



HEADLINE DC

JULY 15, 2013

HILL & LEGAL HAPPENINGS: POLICY AND POLITICS

- **NEW JUNIOR SENATOR FROM MASSACHUSETTS.** Long-time Representative Ed Markey (D), has just been sworn in to serve out the remaining year of former Senator and now Secretary of State John Kerry's term. Markey's likely to seek reelection in 2014.
- **FY 2014 APPROPRIATIONS ACTION.** The Senate Appropriations Labor/HHS Subcommittee is meeting to consider the fiscal 2014 Appropriations bill. When and if it will see floor action remains to be seen.
- **REPUBLICANS: DON'T ENROLL AMERICA.** Conservative senators have thwarted a formal collaboration between HHS and the NFL to educate the public about ACA health benefits and to promote enrollment. Individual athletes, however, are free to participate. Republican Senators also continue to oppose the non-profit Enroll America's campaign to promote ACA enrollment that starts October 1.

AROUND THE AGENCIES: NEWS AND OPPORTUNITIES

- **KEY ACA PROVISION DELAYED.** To give businesses more prep time, the Administration has delayed until January 1, 2015, the ACA's requirement that businesses with 50+ employees provide health insurance or face financial penalties. Other aspects of the law will roll out on January 1, 2014, as planned, according to the White House.
- **REVAMPED INFO SITE.** CMS has redesigned *Physician Compare*, a site that enables consumers to search and compare information about hundreds of thousands of doctors and other health professionals. New features include information about specialties, board certification and facility affiliations. Quality data will be added in 2014. Go to: <http://www.medicare.gov/physiciancompare>
- **ACA INDIVIDUAL MANDATE EXEMPTIONS FINALIZED.** A CMS final rule exempts certain people from the ACA's individual mandate to buy health insurance, such as: people covered under Medicaid and Medicaid expansion (including those in those states rejecting expansion); people eligible for HIS care; undocumented immigrants; and people in the criminal justice system, among others.
- **IMPROVING SUICIDE PREVENTION AMONG MILITARY.** Upcoming SAMHSA webinar, *Improving Suicide Prevention for the Military and their Families*, July 30, 2013, 2:00-3:30 pm EDT. Go to: <https://www2.gotomeeting.com/register/514603154>

ORGANIZATIONALLY SPEAKING

- **GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY/ ROBERT WOOD JOHNSON FOUNDATION.** *Will Uninsured People Who Lack Bank Accounts Be Able to Participate in the Health Insurance Marketplace?* reviews proposed rules to broaden the types of payment insurers accept for premiums. Go to : <http://www.healthreformgps.org/resources/will-uninsured-people-who-lack-bank-accounts-be-able-to-participate-in-the-health-insurance-marketplace-cms-proposed-rules/>
- **IOM.** *Core Measurement Needs for Better Care, Better Health and Lower Costs; Counting What Counts* summarizes a workshop exploring core measurement needs for population health, health care quality etc. Go to: <http://www.iom.edu/Reports/2013/Core-Measurement-Needs-for-Better-Care-Better-Health-and-Lower-Costs.aspx>
- **OHIO ASSOCIATION OF COUNTY BOARDS SERVING PEOPLE WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES.** *Good Life Ally and Coach Facilitator Training.* To order, contact NACBHDD.

ETCETERA

- **NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF RURAL MENTAL HEALTH.** Annual conference, *Lassoing Rural Solutions for Rural Challenges* July 31-August 3, 2013, San Antonio, TX. Go to: www.narmh.org.
- **HOSPICE FOUNDATION OF AMERICA.** *Supporting Individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities through Serious Illness, Grief and Loss Webcast*, October 24, 2013, 2-4 pm ET. Go to: <http://register.hospicefoundation.org/programs/supporting-individuals-with-intellectual-and-developmental-disabilities>.
- **APHA.** *141 Annual Meeting*, November 2-6, Boston, MA. Go to: <http://www.apha.org/meetings/AnnualMeeting>.
- **AATOD.** *2013 National Conference*, November 9-13, Philadelphia, PA. Go to: <http://www.aatod.org/national-conference/2013-aatod-conference-philadelphia/conference-at-a-glance/>.
- **NACBHDD/WICHE.** *The Evolving World of Behavioral Health on the Eve of ACA Implementation* (54th annual National Dialogue) November 10-13, 2013, Renaissance Arts Hotel, New Orleans, LA. For more, contact NACBHDD office. ###