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## **NEWSLINE** news, trends, research, and more

### **PACE Restored in Medicaid Managed Long Term Care Proposed Plan**

For several months *LeadingAge New Jersey* and its colleagues from the long term care provider industry have been working with the New Jersey departments of Human Services (DHS) and Health and Senior Services (DHSS) to restore the Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE). Originally listed as a program to be eliminated in the state's Medicaid Managed Long Term Care (MMLTC) 1115 Comprehensive Waiver Application to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) that is currently pending approval, Commissioner O'Dowd (DHSS) and Commissioner Velez (DHS) recently announced their decision to keep PACE as a separate and distinct managed care enrollment option for New Jersey's seniors moving forward. *LeadingAge New Jersey* is extremely pleased with this decision and grateful to Commissioners O'Dowd and Velez along with their staff who worked so closely with the PACE providers and the Managed Care Organizations on this very critical issue. For more information regarding PACE in New Jersey visit: <http://www.nj.gov/health/senior/pace.shtml> More information can also be found on the National PACE Association website: <http://www.npaonline.org> or the CMS website: <http://www.medicaid.govPACE/Program.html>

### **LeadingAge New Jersey Continues Fight Against Medicaid Budget Cuts**

Ever since the FY 2012 State Budget was signed into law on July 1, 2011, *LeadingAge New Jersey* and its members have been advocating for the restoration of the 3.3% cut in Medicaid funding for nursing homes that it contained. After the actual rates (averaging a staggering 4.8%) in cuts were issued in October, the association and its colleagues in the industry stepped up its fight and requested that a Supplemental Appropriations be introduced restoring the funding (approximately \$19 million state funding) above and beyond the 3.3% cut originally intended. After numerous meetings with legislators on both sides of the aisle, supplemental appropriations bills have finally been introduced in both the Assembly (A 2261) sponsored by Majority Leader Lou Greenwald and Senate (S 1563) sponsored by Majority Leader Loretta Weinberg now that the new 215<sup>th</sup> Legislature has been sworn in and has convened. Although the association and its members will now have to begin working on whatever is included in the Governor's FY 2013 state budget which will be released on February 21<sup>st</sup>, we intend to simultaneously advocate to have the funding restored in the current budget in order to ensure the base rates are adequately funded moving forward. To view and print the *LeadingAge New Jersey* Policy Brief on this issue [click here](#).

## NEWS AND ARTICLES OF INTEREST

### **Drug Quickly Reverses Alzheimer's Symptoms in Mice**

*News Release: Thursday, February 9, 2012*

Neuroscientists at Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine have made a dramatic breakthrough in their efforts to find a cure for Alzheimer's disease. The researchers' findings, published in the journal *Science*, show that use of a drug in mice appears to quickly reverse the pathological, cognitive and memory deficits caused by the onset of Alzheimer's. The results point to the significant potential that the medication, bexarotene, has to help the roughly 5.4 million Americans suffering from the progressive brain disease. To read more [click here](#)

### **End-of-Life Transitions among Nursing Home Residents with Cognitive Issues**

*New England Journal of Medicine, September 29, 2011*

Health care transitions in the last months of life can be burdensome and potentially of limited clinical benefit for patients with advanced cognitive and functional impairment. Published in the *New England Journal of Medicine*, this study measured patterns of transitions among Medicare decedents with advanced cognitive impairment who were in a nursing home at 120 days prior to death. To read more [click here](#)

### **Some Physicians Not Always Honest With Patients**

*Health Affairs Blog, by Chris Fleming, February 8, 2012*

Despite wide institutional acceptance of a medical professionalism charter that endorses openness and honesty in physicians' interactions with patients, not all doctors comply, according to a survey whose results are published in the February 2012 issue of *Health Affairs*. Although about two-thirds of doctors responding to the survey did agree that they should disclose serious medical errors to patients, about one-third did not completely agree that they should. Nearly two-fifths said they did not completely agree that they should disclose their financial relationships with drug and device companies to patients, and just over one-tenth said that, in the previous year, they had told patients something that was not true. To read more [click here](#)

### **Till Death Do Us Part? A Look at Marriage Rituals When a Partner has Alzheimer's Disease**

*By Rabbi Richard F. Address*

*Generations, Journal of the American Society on Aging*

As you read this, somewhere a man or woman is sitting alone in their car, having just left their spouse—a life partner who resides in a long-term-care facility for people with Alzheimer's Disease. Navigating traffic, he or she decides the time has come to seek spiritual advice. When the appointment time arrives, the person sits down and looks anxiously into the eyes of the priest, minister, rabbi, or imam. Slowly, the story unfolds. To read more [click here](#)

## EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES AND EVENTS

[Click here](#) for registration information and calendar

### **ServSafe Certification Course**

March 13 @ Fellowship Village, Basking Ridge

## Housing Hodgepodge with Bonnie Wilpon, PMCS

*EIV 2011-21 Notice update, bed bug guidance, tenant selection plans, and more*  
March 27 @ Arbor Glen, Bridgewater

## Dealing with Dementia: The *emotional, spiritual, physical and legal battles of dementia*

April 18<sup>th</sup> @ The Wilentz Senior Residence at the Wilf Campus for Senior Living

**Kathleen Rusnak**, renowned author & speaker returns to present: After They Forget: The Thriving Spirit of Alzheimer's. Additional presentations include Meaning & Spirituality in the Face of Cognitive Decline; Widgets, Gadgets & Designs that Support Independence; Designing for Memory Support/Dementia Households; and Resident's Rights & Advanced Care Planning

## Changes in the RAI Manual

Watch for dates to be announced

Implementation of changes to the RAI Manual is planned for April 2012, impacting providers and in particular, facility MDS coordinators. These training updates with industry expert Sophie Campbell, of ParenteBeard, LLC, will provide staff with updates on the changes and how they will affect completion and submission of the MDS.

## **COMING SOON... LeadingAge New Jersey 2012 Annual Meeting and Exhibition**

May 7-9, 2012 @ Bally's Park Place Hotel, Atlantic City, NJ

### **Keynote Speaker Judith Viorst, Author of "Unexpectedly Eighty"**



Funny, moving, inspirational, and true — *Unexpectedly Eighty*, the newest in Judith Viorst's beloved "decades" series extols the virtues, victories, frustrations, and joys of life. What does it mean to be eighty? In her wise and playful poems, Judith Viorst discusses marriage, friendship, grand parenthood, and all the particular marvels—and otherwise—of this extraordinary decade. She describes the wonder of seeing the world with new eyes—not because of revelation but because of a successful cataract operation. She promises not to gently fade away, and not to drive after daylight's faded away either. She explains how she's gotten to be a "three-desserts" grandmother ("Just don't tell your mom!"), shares how memory failure can keep you married, and enumerates her hopes for the afterlife (which she doesn't believe in, but if it does exist, her sister-in-law better not be there with her). As Viorst gleefully

attests, eighty is not too old to dream, to flirt, to drink, and to dance. It's also not too late to give up being cheap or to take up with a younger man of seventy-eight. Zesty, hopeful, and full of the pleasures of living, this is a great program for senior care staff of all levels!

To learn more about Judith Viorst click on the photo.

## MEMBER NEWS

### Welcome new facility member Mirota Senior Residence



Mirota Senior Residence is a 60-unit senior housing residence. A member facility of Lutheran Social Ministries of NJ, Mirota Senior Residence is located in Whitehouse Station. Kerry Gill serves as Property Manager. For more information visit [www.lsmnj.org](http://www.lsmnj.org)

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