



WEEKLY UPDATE – MAY 27, 2010

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INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

TRAINING COORDINATOR CONFERENCE CALL NOTES

(With 1 Attachment)

The Summary Notes from the May 18th Training Coordinator's Conference Call are attached. The next Training Coordinator call is scheduled for Tuesday, June 15 from 2:00 - 3:30 EST.

AHCA'S ELECTRONIC HEALTH RECORDS INITIATIVE

The following web addresses provide information on the AHCA launch press release, the medical records application site and FAQs about the Electronic Health Records initiative.

AHCA Launch announcement- <http://ahcportal/Lists/Announcements/Attachments/18/2009-11-19%20-%20Press%20Release%20-%20Agency%20Launches%20Electronic%20Health%20Records%20Portal%20for%20Medicaid%20Providers.pdf>.

Florida Medicaid Medical Records Access: <http://www.fhin.net/FHIN/FLMedicaidHIN.shtml>.

FAQs---<http://ahca.myflorida.com/docs/2009-11-19-FMHIN-FAQ.pdf>.

Please contact Keith Young, Medical/Health Care Program Analyst, Long Term Care Waiver and Institutional Policy Unit, Agency for Health Care Administration, at youngk@ahca.myflorida.com if you have problems accessing these addresses.

THE HEARING LOSS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA ANNOUNCES NEW VIDEO SERIES ON HEARING LOSS

Bethesda, MD: Get accurate information about hearing loss, its causes and what to do about it. The Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA) contracted with Knowlera Media to produce a series of seven, four-minute, captioned videos on hearing loss. Information to adequately brief someone on hearing loss is all in one place in an easy-to-access format.

If you think you have a hearing loss or know someone who does, please point them to the videos where hearing health care professionals and people with hearing loss talk about what you can do about it.

The message throughout the videos is that just about everyone can be helped with their hearing loss. But the first step is to acknowledge it and get a proper diagnosis. John K. Niparko, M.D., otolaryngologist at the Listening Center, Johns Hopkins Hospital, says, "It is a mistake to ignore a hearing loss and simply live with it."

The Hearing Loss Association of America gathered a team of hearing health care professionals to cover the following topics:

- Hearing Loss Basic Facts
- Hearing Loss Symptoms
- Hearing Loss Diagnosis
- Hearing Loss Treatments
- Living with Hearing Loss
- Hearing Loss Causes and Prevention
- Hearing Aids, Cochlear Implants and Assistive Listening Devices

In addition to sound medical and audiological advice, two Hearing Loss Association of America members, Reed Doughty and Bonnie O'Leary, talk about their hearing loss.

Reed Doughty, Washington Redskins safety, first obtained hearing aids during his NFL career. He says, "When I first got with the Redskins, I was not wearing hearing aids. I finally got hearing aids and it really improved my ability to be able to pay attention, to interact in the locker room, and engage in conversations that previously would have been very difficult."

He goes on to say, "For me growing up there was a stigma and looking back I wished I would have gotten hearing aids earlier. Kids need to have self-esteem and put themselves in the best situation for school and for a fun and active lifestyle."

Bonnie O'Leary, late-deafened adult and now a certified hearing loss support specialist, said it was her

children who first noticed her hearing loss. "They would talk to me from the back seat of the car and I didn't answer or they talked to me from another room and I heard them talking but I couldn't understand them. Finally, my son said, 'Mom, I don't think you are hearing quite the way you used to.'"

The last video includes suggestions for finding mutual support through HLAA Chapters and information about the Hearing Loss Association of America and the work it does on behalf of 36 million people with hearing loss in the United States.

The message throughout is that hearing loss is a major public health concern and you do not need to hide it. With the right help, hearing loss is a daily challenge you can overcome.

The open-captioned and non-captioned versions of the videos are on www.monkeysee.com, the website known for its "See how the experts do it" videos. The videos can be found under "Health and Fitness." Once you get to the videos, the caption versions appear when you click the tab "All Videos by This Expert." The videos also appear captioned on www.hearingloss.org and www.YouTube.com.

Knowlera Media also makes the videos available to their 300+ websites that license their video content. A shortened broadcast news version of the videos will be added to Knowlera Media's news library and made available to local television stations across the country that license their content. In the Washington, D.C., area, WRC-NBC Channel 4 uses their content on television.

About the Hearing Loss Association of America

The Hearing Loss Association of America® (HLAA), founded in 1979, opens the world of communication to people with hearing loss through information, education, advocacy and support. HLAA publishes the bimonthly [Hearing Loss Magazine](#), holds [annual conventions](#), [Walk4Hearing™](#), and more. Information can be found at <http://www.hearingloss.org/>. The national headquarters is located at 7910 Woodmont Avenue, Suite 1200, Bethesda, MD 20814. Phone: 301.657.2248. HLAA has chapters and state organizations across the country.

NATIONAL HEALTH REFORM STATEMENT FROM AHCA

Agency for Health Care Administration

General Statement

National Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act

Thank you for contacting the Agency for Health Care Administration. As you know, President Obama signed into law a sweeping health reform law on March 23, 2010 (Public Law 111-148).

It is important to note that the Florida Attorney General has filed a lawsuit challenging the implementation of certain aspects of the new law, including expansion of Medicaid eligibility, the requirement that each state set up an insurance exchange, and the individual mandate to purchase a qualifying health plan.

The Agency for Health Care Administration is responsible for administering the Florida Medicaid program and is monitoring the progress of the federal lawsuit and the requirements of the law. The law, as it stands, requires states to expand their Medicaid programs to include all persons below 133% of the federal poverty level, and mandates increases in reimbursement rates to primary care providers. In the coming months, our staff, along with other state agencies within Florida and other states across the nation, will be working with our federal partners to learn more about the impact of and implementation steps regarding this legislation.

Information about the health reform legislation is available through several Web sites. The federal administration has posted an official government site about health reform, called HealthReform.gov. That site can be accessed through the following link: <http://www.healthreform.gov/>. The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation, a health policy foundation, also maintains information regarding the health reform on their website. That information can be accessed through the following link: <http://healthreform.kff.org/>. Each site can provide information about implementation timelines and key provisions relating to state programs and private insurance.

In addition, as we continue to monitor this legislation, the Agency will periodically post information relating to its impact to the Florida Medicaid program and the Agency on our website through the National Health Care Reform link on our main page at www.ahca.myflorida.com/Estimated_Projections/medicaid_projections.shtml.

Our core belief is that health care should be available to those who need it most, and we welcome the participation of concerned citizens and lawmakers in an ongoing dialogue to help us achieve our core mission of better health care for all Floridians.

This statement can be found at:

<http://ahcaportal/Executive/ppaca/Shared%20Documents/Forms/AllItems.aspx?RootFolder=%2fExecutive%2fppaca%2fShared%20Documents%2fFAQ&FolderCTID=&View=%7bB075B791%2d7EF2%2d4EA3%2d8578%2d38F23B277464%7d>

NECTAC NEWS

For the current issue of NECTAC eNotes go to <http://www.nectac.org/enotes/enotes.asp>

UPCOMING EVENTS/MEETINGS/TRAININGS

WEBINAR: A CONVERSATION ABOUT THE OBAMA ADMINISTRATION'S EARLY CHILDHOOD AGENDA

A Conversation about the Obama Administration's Early Childhood Agenda with Sharon Lewis, Commissioner of the Administration on Developmental Disabilities & Jeffrey Capizzano, Senior Policy Advisor for Early Childhood Development and Education for the Administration for Children and Families

The Inaugural Webinar of AUCDs
Early Intervention/ Early Childhood Special Interest Group

(<http://www.aucd.org/>)

About the Webinar

In this one hour webinar on Tuesday, June 1 at 1:00pm Eastern Standard Time, Sharon Lewis, Commissioner of the Administration on Developmental Disabilities (ADD) and Jeffrey Capizzano, Senior Policy Advisor for Early Childhood Development and Education in the Administration for Children and Families will share information on opportunities within the administration to support early childhood initiatives. There will be ample time for questions. This will be the first in a series of a webinars on critical issues in early childhood intervention (birth to 5 years) sponsored by the Association of University Centers on Disabilities Early Intervention/ Early Childhood Special Interest Group (EIEC SIG).

Speakers

Sharon Lewis, ADD Commissioner

Sharon Lewis (http://www.aucd.org/template/news.cfm?news_id=5330&id=17) was appointed Commissioner of the Administration on Developmental Disabilities, ACF/HHS in March of this year. Well known as an effective advocate, Sharon has a proven track record in championing disability issues, while working for a better quality of life for all.

Jeffrey Capizzano is the Senior Policy Advisor for Early Childhood Development and Education U.S. Dept of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families.

Register for the Webinar

(<https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/445230912>) The Webinar will take place on Tuesday, June 1 from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. Eastern Standard Time. The visual portion of the webinar will be conducted via GoToMeeting and the audio portion via telephone or VoIP (requires microphone and speakers). After registration you will be given a unique web address for viewing the webinar and audio information.

For more information please see the event website

(http://www.aucd.org/template/event.cfm?event_id=2339).

The Early Intervention/ Early Childhood Special Interest Group (EIEC SIG) at AUCD provides information to Network members on critical issues related to early childhood. The EIEC SIG Website can be accessed here

(http://www.aucd.org/template/news.cfm?news_id=4964&id=17).