



## WEEKLY E-MAILING

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Table of Contents

### [Helpful Links](#)

[Article: Supreme Court Upholds Civil Rights of Millions of Disabled and Aging People](#)

[Virginia Ombudsman Receives Award](#)

[CMS Issues Ruling Regarding Hospital Discharge Information](#)

[DMAS Reminder that Open Enrollment Ends Soon for Health Plans](#)

[DHHS Information on Medicare Part D/Extra Help](#)

## **Helpful Links**

### **ACL News & Information**

Here is a link to news & information from the Administration for Community Living (ACL):

<https://acl.gov/>

### **ADvancing States (NASUAD) Information**

Here is a link to state technical assistance from ADvancing States:

<http://www.advancingstates.org/state-technical-assistance/enhancedtechnical-assistance>

## **Article: The Supreme Court Upholds Civil Rights of Millions of Disabled and Aging People**

*Cecily Slasor, Administrative Program Support*

**On Thursday**, the Supreme Court issued a landmark 7-2 ruling affecting millions of aging and disabled people: Providers of federally funded health services like Medicaid or Medicare, the court ruled – such as public and private nursing homes – can be sued by individuals for failures and lapses in care.

See the article by MotherJones at the link below:

<https://www.motherjones.com/politics/2023/06/scotus-just-upheld-the-civil-rights-of-millions-of-disabled-and-aging-people/>

## **Virginia Long-term Care Ombudsman Receives Award**

*Cecily Slasor on behalf of Piedmont Senior Resources AAA*



Congratulations to Michelle Temple, our Long Term Care Ombudsman, who recently received The Helen J. Napps Award of Excellence from The Virginia Coalition for the Prevention of Elder Abuse. The Helen J. Napps Award of Excellence, established by the VCPEA, recognizes professional excellence by individuals who work in the area of elder abuse prevention and/or elder abuse protection.

Winners have made substantial contributions to the prevention of and/or response to the neglect, abuse, and exploitation of older Virginians. Winners demonstrate moxie, integrity, attitude, and adaptability in their actions. They may work in adult protective services, domestic violence services, aging services, mental health services, health services, rehabilitation services, law-enforcement, legal services, academia, guardianship, research, volunteerism or any other discipline that participates in elder abuse prevention and/or protection. It is awarded to one recipient in the entire state, every other year.

One of Michelle's greatest accomplishments in preventing elder abuse occurred during the COVID-19 Pandemic in 2020. Because of her excellent advocacy skills, Michelle persuaded one corporate owner of a local nursing home to alter their compassionate care visitation policy. The new person-centered compassionate care visitation policy would allow a family member to assist in personal care for their loved ones living in the nursing home, while other in-person visits in the nursing homes across the country had stopped due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. The ownership corporation not only altered their policy at the local nursing home, but in all 121 nursing homes they owned in seven different states.

## **CMS Issues Ruling Regarding Hospital Discharge Information**

*Charlotte Arbogast, MS, Senior Policy Analyst*

CMS is committed to ensuring that the health and safety of patients are protected when discharges from hospitals and transfers to post-acute care providers occur. Therefore, we are providing the following information:

- Reminding state agencies (SAs), accrediting organizations (AOs), and hospitals of the regulatory requirements for discharges and transfers to post-acute care providers.
- Highlighting the risks to patients' health and safety that can occur due to an unsafe discharge.
- Recommendations that hospitals can leverage to improve their discharge policies and procedures to improve and protect patients' health and safety.

<https://www.cms.gov/medicare/provider-enrollment-and-certification/surveycertificationgeninfo/policy-and-memos-states/1010511604/requirements-hospital-discharges-post-acute-care-providers>

## DMAS Reminder that Open Enrollment Ends Soon for Health Plans Selection

*Charlotte Arbogast, MS. Senior Policy Analyst*



### Open Enrollment Ends Soon



**The dates of open enrollment are changing for all Commonwealth Coordinated Care Plus (CCC Plus) members.** Starting in 2023, your open enrollment dates depend on where you live. The plan selection period ends June 30, 2023 for members in the Central area. You can change your plan even if you picked a new plan last year. To learn more about your choices, review the [consumer decision support tool](#).

1. **Think about what health care services you need.** Many plans offer added benefits, including vision coverage, mobile phone services and wellness programs.
2. [Use our plan comparison tool to find a plan that works for you.](#)
3. Enroll online or by phone.

**Pick Your Plan**

If you like your current plan, you do not need to do anything to stay with your plan. Don't miss this opportunity to choose the health coverage you need. **Make sure to select your**

**plan by June 30, 2023.** Not a Medicaid member? Virginia Medicaid offers quality low-cost and no-cost coverage. [Learn more and see if you might be eligible.](#)

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## **DHHS Information on Medicare Part D Low Income Subsidy/Extra Help**

*Charlotte Arbogast, MS, Senior Policy Analyst*

The U.S. Department of Health & Humans Services is taking action to increase awareness of and enrollment in the Medicare Part D Low-Income Subsidy (LIS), also known as “Extra Help.” New data shows that [3 million older adults and people with disabilities are eligible for but not enrolled in Extra Help](#). The data includes key demographic information like age, gender, race and ethnicity, marital status, living arrangement, metro status, limited English proficiency, and disability status, to help identify disparities and underserved populations. To reach these individuals and enroll them in Extra Help, the Administration for Community Living (ACL) and the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) are using new national data, SHIPs, and other grantees to target people in rural and underserved communities.

The Extra Help program covers Part D premiums and cost-sharing for prescription drugs for people with limited resources and income below 150% of the federal poverty level ([\\$21,870 in 2023](#)). Thanks to the Lower Cost Prescription Drug Law that was part of the Inflation Reduction Act, everyone who qualifies for Extra Help will be eligible for Part D plans with no premiums, no deductible, and lower fixed co-pays in 2024. The expanded Extra Help benefit will save people who are currently only eligible for the partial subsidy [\\$300 per year on average](#), and some people who need high cost prescription drugs will save thousands of dollars due to the full LIS’s use of copays instead of coinsurance.

CMS has created new outreach tools for advocates and aging services providers to promote Extra Help to the older adults and people with disabilities they serve. Check out the [Extra Help social media toolkit](#) and [Cut your Medicare prescription drug costs with “Extra Help” flyer](#), and find all these materials and more in [this HHS fact sheet](#).