Administration News

ODEP Deputy Director Reflects on Labor Day, Employment and Disabilities
In honor of Labor Day, Jennifer Sheehy, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Labor for Disability Employment Policy, wrote an op-ed for the Wichita Eagle. In the article, Sheehy reflects on the lessons she learned about tenacity and hard work from her grandparents, aunts, and uncles in Kansas. She also discussed the Office of Disability Employment Policy’s (ODEP) Retaining Employment and Talent After Injury/Illness Network (RETAiN) project, which helps workers who experience injury or illness return to work. Kansas is one of eight states conducting pilot projects through RETAiN. Other States participating in the project include: California, Connecticut, Kentucky, Minnesota, Ohio, Vermont and Washington.

The RETAiN Demonstration Projects are a collaborative effort led by the ODEP in partnership with DOL’s Employment and Training Administration (ETA) and the Social Security Administration (SSA). RETAiN—Retaining Employment and Talent after Injury/Illness Network—projects will test the impact of early intervention strategies that improve stay-at-work/return-to-work (SAW/RTW) outcomes of individuals who experience work disability while employed. Work disability is defined as an injury, illness, or medical condition that has the potential to inhibit or prevent continued employment or labor force participation.

AHRQ Releases Draft Reports on Pain Treatments for Public Comment
The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRA) has released two draft reports for public input. Comments may be submitted through Sept. 28, 2020.

1) Treatments for Acute Pain: A Systematic Review evaluates the effectiveness and comparative effectiveness of opioid, nonopioid pharmacologic, and nonpharmacologic therapy in patients with specific types of acute pain, including effects on pain, function, quality of life, adverse events, and long-term use of opioids. Public comment for this report may be submitted through this link.

2) Acute Treatments for Episodic Migraine evaluates the effectiveness and comparative effectiveness of pharmacologic and non-pharmacologic therapies for the acute treatment of episodic migraine in adults. Public comment for this report may be submitted through this link.
Reports and Resources

CSG Archives "State as a Model Employer" Webinar
The Council of State Governments (CSG) published an archive of its webinar on "State as a Model Employer (SAME) of People with Disabilities," which was co-hosted with the State Exchange on Employment & Disability. This webinar was the second of a three-part series on the legacy of the Americans with Disabilities Act, in recognition of its 30th anniversary. The panel discussion featured Maryland Secretary of Disabilities Carol Beatty, Minnesota State Senator John Hoffman, and Pennsylvania State Representative Dan Miller. Each panelist addressed the benefits of disability-inclusion within State governments and highlighted a variety of SAME policy and program options that States have used to improve employment outcomes for people with disabilities. View "State as a Model Employer (SAME) of People with Disabilities."

Upcoming Webinars and Conferences

CBPP Publishes Schedule for Webinar Series on Health Reform
The Center on Budget and Policy Priorities (CBPP) has released its schedule for a nine-part webinar series for its Health Reform: Beyond the Basics project. This project provides technical assistance to navigators and other health insurance enrollment assisters and is designed to provide training in advance of Open Enrollment Year 8 (OE8). The webinar series includes a presentation by American Association on Health and Disability (AAHD) on enrolling people with disabilities in health insurance. The webinars start this Tuesday, September 15. All of the topics, dates and times of the scheduled webinars can be found here.

SSA Hosts National Disability Forum on COVID-19 and SSA Program
The Social Security Administration’s (SSA) next National Disability Forum, “COVID-19 and SSA Programs: Serving Our Beneficiaries Through Unprecedented Times,” is scheduled for Tuesday, September 22, 2020, and will be held via teleconference from 10:00am – 3:00pm (ET) with an hour lunch break from 12:00 noon to 1:00pm (ET). The purpose for this forum is for SSA to learn from a diverse group of third parties who help people access SSA's services, how they've adapted their service models during the pandemic to continue providing needed assistance, and hearing what SSA can do to help them be successful. The morning session (10:00am -- 12:00pm) will focus on the Advocate Experience and the afternoon session (1:00pm – 3:00pm) will feature the Governmental Agency Experience. Please register online by Friday, September 18, 2020, if you wish to participate.

Registration is Open for the HCBS Conference
Registration is open for the 2020 Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) Conference, sponsored by ADvancing States, to be held virtually over two weeks on December 2-3 and December 8-10, 2020. The national conference annually brings together State, federal, and local policymakers, as well as leaders who administer, manage, and deliver waiver and other HCBS programs. The purpose of the HCBS Conference is to share practices and policies that improve State systems delivering long-term services and supports (LTSS) for people of all ages and abilities. Register by October 16th to secure the Early Bird rate and save $100!

Other

NE VR Issues RFP for Peer-to-Peer Support Practices
The Nebraska Department of Education (NDE), Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (Nebraska VR) is issuing a Request for Proposal (RFP) for the purpose of selecting a qualified contractor to conduct assessment and planning activities as the first phase of a three-phase demonstration pilot of Peer to Peer Support practices as a model of care for individuals that
have experienced acquired brain injury (ABI). You may find all required forms and communications regarding the RFP at the Nebraska Department of Administrative Services (DAS) website. The proposal is due Oct. 13, 2020, 3:00pm (Central time). Submit electronically to Keri Bennett, Program Director at keri.bennett@nebraska.gov.

Visit our website

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The National Association of State Head Injury Administrators assists State government in promoting partnerships and building systems to meet the needs of individuals with brain injuries and their families.


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