate Bill 1992 was passed by the House of Representative on a unanimous vote of 106 to 0!

The bill now goes to the Governor for signature to become law.

[Click here](#) for a copy of the SB 1992.

Finally, a very special thanks to Janice Wise, Jim Croteau, Sheila Salyer, and Laura Cantwell for their continued support of my efforts on your behalf to attend weekly committee meetings and to testify in support of the legislation!



Affordable Care Act: Opportunities for the Aging Network



Partnership for Patients: Better Care, Lower Costs

On April 12, 2011 Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius, joined by leaders of major hospitals, employers, health plans, physicians, nurses, and patient advocates, announced a new national partnership that will help save 60,000 lives by stopping millions of preventable injuries and complications in patient care over the next three years. The *Partnership for Patients: Better Care, Lower Costs* has the potential to save up to \$35 billion, including up to \$10 billion for Medicare.

To launch this initiative, \$500 million in new Affordable Care Act funding was made available through the Community-based Care Transitions Program and up to \$500 million more will be dedicated from the Innovation Center for new demonstrations related to reducing hospital-acquired conditions. The funding will be invested in reforms that help achieve two shared goals:

Keep hospital patients from getting injured or sicker. By the end of 2013, to decrease preventable hospital-acquired conditions by 40 percent compared to 2010. Achieving this goal would mean approximately 1.8 million fewer injuries to patients, with more than 60,000 lives saved over the next three years.

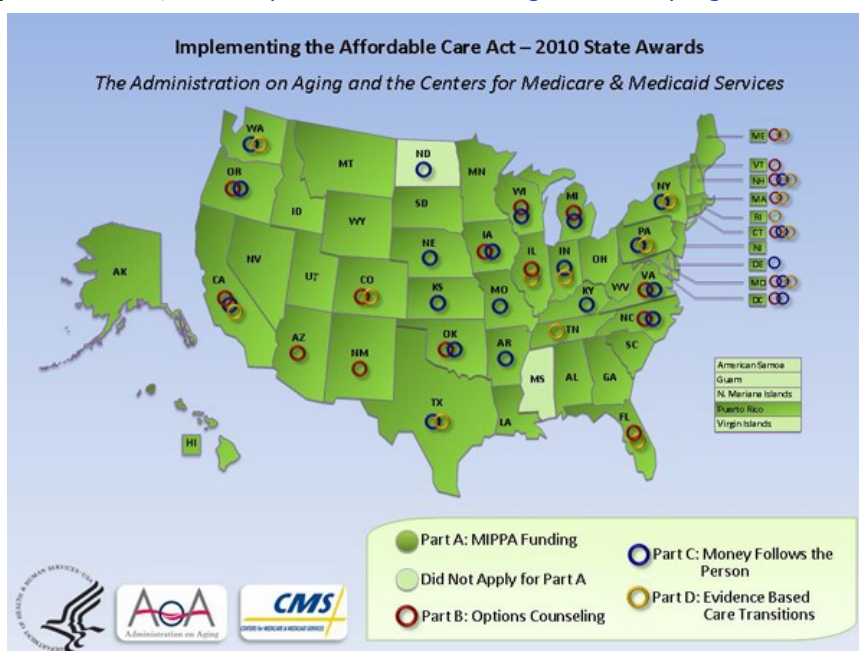
Help patients heal without complication. By the end of 2013, to decrease preventable complications during a transition from one care setting to another, so that all readmissions would be reduced by 20 percent compared to 2010. Achieving this goal would mean more than 1.6 million patients will recover from illness without suffering a preventable complication requiring re-hospitalization within 30 days of discharge.

The \$500 million of funding to community-based organizations partnering with eligible hospitals will be used to help patients safely transition between settings of care. Community-based organizations and acute care hospitals that partner with community-based organizations can begin submitting applications for this funding today. Applications are being accepted on a rolling basis. Awards will be made on an ongoing basis as funding permits.

For more information about the Partnership for Patients, visit <http://www.HealthCare.gov/center/programs/partnership>.

For more information about the Community-based Care Transitions Program funding opportunity, visit <http://www.cms.gov/DemoProjectsEvalRpts/MD/itemdetail.asp?itemID=CMS1239313>.

For more information about AoA's Aging & Disability Resource Centers Evidence-Based Care Transitions Program, visit: http://www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/AoA_Programs/HCLTC/ADRC_caretransitions/index.aspx



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FASP and FCOA wishes to thank all who helped in bringing the Regional Advocacy Summits to our Aging Network.

March 10, 2011 – Ft. Myers

Local Sponsors: AARP, Area Agency on Aging for SW Florida, Lee Memorial, Senior Friendship Centers

FCOA President Bob Carter, who is the CEO of Senior Friendship Centers, presided. He was assisted by the following Facilitators: Tess Canja from AARP; Sue Maxwell from Lee Memorial Health System; Nancy Green Irwin, Senior Friendship Centers and FASP Board; and Leigh Schield, AAASW Florida.

March 22, 2011 - Orlando

Local Sponsors: AARP, Senior Resource Alliance (the Area Agency on Aging), Community Services Council on Brevard County, Meals on Wheels Etc., Seniors First and Share the Care.

Randy Hunt, President and CEO of the Senior Resource Alliance, presided. He did a marvelous job, and was assisted by these Facilitators: Phil Koechlein from AARP and Marsha Lorenz, Seniors First and FASP Board.

March 23, 2011 - Tampa

Local Sponsors: AARP, Area Agency on Aging of Pinellas - Pasco, Hillsborough County, Meals on Wheels PLUS of Manatee, CARES of Pasco and West Central Florida Area Agency on Aging.

Bill Aycrigg, President Elect of FCOA and President and CEO of CARES of Pasco presided. Bill was an excellent moderator, and was assisted by these Facilitators: Hope Jones of Polk County Elderly Services and FASP Board member; Maureen Kelly, FCOA Board of Trustees and CEO of West Central Florida Area Agency on Aging; Charlie Robinson, FCOA Board of Trustees and Elder Law Attorney; and Kathy Williamson, AARP.

March 24, 2011 - Sunrise

Local Sponsors: AARP, Aging and Disability Center of Broward County, Alliance for Aging, Broward Health and the Daniel D. Cantor Senior Center.

Gail Weisberg, FCOA Board member and Executive Director of the Daniel D. Cantor Senior Center served as moderator. She coordinated the largest Summit audience, almost 200 persons! Gail was assisted by Yolanda Rodriguez of AARP. Yolanda is also a member of the FASP and FCOA Boards. Edith Lederberg, Executive Director of the Aging and Disability Resource Center of Broward County provided a welcome and brief overview.

March 29, 2011 - Pensacola

Local Sponsors: AARP, Council on Aging of West Florida and Northwest Florida Area Agency on Aging.

John Clark, FASP Board Member and President/CEO of the Council on Aging of West Florida, was an outstanding moderator. He was assisted by Stephen Rome from AARP.

April 5, 2011 - Stuart

Local Sponsors: AARP, Area Agency on Aging Palm Beach/Treasure Coast, Council on Aging of Martin County, Senior Resource Association

Karen Deigl, FASP Board President and Chief Executive Officer of the Senior Resource Association of Indian River County served as moderator. Karen was assisted by Barbara Kauffman, FCOA Board of Trustees and CEO of Martin County Council on Aging; Jaime Estremera-Fitzgerald, member of the FCOA Board and CEO of the AAA of Palm Beach/Treasure Coast and Frank Chicoine of AARP.

Upcoming Events



May 2011

Older Americans Month—www.OlderAmericansMonth.org

Older Americans Month is an occasion to show appreciation and support for our seniors as they continue to enrich and strengthen our communities.

August 2011

August 15-18, 2011: Hilton Orlando Bonnet Creek, Orlando, FL. Florida Health Care Association Conference - *Timeless Elegance. A Celebration of Caregiving*. For more information please visit www.fhca.org

August 22-24, 2011: 2011 Florida Conference on Aging: Aging: Through a New Lens. TradeWinds Island Grand Hotel, St. Pete Beach, FL. For more information please visit www.fcoa.org or call 850-222-8877 - Hotel reservations call 1-800-808-9833.



Resources



Older Americans Act: History & Promise Webinar

[Download](#) the presentation.

AoA Webinar Series: Care Transitions

[Download](#) This initial series of webinars focuses on preparing the Aging Network to participate in the Community-based Care Transition Program demonstration (Sec. 3026 of the Affordable Care Act).



A Blueprint for Increasing the Economic Security of Older Adults

[Explore](#) our recommendations for the Older Americans Act.

HHS announces new grants and programs from the Affordable Care Act

[to help people navigate health and long-term care options.](#)

FASP is on Facebook - Are You?



Do you or your organization have a Facebook or Twitter account. We would love to “like” “Friend” and/or “follow” you too.

FASP - Florida Association of Aging Services Providers Facebook page

<http://www.facebook.com/home.php?#!/pages/FASP-Florida-Association-of-Aging-Services-Providers/186392068069967>

FASP - Florida Association of Aging Services Providers Twitter

<http://twitter.com/FLAgingServProv>



Florida Department of Elder Affairs (DOEA) Facebook page

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Florida-Department-of-Elder-Affairs/128604923878650?sk=wall>

FCOA - Florida Council on Aging Facebook page

<http://www.facebook.com/home.php?#!/pages/Florida-Council-on-Aging/74320166787>

FCOA - Florida Council on Aging Twitter

<http://twitter.com/#!/FCOA1>

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MINOTTY EYE FOUNDATION

www.newvisioneyecenter.com



Senior Resource Alliance

www.ircco.org



Hope Adult Day Services

www.hopeadultdaycare.com



Children's Home Society of Florida

www.chsfl.org



United Healthcare

www.unitedhealthgroup.com

SPONSOR SPOTLIGHT

This issue of the FASP e-Newsletter was brought to you by the generous donation of



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The intent of the FASP Newsletter is to keep you informed about program updates and information relating to aging services providers. If you have any comments about the newsletter, suggestions on ways to improve it and/or items you would like included, please contact FASP by e-mail at moreinfo@fasp.net or by phone at (850) 222-3524.

The mission of FASP is to support and advocate for public and non-profit organizations engaged in the provision of community-based services to Florida's elders to improve their quality of life.

Mark your calendars now!

***The 2011 Florida Conference on Aging
will be held
August 22-24, 2011
at the TradeWinds in St. Pete Beach***



Conference Registration [is open](#)

Exhibitor Registration [is open](#)

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Quality Senior Living Awards [Brochure](#) and [Submission Form](#)