



News from AoA April 2011

Table of Contents

AoA News

[**Older Americans Month 2011 Materials Available Online**](#)

[**ACA Webinars Posted to the Website**](#)

[**AoA's April Widget Recognizes Older Volunteers**](#)

Other HHS News

[**Open Public Comment Period on the Federal Health IT Strategic Plan: 2011-2015**](#)

[**HHS Recommends Actions to Improve the Health and Well-Being of the LGBT Communities**](#)

[**FDA Offers Tools to Combat Fraudulent Dietary Supplements**](#)

More News

[**National Retirement Planning Week® \(NRPW\) 2011**](#)

[**National Prescription Take Back Day**](#)

[**Nominations for Caregiver Friendly Awards 2011**](#)

[**Easter Seals to Offer Course on Fundamentals of Travel Training Administration**](#)

[**LTQA Report Highlights Communities Working Together to Improve Care Transitions**](#)

[**National Resource Center on LGBT Aging Unveils Caregiving Resources**](#)

[**National Observances**](#)

Submit a Story!

Conferences

Older Americans Month 2011 Materials Available Online

The Administration on Aging has available online materials to assist our partners at the national, state, and local levels plan for activities in commemoration of Older Americans Month. This year's theme is "Older Americans: Connecting the Community".

To view and download the Older Americans Month 2011 logo and poster in both English and Spanish as well as other materials, please visit:

http://www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/Press_Room/Observances/2011/Older_Americans.aspx

ACA Webinars Posted to the Website

Missed any of our Affordable Care Act webinars? The recordings, slides and transcripts for all of our webinars thus far are available in the Updates section of the Health Reform page of the Administration on Aging website. To access the webinars, please go to

http://www.aoa.gov/Aging_Statistics/Health_care_reform.aspx

AoA's April Widget Recognizes Older Volunteers

National Volunteer Week takes place during April 10 – 16, 2011. In recognition of this observance and the contributions of older volunteers, the April widget features statistics on older adults 65 plus who volunteer their time and skills. To view statistics on older volunteers, visit the AoA's widgets page at http://www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/Site_Uilities/Widget/index.aspx. You can share this data with visitors to your website or blog by clicking the "Share" button on the widget to access the code of the widget.

Have you viewed AoA's health e-cards? If not, we invite you to take a peek. You'll find e-greetings to encourage your friends and family to volunteer for their communities. Volunteering is good for your health and fun, and AoA e-cards highlight the benefits of volunteering. See http://www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/Press_Room/Social_Media/eCards/volunteerism.aspx for e-cards on volunteering. You can also send an e-card to thank a volunteer who has offered their time and skills for a cause.

Also, be sure to visit AoA's Facebook page, if you haven't already done it. You can view the page at <http://www.facebook.com/aoa.gov>. Feel free to write on our wall, comment on AoA's postings or share information. And please click the "like" button for us and tell your friends about our Facebook page.

We welcome comments and suggestions on our social media content. If you have any questions or comments, feel free to contact Augustina.Howe@aoa.hhs.gov

Other HHS News

Open Public Comment Period on the Federal Health IT Strategic Plan: 2011-2015

The Department of Health and Human Services Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC) recently announced an open public comment period on the *Federal Health IT Strategic Plan: 2011-2015 (the Plan)*. The Plan reflects ONC's strategy, developed in collaboration with other federal partners, over the next five years for realizing Congress and the Administration's health IT agenda.

Comments on the Plan may be submitted through April 22, 2011. To submit your comments, please go to <http://healthit.hhs.gov/portal/server.pt?open=512&objID=1211&parentname=CommunityPage&parentid=2&mode=2>

HHS Recommends Actions to Improve the Health and Well-Being of the LGBT Communities

Recently the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) announced additional steps HHS will take to improve the lives of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) individuals.

President Obama directed HHS Secretary Sebelius to provide recommendations as part of his April 2010 memorandum regarding hospital visitation and medical decision-making. Among the recommendations announced were: a commitment to collecting LGBT health data through federally-funded surveys, guidance to states regarding access to federal welfare programs for LGBT families, guidance to states regarding protection of a same-sex partner's assets when his or her partner uses Medicaid for long-term care, and expanded outreach regarding the range of HHS funding opportunities for organizations that serve the LGBT community.

For a summary of HHS activities in support of LGBT people to date as well as actions to be taken moving forward go to the HHS website at <http://www.hhs.gov/secretary/about/lgbthealth.html>

FDA Offers Tools to Combat Fraudulent Dietary Supplements

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) recently added new tools to inform consumers about tainted, dangerous products that are marketed as dietary supplements. The FDA has created a new video, consumer friendly articles and a website designed to highlight that these tainted illegal products could seriously harm or kill users.

To learn more, consumers can go to <http://www.fda.gov/weightlossfraud>

More News

National Retirement Planning Week® (NRPW) 2011

Mark your calendars for April 11 to 15, National Retirement Planning Week® (NRPW) 2011. The theme of the week is **Retire on Your Own Terms**. The week, which is sponsored by the National Retirement Planning Coalition, is a vehicle for demonstrating that it is possible to retire on your own terms if comprehensive plans are developed and properly managed.

Retiring on Your Own Terms means having the resources necessary to ensure that you have sufficient retirement income to support your individual retirement life style through out your lifetime. To help consumers become better educated retirement planners, the National Retirement Planning Coalition, a group of prominent financial industry, education and advocacy organizations, have joined together to raise public awareness of the need for comprehensive retirement planning. To access information on Retiring on Your Own Terms, please go to <http://www.retireonyourownterms.org>

Another resource on retirement planning available to consumers is the Administration on Aging supported Women's Institute For A Secure Retirement (WISER). To learn more, please go to <http://www.wiserwomen.org/>

National Prescription Take Back Day

Help older adults in your area empty their medicine cabinets of unwanted or expired medications at the second National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day. Older adults constitute just 13% of the US population, but they consume 35% of all prescription drugs in the US. The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and its National and community partners are giving the public a chance to prevent accidental overdose, abuse and theft by ridding their homes of potentially dangerous expired, unused, and unwanted prescription drugs.

On Saturday, April 30, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. local time, DEA and its partners will hold their second National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day at sites nationwide. The service is free and anonymous, no questions asked.

To locate a nearby collection site, visit <http://www.dea.gov> and click the “Got Drugs?” icon. This icon will link you to a database where you can enter your zip code for a full listing of collection sites in your area.

Nominations for Caregiver Friendly Awards 2011

Today's Caregiver magazine and caregiver.com are seeking nominations for this year's Caregiver Friendly Awards. The deadline for submission of nominations is May 9, 2011. Launched in 2002, the Caregiver Friendly Awards program celebrates products, services, programs, books and media designed with the needs of caregivers in mind. Entries in the services and programs category have included insurance, medical, EAP, Area Agency on Aging, and care/case management programs as well as programs and services provided by long-term care facilities, homecare and transportation services and non-profit agencies. Award winners will be recognized at Today's Caregiver magazine's annual Fearless Caregiver Conference in Fort Lauderdale, FL and will be highlighted on caregiver.com and in Today's Caregiver Magazine. Award entry applications can be found online at <http://www.caregiver.com> or by calling 1-800-829-2734.

Easter Seals to Offer Course on Fundamentals of Travel Training Administration

Easter Seals Project ACTION will offer a free online course designed as a how-to for launching and operating a travel training program. The course is designed for supervisors or managers new to the field of travel training. From creating job descriptions to developing budgets, this course will teach the fundamental administrative tasks related to travel training services.

Learners will complete the course at their own pace. The course contains reading material, practice exercises, and an opportunity for interaction among course participants and course instructors via an online discussion forum.

The registration deadline is May 9, 2011. To register please go to <http://projectaction.easterseals.com/site/Calendar?view=Detail&id=34687&autologin=true>

LTQA Report Highlights Communities Working Together to Improve Care Transitions

The Long Term Quality Alliance (LTQA) recently released report, *Innovative Communities: Breaking Down Barriers for the Good of Older Consumers and Their Family Caregivers* features case studies of how three communities in the United States are working together to improve care transitions and reduce avoidable hospitalizations.

To read the report in its entirety, please go to <http://www.ltqa.org/wp-content/themes/ltqaMain/custom/images//Innovative-Communities-Report-Final-0216111.pdf>

National Resource Center on LGBT Aging Unveils Caregiving Resources

The National Resource Center on LGBT Aging, funded in part by the U.S. Administration on Aging, recently announced the launch of its new portal on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) caregiving.

Caregiving is an issue that affects all of us—most of us will be caregivers or need care at some point in our lives. Providing care for a loved one can be difficult under any circumstances, but LGBT caregivers, in particular, face several unique challenges.

The Resource Center's caregiving section is designed to address these challenges. To learn more about available resources, please go to <http://www.lgbtagingcenter.org/>

National Observances

Alcohol Awareness Month. To learn more, please visit the April is Alcohol Awareness Month page of the Department of Health and Human Services Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration website at <http://www.stopalcoholabuse.gov/>

National Donate Life Month. To read President Obama's National Donate Life Month Proclamation, please go to <http://www.whitehouse.gov/search/site/proclamations?solrsort=created%20desc>

National Minority Health Month. To learn more, please visit the National Minority Health Month page of the Department of Health and Human Services Office of Minority Health website at <http://minorityhealth.hhs.gov/templates/browse.aspx?lvl=2&lvlid=182>

Submit a Story!

Do you have a story aboutClick on the link below to share your story with us, and it may appear on our website or in this newsletter!
http://www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/Press_Room/For_The_Press/medadv/Share_Story.aspx

Stay up to date with the latest aging meetings and conferences by visiting the AoA events calendar at:

http://www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/Press_Room/events/events_List_Day.aspx#title

AoA eNews is an electronic newsletter distributed by the AoA Office of Communications. Its contents are for informational purposes. For information on AoA please visit our website at <http://www.aoa.gov>. You can also contact us at 202-619-0724 (phone); 202-357-3523 (fax) or by Email at <mailto:aoainfo@aoa.gov>

To unsubscribe to this newsletter or to modify your email address, please [click here](#).

Use of trade names and commercial sources is for identification only and does not imply endorsement by AoA. References to non-AoA sites on the Internet are provided as a service to AoA eNews readers and do not constitute or imply endorsement of these organizations or their programs by AoA or the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. AoA is not responsible for the content of pages found at these sites. URL addresses listed in AoA eNews were current as of the date of publication.