

## March 12, 2008 ADRC-TAE Newsletter

For Aging and Disability Resource Center  
Grantees and Partners

3-12-2008

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**Please note that the phone number for all ADRC-TAE teleconferences has changed!**

Most calls will take place on this line:

1-888-844-7278  
Access Code 2695542#

:: [adrc-tae@lewin.com](mailto:adrc-tae@lewin.com) ::

:: [www.adrc-tae.org](http://www.adrc-tae.org) ::

You must be logged into the [ADRC-TAE.org](http://ADRC-TAE.org) website to access the links in the newsletter. Please contact Sarah Lash at (703) 269-5723 with questions.

### This Week's Call: Streamlining Access Workgroup

#### Results from Streamlining Access Phone Surveys

The Lewin TA team will present preliminary results from the most recent round of streamlining access surveys. Significant changes and successful strategies to facilitate consumer access will be detailed. Participants will be invited to discuss strategies they have tried in their own states and share resources.

- Thursday, March 13th, 2008
- Time: 2:30-3:30 PM, Eastern
- Toll-Free Number: 1-888-844-7278
- Access Code for Phone: 2695542#
- [Register in advance for this webinar.](#) (Recommended)
- Webinar ID: 996-192-567

### Proudly Announcing: The ADRC-TAE Online Readiness Assessment Tool

The [ADRC-TAE Online Readiness Assessment Tool](#) was designed by The Lewin Group to assist organizations in evaluating their readiness to perform the key functions of Aging and Disability Resource Centers (ADRCs). The Tool provides immediate feedback regarding organizational capacity to perform key functions and links to online resources that describe program characteristics, operations and capacity required of ADRCs.

As always, we welcome your feedback and suggestions:  
[adrc-tae@lewin.com](mailto:adrc-tae@lewin.com)



## **ADRC-TAE Website Updates and Additions**

### **Fall 2007 SART Outcomes Compilation**

[The Fall 2007 SART Outcomes Compilation](#) contains tables and charts illustrating what grantees reported in the areas of staffing, budget, and outcomes in the Fall 2007 reporting period as well as trends over the last several periods.

### **New Examples From the Field:**

["How to Hire A Home Care Worker"](#): REAL Services, an ADRC pilot site in Indiana, created this detailed guide to how to hire a home care worker. The guide also provides widely applicable advice about services for people with disabilities.

[Revised Montana MOU Regarding FFP](#): This updated MOU between the MT ADRC and the state Medicaid agency (Human and Community Services Division and its local Offices of Public Assistance) outlines how the Aging and Disability Resource Centers in Montana will document Medicaid related activities for reimbursement. It documents the rationale for claiming FFP, specifics regarding contractual relationships, and the infrastructure used to document claims. It is a useful tool for states beginning discussion with their state Medicaid agencies about claiming FFP.

[New Hampshire Renames Waiver Program](#): New Hampshire has changed the name of their Home and Community Based Care for the Elderly and Chronically Ill Waiver Program (HCBC-ECI) to "Choices for Independence." The new name has been chosen to better reflect the purpose of the program, which provides a wide range of service choices that enable seniors and adults with chronic illnesses to live independently in their homes and communities. However, there is no change in eligibility or other program requirements. The state has provided the letter sent to providers notifying them of the change, and a brochure.

### **New Call Resources, Feedback, and Webcast Recording**

[March 2008 Monthly Call Page](#): Materials associated with last week's Monthly TA Call on the new Online Readiness Assessment Tool have been posted.

## Upcoming Technical Assistance Events

### March 13th Streamlining Access Workgroup Call

- Topic: **Streamlining Access Phone Survey Results**
- Time: 2:30-3:30 PM, Eastern
- Toll-Free Number: 1-888-844-7278
- Access Code for Phone: 2695542#
- The [call page](#) contains details and accompanying resources.

### March 20th Pilot Sites Workgroup Call

- Topic: **Continued Discussion on Options Counseling**
- Time: 2:30-3:30 PM, Eastern
- Toll-Free Number: 1-888-844-7278
- Access Code for Phone: 2695542#
- The [call page](#) contains details and accompanying resources.

### March 27th Evaluation Workgroup Call

- Topic: **Focus Groups and ADRCs - Revisiting An Effective Evaluation Strategy**
- Time: 2:30-3:30 PM, Eastern
- Toll-Free Number: 1-888-844-7278
- Access Code for Phone: 2695542#
- The [call page](#) contains details and accompanying resources.

### ADRC Client Alert: Loss of LIS Due to the Medicare Beneficiary Not Responding to a Redetermination Request by SSA



SSA is in the process of mailing "SSA Medicare Prescription Drug Assistance Notice of Termination" letters to some beneficiaries who are currently receiving the low-income subsidy. A small group of beneficiaries will receive this mailing beginning the week of March 2. Beneficiaries will no longer receive the Extra Help effective April 1 because they did not provide information about their continuing eligibility.

It is important for beneficiaries to know three things:

1. Their current drug plan will contact them to let them know how much their coverage will cost
2. They have a 3-month special enrollment period to enroll in a less expensive drug plan if they so choose
3. They can file an appeal or reapply for Extra Help

Beneficiaries should contact SSA right away to file an appeal if they disagree with this decision. Appeals can be made within 60 days of receiving the dated letter from SSA. Only those who file an appeal within the first 10 days will continue to receive the Extra Help while their appeal is waiting decision. Beneficiaries should also re-apply for Extra Help if their situation changes at any time in the future.

**Beneficiaries should contact SSA at 1-800-SSA-1213 (1-800-772-1213) to file an appeal.**

### **NASUA Report More Can Be Done: Involvement of Older Consumers in the Design, Implementation, and Oversight of Home and Community Based Services**

[This new paper](#) from the National Association of State Units on Aging explores the role of older participants in planning, developing and overseeing home and community based service (HCBS) programs. It seeks to help SUAs and others in the aging network identify concrete steps they can take to support the role of these older individuals as public policy advocates.