This Week

SNF Members, Your Participation is Needed in an Important Survey!
Several weeks ago, an email was sent to all Directors of Nursing from the Illinois Department of Public Health’s (IDPH) Division of Patient Safety and Quality with a link to an important survey to assess statewide antibiotic stewardship activities. IDPH received grant funding from the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO) to assess antibiotic stewardship activities and challenges in long term care facilities. LSN and some of our members have been actively participating in this effort, helping to develop the survey and solicit participation in this very worthwhile project. The goal for this project is to reduce Healthcare Acquired Infections (HAI) by identifying gaps and barriers in implementing antimicrobial stewardship activities.

Life Services Network encourages you to complete this survey and thanks you in advance for your time and participation. For more information, please contact Chinyere Alu at IDPH or by phone at 312-814-2565. Questions may also be directed to Cathy Nelson.

IDPH Fall Town Hall Meeting Schedule
Champaign Area:
September 26th Thursday from 1-3p at the Champaign County Nursing Home/Brookens Building, 1776 East Washington, Urbana, Illinois

Bellwood Region Area:
October 22 Tuesday from 1-3p or you can attend October 23 Wednesday from 10-12p at the Eisenhower Community Center, 700 Speechley Blvd., Hillside, Illinois

O’Fallon:
November 13th Wednesday from 1-3pm at the Memorial Hospital Education Building, 706 East Highway 50, O’Fallon, Illinois

Email reservations to Connie.Jensen@illinois.gov

IRS Issues Proposed Rule on ACA Insurance Reporting Requirements
Under tax code Section 6056, large employers with 50 or more full-time equivalent employees are required to report information to the IRS. The information includes whether and what kind of health care coverage they have offered employees and their compliance with the employer shared responsibility provisions of Section 4980H, known as the employer mandate.

Employers are also required under Section 6056 to provide employees with statements to be used to help determine whether they can claim a premium tax credit under Section 36B to help pay for health care insurance. The proposed rule describes a variety of options to potentially reduce or streamline information reporting.

The IRS asked for stakeholder input on the rules by November 8, 2013. Comments are specifically requested concerning:

- Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the IRS, including whether the information will have practical utility;
- How the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected may be enhanced;
• How the burden of complying with the proposed collection of information may be minimized, including through the application of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology; and
• Estimates of capital or start-up costs and costs of operation, maintenance, and purchase of services to provide information.

There will be a public hearing on the proposed rule on Nov. 19, 2013.

Source: Leading Age

**NOFA: Service Coordinator Funding for FY13 Now Available**

Service Coordinators in Multifamily Housing Fiscal Year 2013 Notice of Funding Availability now posted on Grants.Gov!

On Aug. 15, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development posted the Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) for fiscal year (FY) 2013 funding for the Service Coordinators in Multifamily Housing for the Elderly/Disabled grant program.

The amount available for new grants is $7.5 million. One-year grant extensions for existing service coordinator grants were distributed in an earlier process. These funds were appropriated for the FY beginning Oct. 1, 2012, through Sept. 30, 2013.

The Service Coordinator in Multifamily Housing Program provides funding for the employment and support of Service Coordinators in insured and assisted housing properties that were designed for the elderly or non-elderly persons with disabilities and continue to operate as such.

Service coordinators help residents obtain supportive services from the community that are needed to enable independent living and aging in place.

Due to the subsequent issuance of a technical correction, the deadline for applying for the NOFA is October 16, 2013.

Specific information regarding eligible applicants and other application information can be found on the [Grants.gov](https://grants.gov). Once there, search on CFDA Number 14.191.

Access all NOFA related information on HUD FY13 [Service Coordinator NOFA Grants](https://www.hud.gov). Questions on this NOFA may be directed to Carissa Janis, Housing Program Manager, at (202) 708-3000. This number can be accessed via TTY by calling the toll-free Federal Information Relay Service Operator at 800-877-8339.

**More Detail on Change 4 to HUD Handbook 4350.3**

On August 22, 2013, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) announced it had posted Change 4 to HUD Handbook 4350.3 REV-1 "Occupancy Requirements of Subsidized Multifamily Housing Programs."

The full [772-page handbook](https://www.hud.gov) has been updated to include information from previously issued guidance on:

• Use of the Enterprise Income Verification (EIV) system.
• Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) requirements.
• Supplemental Information to Application for Federally Assisted Housing.
• Rent Refinement of Income and Rent Determination Requirements in Public and Assisted Housing Programs; Final Rule.
• Requirements relating to admission of individuals subject to State lifetime sex offender registration.

The [transmittal](https://www.hud.gov) outlines the specific areas where the changes have been incorporated. As indicated in the transmittal, "changes are designated by an asterisk (*) at the beginning and ending of the change, and the page will show 8/13 as the date. The last major update, Change 3, was in July 2009."
A major notable changes is that the old Chapter 9 was omitted completely. The new Chapter 9 focuses on Enterprise Income Verification (EIV). And, elements of the old chapter related to excess income now reside solely in HUD’s asset management handbook 4350.1, and elements related to special claims are covered within the special claims guide.

Because LeadingAge, working in collaboration with others, was able to identify a number of small but significant changes requiring updates to existing TRACS software (changes ARE coming, just not yet available), confusion regarding changes in language about the student rule, and impacting certain operational norms, HUD indicated during a phone call with LeadingAge on August 29 that communications will be issued shortly to clarify concerns and to provide specific timeframes for software-related implementation delays. LSN will pass along information in future issues of WeeksNews.

**Housing America’s Future: Bipartisan Policy Center Explores New Directions in National Policy**

On Aug 27, 2013, the Bipartisan Policy Center Housing Commission hosted a webcast forum of panelists who explored pressing issues in housing today:

- Aging in place.
- Housing with supportive services.
- Preserving and expanding the supply of affordable housing with the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit.

Panelists -- including housing providers, state health agencies, health program specialists, and national participants in the BiPartisan Housing Commission policy development -- discussed how housing providers can access or help states to find creative ways to meet their health service challenges, particularly with low-income seniors and persons with disabilities (often the "dual-eligibles") in the new financial environment (nationally and locally).

Barriers of silo funding are being addressed as states explore redirecting savings on the health side back into the housing side, to expand opportunity and reduce cost - a win/win for individuals needing affordable housing/service and for states!

Seniors and the disabled are estimated to be 25% of most state enrollees in Medicaid, but consume approximately 75% of the services/costs associated with care.

One of the challenges is the ironic juxtaposition that, as low-income and senior demographics continue to increase, the funding for new affordable housing at the Federal level (the Section 202 program) has stopped.

Video of the program will posted [here](#) shortly.

**Earlier Bipartisan Policy Center Recommendations on Housing with Services**

This past February, after 16 months of study and stakeholder input, the Bipartisan Policy Center Housing Commission released its recommendations about the housing sector and the housing finance system that, for the first time, include a recommendation that housing policy should recognize the importance of integrating housing with health and other related supportive services, or housing plus services.

The commission also said housing policy should focus on an aging-in-place strategy that meets the needs of seniors, and suggested a balanced approach for the housing system that recognizes both home ownership and rental housing.

On Feb. 25, 2013, the [Bipartisan Policy Center Housing Commission](#) released its [housing policy recommendations](#), which represented a 16-month hearing and research process and extensive stakeholder input from around the country and around the housing industry, including a joint statement from LeadingAge, SAHF, and Enterprise Community Partners as well as various LeadingAge members.
The Housing Commission intended to examine key issues around the housing system and the housing finance system, particularly in light of the recent great recession and ensuing budget wars, clarifying the role of the federal government in housing and elevating housing on the national policy agenda.

Some of the notable recommendations include:

- Housing policy must recognize the importance of integrating housing with health and other related supportive services, or "housing plus services." This recommendation incorporates our long-held principle here at LeadingAge that senior housing should be the platform for the delivery of services and illustrates the importance of the newly created LeadingAge Center for Housing Plus Services.
- The new housing system must focus on meeting the needs of seniors and their desire to age in place.
- The need for better cooperation and coordination between the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), an idea first made in the Senior Commission and in legislation recommended by LeadingAge (then AAHSA) to establish an independent interagency council on seniors.

In making these recommendations, the Housing Commission recognizes that housing plus services will impact future spending on health care and suggests to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) that such savings be considered in allocating resources to housing in the future.

**What Else Did the Housing Commission Recommend?**

Other recommendations include:

- A housing finance system that reflects a balance between homeownership and rental housing that includes maximizing the choices for each stage in life for all Americans.
- A housing finance system in which the private sector plays a prominent role, balanced by a sustained, but more limited, government role to ensure continued access to an affordable mortgage market.
- A focus in federal housing policy which targets limited federal rental subsidies to the most vulnerable, requires improved accountability, performance and flexibility on the part of recipients of assistance and providers, and an increase in the supply of affordable housing including expansion of the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit and capital to address the backlog of public housing rehabilitation needs.

The recommendations suggest as well that some reform to the mortgage interest deduction may be advisable as long as the changes do not impact home prices, are phased in, and that any revenue be directed to affordable rental housing.

*Source: LeadingAge*
This Week at LSN

LSN Member Hosts Legislative Visit in Champaign!

The visits LSN members have had this year have all been great in helping to build and strengthen relationships with legislators. We have had about a couple visits per week over the summer and we want to continue to build this momentum!

Ms. Jennifer Shadwick, Marketing Director at Bickford Cottage in Champaign, and staff recently hosted State Representative, Adam Brown (R-102nd District; Champaign). He is a member of the Health Care Licenses Committee in the Illinois House and it was his second visit at an LSN member community this summer. He has dedicated to learning more about the industry and the various older adult care settings and services provided. Kirk Riva represented LSN during the visit, which included speaking to staff and residents and getting a tour.

Pictured Above: (left to right) State Rep. Adam Brown, Ms. Jennifer Shadwick, Marketing Director at Bickford Cottage in Champaign and Kirk Riva of LSN.

We would like to schedule a visit at your community! All members who hosted legislative visits in 2013 will be awarded at the Legacy of Quality Legislative Awards Luncheon on December 6 in Oak Brook! Let’s schedule a visit with your legislators! Contact Jason Speaks to do so.

Deadline: 2014 Annual Meeting Call for Sessions

Time is running out to submit your innovative proposal for the 2014 Annual Meeting and Exhibition. The LSN Annual Meeting is the perfect venue for you to share your new and exciting business models, practical ideas, cutting edge concepts and best practices. The deadline to submit is Monday, September 16, 2013.