



Media Release

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For Immediate Release

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Long-Term Care Policy Summit registration deadline is August 31

Changes in health care at the state and national levels and how they will affect long-term care will be the focus of a meeting sponsored by the Arkansas Department of Human Services (DHS) Division of Aging and Adult Services and AARP Arkansas. The 4th Annual Long-Term Care Policy Summit will be held Sept. 5, 2012 from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Great Hall in the Clinton Presidential Library, 1200 President Clinton Ave. in Little Rock. The summit is free however space is limited and registration by August 31 is required.

The summit is aimed at agencies, providers, advocates and policy makers in the long term care services network. Attendees will learn what is happening nationally and how the landscape of long term services and supports may change in Arkansas. There will be a particular emphasis on the Health Care Payment Improvement Initiative in Arkansas as it relates to long-term care.

“We expect many changes in the long-term care system in the years to come,” said Krista Hughes, director of the DHS Division of Aging and Adult Services. “The Long-Term Care Policy Summit is a good way for those who work within the system to hear about the latest policies and ideas being discussed at both the state and national level.”

Two initiatives created by the Affordable Care Act of 2010 will also be discussed. Community First Choice is a new Medicaid option to provide home and community-based attendant services and supports that will help people remain in their homes rather than going into a nursing home.

The Balancing Incentive Program also works to create more community services and supports. It authorizes grants to States to increase access to non-institutional long-term services and supports as required by Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

Local speakers will include Arkansas DHS Director John Selig, Arkansas Medicaid Director Andy Allison, and David Ivers, a Little Rock attorney who focuses on health care law. They will be joined by Suzanne Crisp, a specialist in program development and implementation for the National Resource Center for Participant-Directed Services (NRCPS) at Boston College; Eric Saber, with the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene; Wendy Fox-Grage, senior strategic policy advisor with AARP and Elaine Ryan, AARP’s vice president for State Advocacy & Strategy.

Those who wish to attend can register online at <http://aarp.cvent.com/AR2012Long-TermCareSummit> or by calling 1-877-926-8300. For additional information, contact Connie Parker with the DHS Division of Aging and Adult Services at 501-320-6570.