



The National Scene, Volume 1
August 2016

A quarterly news update on government-related issues and information tailored
for today's Recreation/Activity Professional.

(August 2016, November 2016, February 2017 and May 2017)

This quarter's featured National Senior Advocacy Organizations include:

Administration on Aging (AoA) ~ www.aoa.gov

The Administration on Aging (AOA) is the primary agency of the United States Department of Health and Human Services selected to fulfil the provisions of the Older Americans Act of 1965 (OAA). The OAA supports and promotes the well-being of older individuals and is a leading advocate for today's seniors and their concerns. In addition, the AOA heightens awareness levels among federal agencies, organizations, groups and the public about the valuable contributions that seniors make to our nation. Now retired Assistant Secretary on Aging and ACL Administrator, Kathy Greenlee, recently shared a significant vision and on-going mission of this national organization: *dignity*. Greenlee stated, "I think we carry *dignity* as well as anyone I know. The fundamental understanding and acknowledgement of the dignity and worth of every human being is core to our mission, at ACL, at your organization, and in your work."

Greenlee continued with the following statement; “We cannot develop appropriate support for people living with Alzheimer’s disease and Dementia unless we talk to those people – and follow their lead.” (July 2016).

Activity Point of Interest

As Recreation/Activity Professionals it is imperative that we constantly keep ourselves updated and knowledgeable with the ever-changing federal laws and policies impacting our residents’ Quality of Lives. Dignity is most certainly one of those key areas where we strive to model, teach and be our very best. Every group activity, every individualized program and room visits have a common theme; the dignity of the resident being served. This national organization provides current data and research directly applicable to our role as Quality of Life Champions and we will continue following its path throughout the course of the upcoming year.

National Institute on Aging ~ Go4Life!

www.nia.nih.gov

<http://1.usa.gov>

The National Institute on Aging provides weekly information and practical strategies that can be implemented by all healthcare professionals. In addition, this organization is a leader in national programs that promote healthy active living. They work in concert with CMS to develop community-based wellness and prevention programs. Two significant bodies of research that Recreation/Activity Professionals should consider: A Matter of Balance (www.mainehealth.org) and Stay Active and Independent for Life (SAIL) ~ An Evidenced-Based Group Fitness Program (www.ncoa.org).

Activity Point of Interest

Wellness/Exercise Programs

As Recreation/Activity Professionals, we are always looking for physical programs that will both positively increase our residents’ healthy lifestyles and personal satisfaction levels. Incorporating activity programs that support increased physical endurance and strength along with appropriate and resident-specific strategies and techniques are areas that we can take an active role in as Interdisciplinary Team members. In addition, Recreation/Activity Professionals help residents utilize a wide range of skills and techniques to improve their physical, cognitive, emotional, social, and leisure needs. The list of programs included on this website is both person-centered and proven successful. Take time to examine all the possibilities!

Quarterly Website Review

Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)

Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services (CMS)

www.cms.gov

The next CMS Low Income Health Access Open Door Forum is scheduled for:

Date: Wednesday August 3, 2016/ Start Time: 2:00-3:00 PM Eastern Standard Time (EST); please dial-in at least 15 minutes prior to call start time.

Conference Leaders: Rita Vandivort-Warren & Jill Darling

The Open Door Forum Call will highlight the following agenda items:

- Medicare Managed Care Regulations Announcement
- Proposed Changes to Chronic Care Management (CCM) and Transitional Care Management (TCM) Requirements
- Billing for Nursing Visits in Home Health Shortage Areas by an RHC or FQHC
- Proposed 2017 FQHC Market Basket

Open Door Forum Participation Instructions:

1. To participate by phone:

Dial: [1-800-837-1935](tel:1-800-837-1935) & Reference Conference ID: 42123169

Next ODF: November 30, 2016

Changes to CCM and TCM

Chronic Care Management includes a resident's Comprehensive Care Plan, which supports specifics to the resident's Quality of Care and Life services; appropriate for the resident's choices and values. Transitional Care Management includes services provided to a resident whose medical and/or psychosocial problems require moderate or high-complexity medical decision-making during transitions in care from an inpatient hospital setting (including acute hospital, rehabilitation hospital, long-term acute care hospital), partial hospital, observation status in a hospital, or skilled nursing facility/nursing facility, to the resident's community setting (home, domicile, rest home, or assisted living).

Activity Point of Interest

The two above-mentioned management plans, CCM and TCM, have direct correlations with the work we do as Recreation/Activity Professionals. As part of our healthcare community's Interdisciplinary Team, we are charged to be proactive with the observation, analysis and documentation of our residents' activity interests and involvement. Knowing what is being discussed on the national level and then bringing back key points of information to your local team is what helps ensure that our profession is seen as both significant and essential to our residents!

Have a great summer's end and look for our next quarterly review in November!

~Anthony F. Vicari, NAAP Vice President