

October 15, 2008 ADRC-TAE Newsletter

**A Weekly Update for
Aging & Disability
Resource Center
Grantees and their
Partners**

*You must be logged in to the
ADRC-TAE.org website to access
newsletter links.
Contact Allison Yudt at The Lewin
Group with questions:
703.269.5504*

In This Issue

[2008 ADRC National Meeting](#)
[CMS Issues Final Rule to Empower
Medicaid Beneficiaries](#)
[Upcoming Technical Assistance
Events](#)
[Medicare's Online Tools Will Help
Beneficiaries with Prescription
Drug and Health Choices for 2009](#)
[SNAP, A New Name for the Food
Stamp Program](#)
[National Memory Screening Day](#)

2008 ADRC National Meeting

**Thank you to
everyone who
attended the 2008
ADRC National
Meeting!**

We hope you enjoyed
the event and found it
useful as a forum to
share ideas with your

CMS Issues Final Rule to Empower Medicaid Beneficiaries to Direct Personal Assistance Services



A final rule that would allow more Medicaid beneficiaries to be in charge of their own personal assistance services, including personal care services, instead of having those services directed by an agency, was announced today by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS).

The rule guides states who wish to allow Medicaid beneficiaries who need help with the activities of daily living to hire, direct, train or fire their own personal care workers. Beneficiaries could even hire qualified family members who may already be familiar with the individual's needs to perform personal assistance (not medical) services.

peers.

We are looking forward to reading your evaluations of the conference. If you did not complete an evaluation in Boston, [please fill out an electronic version of the form on our website.](#)

Presentations and handouts prepared by speakers and presenters for the event have been posted on the [National Meeting page](#) on the ADRC website. They are organized by session.

Please email adrc-tae@lewin.com with any questions.

:: adrc-tae@lewin.com ::

:: www.adrc-tae.org ::

"This new plan would give Medicaid beneficiaries significant freedom to determine how their personal assistance services are delivered and by whom," said Kerry Weems, CMS acting administrator.

If a state adopts a self-directed personal assistance services state plan option, beneficiaries could receive a cash allowance to hire their own workers to help with such activities as bathing, preparing meals, household chores and other related services that help a person to live independently. Allotments could also be used to purchase items that help foster independence such as a wheelchair ramp or microwave oven. The beneficiaries also have the option to have their cash benefit allotment managed for them.

The entire press release can be found on [the CMS website.](#)

New Website Additions

Kansas ADRC Marketing Plan



The Kansas ADRC developed [this marketing plan](#) to describe their program. They use the message, "Kansas Aging and Disability Resource Connection offers a starting point for access to person-centered information and assistance that supports independence."

Upcoming Technical Assistance Events

Semi-Annual Reporting Tool (SART) Training

Semi-Annual Reporting Tool (SART) Training will be held on October 9th and 23rd to provide step-by-step instructions on the reporting process. This training will cover the online narrative section of the SART where qualitative data is reported as well as the Excel Entry Tool where quantitative data (e.g., budget, staffing, services and outcomes) is reported. Please join us if you are new to reporting!

- **Date:** October 23rd
- **Time:** 2:30 - 3:30 PM Eastern
- **Toll-Free Number:** 1-888-844-7278
- **Participant Passcode for phone:** 2695542, then #
- **Webinar ID:** 957-296-132
-

Health Information Technology TA Call with CMS

CMS staff will present information to ADRC grantees about their ongoing efforts in the area of health information technology.

- **Date:** Thursday, October 30th
- **Time:** 2:30 - 3:30 pm Eastern
- **Toll-Free number:** 1-888-844-7278
- **Participant Passcode for phone:** 2695542, then #
- **Webinar ID:** TBA

Medicare's Online Tools Will Help Beneficiaries with Prescription Drug and Health Plan Choices for 2009



The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) announced that beneficiaries, their caregivers, and family members can begin to review 2009 Medicare prescription drug plan and health plan information online through the Medicare Prescription Drug Plan Finder and Medicare Options Compare at www.medicare.gov.

"This year it is especially important, now and throughout the upcoming open enrollment period, for beneficiaries to use our online tools to compare their current drug and health plan coverage to the options available for 2009 and take action to choose a plan that best meets their needs," said CMS Acting Administrator Kerry Weems .

The 2009 Plan Finder allows beneficiaries to compare prescription drug coverage from both stand-alone Prescription Drug Plans (PDPs) and Medicare Advantage (MA) plans that provide prescription drug coverage (MA-PD plans) and to view premiums, formularies, and availability of coverage in the gap. Additionally, the 2009 Medicare Options Compare tool allows beneficiaries to compare Medicare health plan options, such as HMOs and PPOs.

The entire press release can be found on [the CMS website](#).

SNAP, A New Name for the Food Stamp Program

On October 1, 2008, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) became the new name for the federal Food Stamp Program, as a result of the recently enacted Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (P.L. 110-246), also known as the Farm Bill. The new

name more accurately reflects the Program's mission to provide food assistance and nutrition education to assist participants as they move to a healthier lifestyle and self-sufficiency.

While SNAP is the new federal name for the program, State programs may be using different names. But, the advent of SNAP does not mean a new program. Current Food Stamp clients will not lose benefits as a result of the name change, and current clients and recent applicants do not need to reapply. Clients will continue to receive benefits as before and access them with the same electronic (EBT) card at local authorized retailers and farmers markets. And, no new paperwork has to be filled out. The same State agency that handled the Food Stamp Program will continue to handle SNAP caseloads. Also, SNAP requirements for foods that can be purchased are the same as in the former Food Stamp Program.

For more information about SNAP or one of the USDA's Food and Nutrition Service's fifteen programs, please visit [the Department of Agriculture's website](#).

National Memory Screening Day Set For November 18, 2008

National Memory Screening Day is a collaborative effort spearheaded by the Alzheimer's Foundation of America (AFA) to promote early detection of Alzheimer's disease and related illnesses, and to encourage appropriate intervention.

AFA carries out this event in collaboration with organizations and healthcare professionals across the U.S.-bringing



g them together for care. Participating sites offer free confidential memory screenings, as well as follow up resources and educational materials to those concerned about memory loss. Together, we hope to improve quality of life.

To sign up to participate as a screening site or find a site in your community, please visit [the event's website](#).

