



## The Link E-Newsletter - May 2017



WEEK OF MAY 5, 2017



### NEWS & RESOURCES

- After a meeting with the National Council of Senior Citizens, President John F. Kennedy encouraged all Americans to pay tribute to older people across the country by designating May 1963 as Senior Citizens Month. Every president since has issued a formal proclamation during or before the month of May in support of older Americans. In 1980, President Jimmy Carter issued a proclamation changing the name of this observance to Older Americans Month. This month continues to be a time to celebrate the age 65 and older population through ceremonies, events and public recognition: <https://oam.acl.gov/>
- In celebration of Older Americans Month, the Census Bureau has released a profile of facts on older Americans. The profile highlights data on several topics ranging from population, to income and poverty, to voting: <https://www.census.gov/newsroom/facts-for-features/2017/cb17-ff08.html>
- The Administration for Community Living-funded Self Advocacy Resource and Technical Assistance Center (SAR-TAC) recently launched a new website to categorize, promote and share the best tools and resources for self-advocacy across the country. Resources range in topics, including board management, using social media, involving youth in self-advocacy groups and more: <http://www.selfadvocacyinfo.org/>
- The Altarum Institute has released a new report on information technology and the aging network, examining opportunities for members of the aging network to expand partnerships with health care organizations and other entities by investing in information technology: <http://nasuad.org/node/69378>
- According to The Commonwealth Fund's latest Scorecard on State Health System Performance, every state has opportunities to improve health care for its residents. The Commonwealth Fund has updated its interactive tool to help states understand what

kinds of benefits they could expect to see for their efforts, illustrating the gains to be made from performing at the level of the leading states on 14 measures of health care access, quality and outcomes. See how Iowa compares to other states: <http://www.commonwealthfund.org/interactives/2017/mar/state-scorecard/>

- The rapid expansion of Medicaid managed long term services and supports (MLTSS) and other efforts to integrate healthcare and long-term services and supports is creating exciting yet challenging opportunities for community-based organizations (CBOs). To equip CBOs with the skills, training and experience needed to effectively negotiate and partner with integrated care entities and other payers, the Administration on Community Living is funding a three-year Business Acumen for Disability Organizations grant. Now through May 31, CBOs are asked to participate in a survey to identify needs: <http://nasuad.org/initiatives/business-acumen-disability-organizations-resource-center/disability-network-business>
  - The Wallace Winkie Foundation, a non-profit organization located in Belle Plaine, Iowa, has established a Lifelong Learner Hall of Fame to celebrate and honor Iowans - past and present - who have made a lasting impact on the quality of life in Iowa through their contributions to lifelong learning. Nominations are being accepted now through Aug. 30, 2017: <http://www.parkitvirtualmuseum.com/lifelong-learner-hall-of-fame.html>
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## NUTRITION SERVICES

- The National Council on Aging (NCOA) recently launched a new resource hub on its website to help community-based organizations combat malnutrition among older adults. The site provides free consumer education materials and tips for connecting nutrition services with local health care providers: <https://www.ncoa.org/center-for-healthy-aging/resourcehub/>
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## LEGAL PROTECTIONS

- The Office of Substitute Decision Maker has created the Iowa Guardianship Establishment (IAGE) Program to assist low-income Iowans who have a documented medical condition establish substitute decision-making (guardianship or conservatorship) services to protect their personal health, safety, assets and dignity. Eligible individuals may qualify to receive a one-time grant of up to \$1,000 to pay the legal fees associated with establishing a guardianship or conservatorship in the State of Iowa. Applications are being accepted now through June 30, 2017: <https://www.iowaaging.gov/iage-program>
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## FAMILY CAREGIVER

- May is Military Caregivers Month, a time to raise national awareness and appreciation for military and veteran caregivers: <https://hiddenheroes.org/news/celebrate-month-military-caregiver/>

- Across the country, direct care workers provide the majority of paid, hands-on care for millions of older people and people with disabilities. They represent a critical segment of a long-term care sector that must expand dramatically in the years ahead to meet the rapid growth in older adults. A new publication by PHI provides analysis and public policy recommendations across five areas critical to the stability of the direct care workforce: [https://phinational.org/sites/phinational.org/files/research-report/phi\\_federal\\_report\\_web\\_0.pdf](https://phinational.org/sites/phinational.org/files/research-report/phi_federal_report_web_0.pdf)
  - The Caregiving in the U.S. 2015 survey found that 40% of family caregivers in the United States are men, leading the AARP Public Policy Institute to issue a new report that describes who the male family caregivers are, the range of caregiving tasks they provide and their experiences and challenges: <http://www.aarp.org/content/dam/aarp/ppi/2017-01/Breaking-Stereotypes-Spotlight-on-Male-Family-Caregivers.pdf>
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## SENIOR EMPLOYMENT

- Home Base Iowa (HBI) is a program connecting veterans and transitioning service members with HBI partners and resources. Currently, Iowa's unemployment rate is at 3.1 percent and businesses are looking to hire skilled workers and this program helps connect these businesses with qualified veterans looking for career opportunities: <https://www.homebaseiowa.gov/home-base-iowa-program>
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## ELDER ABUSE PREVENTION

- A new phone scam targets veterans trying to reach the Veterans Choice Program (VCP). An imposter number that mimics the VCP line has been set up to cheat individuals who misdial the number (using the prefix 1-800 instead of 1-866), offering callers a \$100 rebate for providing credit card information. The correct number for veterans to call is 1-866-606-8198: <https://www.va.gov/opa/choiceact/index.asp>
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## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Webinar: "Building Relationships between Mental Health and Aging Services"**

Wednesday, May 10 (1-2:30 p.m. CT)

[More Information](#) | [Register](#)

**Webinar: "Disrespect: Elder Abuse and Native Americans"**

Wednesday, May 10 (1-2:30 p.m. CT)

[More Information](#) | [Register](#)

**Webinar: "A Spotlight on Older Adults and Behavioral Health"**

Thursday, May 18 (1-2 p.m. CT)

[More Information](#) | [Register](#)



*The mission of the Iowa Department on Aging is to develop a comprehensive, coordinated and cost-effective system of long-term living and community support services that helps older Iowans maintain health and independence in their homes and communities.*

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