

IACC Round Robin Updates



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Federal Agency Updates

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

- The first data from the Study to Explore Early Development (SEED) COVID-19 Impact Assessment has been published in two articles.
 - The article “Health and Education Services During the COVID-19 Pandemic Among Young Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder and Other Developmental Disabilities,” published in *Journal of Developmental & Behavioral Pediatrics*, shows that children with autism were more likely to miss or experience delay in receiving specialty services during the COVID-19 pandemic compared with children with other developmental disabilities or in the general population (75.7%, 58.3%, and 22.8%, respectively). Caregivers of children with autism reported frequent difficulties in obtaining care because of issues using telehealth and difficulty wearing a mask. A disruption in individualized education programs was reported for half of the children with autism. Read the article here: <https://doi.org/10.1097/DBP.0000000000001227>
 - The article “Remote Delivery of Allied and Behavioral Healthcare During COVID-19 for Children with Developmental Disabilities,” published in *Journal of the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Open*, showed a decrease of up to 77% in allied and behavioral health care service hours during the COVID-19 pandemic for children in the study with autism or another developmental disability. Up to 11% of caregivers reported being unable to use telehealth services for their child, and fewer specific services at home. Among children with autism, a worse response to remote delivery of pre-pandemic problems with internalizing behaviors, and social communication /interaction was with worse response to behavioral telehealth therapy. Read the article here: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jaacop.2023.08.007>
- As part of the CDC Moving Forward initiative, a set of collaborative initiatives have been identified to leverage shared priorities to promote results-based partnerships in three focus areas, including supporting young families so that children thrive no matter where they live. The “Learn The Signs. Act Early.” (LTSAE) program was selected as a collaborative initiative that supports young families because it provides a set of easy-to-use, high-quality tools that allow families and people working with young children to monitor child development and be connected with supports and services. CDC is accelerating the dissemination of LTSAE resources to families and the early childhood workforce to meet the rising number of children and families experiencing delays in development. This is being done in collaboration with several partners including Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC) and the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC).
 - Learn more about the CDC Moving Forward initiative here: <https://www.cdc.gov/about/organization/cdc-moving-forward.html>
 - Learn more about the LTSAE program here: <https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/actearly/index.html>

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS)

- On September 28th, CMS released a State Medicaid Director Letter introducing the Medicaid Transportation Coverage Guide which serves as a consolidated and comprehensive compilation of Medicaid transportation policy and provides a one-stop transportation resource for states on federal requirements and state flexibilities. The Medicaid Transportation Coverage Guide largely

highlights existing policies but also includes new policies to address scenarios for extended wait times and long-distance trips, and scenarios where non-Medicaid eligible parents, family members, or other caregivers may require transportation to participate in a Medicaid eligible child's care. Medicaid transportation is a critical service that assists beneficiaries with accessing Medicaid services and has a direct impact on health outcomes. CMS encourages states to use this guide as an aid when developing and updating appropriate policies and procedures that facilitate robust transportation programs. The letter can be found here:

<https://www.medicaid.gov/sites/default/files/2023-09/smd23006.pdf>

- On September 29th, CMS shared a set of questions for public comment by December 4, 2023, regarding processes for assessing compliance with mental health parity and addiction equity requirements in Medicaid managed care arrangements, Medicaid alternative benefit plans (ABPs), and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). More information can be found here: <https://www.medicaid.gov/sites/default/files/2023-09/cmcs-mental-health-parity-092023.pdf>
- On September 29th, as part of its ongoing work to make sure all Americans have access to health care coverage, HHS, through the CMS, sent a letter to state health officials in all 50 states, D.C., and US territories reinforcing that states must provide 12 months of continuous coverage for children under the age of 19 on Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) beginning January 1, 2024. This action will help to ensure that eligible children enrolled in Medicaid and CHIP have uninterrupted coverage over the course of a year, helping children maintain access to the health care services they need to thrive. The letter provides background on the importance of continuous coverage in preventing interruptions that impede access to health coverage to support better short- and long-term health outcomes, and describes policies related to implementing continuous coverage for children as required by the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2023. The letter also reminds states that they may request section 1115 demonstration authority under the Social Security Act to extend the continuous coverage period for children beyond 12 months, and to adopt continuous coverage for adults eligible for Medicaid. The letter can be found here: <https://www.medicaid.gov/sites/default/files/2023-09/sho23004.pdf>
- On October 17th, CMS released the *Medicaid LTSS Annual Expenditures Report for Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2020* and *Medicaid Section 1915(c) Waiver Programs Annual Expenditures and Beneficiaries Report, Analysis of CMS 372 Annual Reports for 2018-2019*. These reports discuss the long-term services and supports (LTSS) rebalancing trends and patterns in expenditures for different home and community-based services (HCBS) and institutional care, nationally and across states.
 - *Medicaid LTSS Annual Expenditures Report for Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2020:*
<https://www.medicaid.gov/sites/default/files/2023-10/ltssexpenditures2020.pdf>
 - *Medicaid Section 1915(c) Waiver Programs Annual Expenditures and Beneficiaries Report, Analysis of CMS 372 Annual Reports for 2018-2019:*
<https://www.medicaid.gov/sites/default/files/2023-10/cms-372-report-2018-2019.pdf>
- On October 27th, as a follow up to the State Health Official (SHO) letter CMS issued on September 29, 2023 (Section 5112 Requirement for all States to Provide Continuous Eligibility to Children in Medicaid and CHIP under the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023), CMS released

a set of frequently asked questions (FAQs) about termination of coverage of children during a continuous eligibility period due to non-payment of premiums.

- Read the letter here: <https://www.medicaid.gov/sites/default/files/2023-09/sho23004.pdf>
- Read the FAQs here: <https://www.medicaid.gov/sites/default/files/2023-10/faq102723.pdf>
- On November 2, 2023, CMS announced the calendar year (CY) 2024 Medicare Physician Fee Schedule (PFS) final rule which included policies to support primary care, advance health equity, assist family caregivers, and expand access to behavioral and certain oral health care. People with Medicare, including individuals with autism, will have access to Marriage and Family Therapists and Mental Health Counselors for behavioral health treatment, access culturally sensitive care from community health workers, care navigators, and peer support workers, access primary care where the provider is invested in a long-term, trusting relationship, and that caregivers for persons with Medicare will have access to appropriate training. See this press release for additional details: <https://www.cms.gov/newsroom/press-releases/cms-finalizes-physician-payment-rule-advances-health-equity>
- On November 7th, CMS released a CMCS Informational Bulletin to provide additional tools for States and CMS to improve the monitoring and oversight of managed care in Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). This bulletin provides additional updates and reminders on the web-based reporting portal and the reporting requirements for managed care programs, announces the release of several new technical assistance toolkits, and provides an update on CMS' process for review and approval of managed care contracts, rate certifications, and State directed payments. Read the bulletin here: <https://www.medicaid.gov/sites/default/files/2023-11/cib11072023.pdf>
- On November 16th, CMS released the CMCS Informational Bulletin (CIB), "Coverage of Services and Supports to Address Health-Related Social Needs in Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)." This guidance outlines a framework of services and supports to address health-related social needs (HRSN) that CMS considers allowable under specific Medicaid and CHIP authorities. These flexibilities, and accompanying safeguards to protect program and fiscal integrity, provide opportunities for states to improve consistent access to needed care, health outcomes, and health equity among Medicaid and CHIP enrollees by addressing HRSN in a manner that complements but does not supplant existing housing and social services. Read the bulletin here: <https://www.medicaid.gov/sites/default/files/2023-11/cib11162023.pdf>
- On November 16th, CMS also announced that it was accepting applications for the Guiding an Improved Dementia Experience (GUIDE) Model, which aims to support people living with dementia and their caregivers. The GUIDE Model will test whether providing an alternative payment methodology for participating dementia care programs to deliver a package of care management and coordination, caregiver education and support, and GUIDE Respite Services to Medicare beneficiaries with dementia and their caregivers reduces expenditures while preserving or enhancing quality of care. The application deadline is January 30, 2024, at 11:59PM ET. CMS plans to announce applicants selected to participate in Spring 2024 and the model will launch on July 1, 2024, and run for eight years.

- GUIDE Model Participant Incentives to Participate Fact Sheet: <https://www.cms.gov/files/document/guide-participant-incentives-fs.pdf>
- GUIDE Model Dementia Pathways Infographic: <https://www.cms.gov/priorities/innovation/media/document/guide-dementia-care-journey>
- GUIDE Model webpage: <https://www.cms.gov/priorities/innovation/innovation-models/guide>
- Request for Applications: <https://www.cms.gov/files/document/guide-rfa.pdf>
- Application portal: <https://innovation.cms.gov/innovation-models/guide>
- On December 4th, CMS released a State Health Official (SHO) Letter that provides guidance to support states in implementing the mandatory reporting requirements outlined in the Mandatory Medicaid and Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) Core Set Reporting final rule released on August 31, 2023. This initial annual sub-regulatory guidance details the requirements and expectations for compliance with mandatory annual state reporting of the Core Set of Children’s Health Care Quality Measures for Medicaid and CHIP (Child Core Set) and the behavioral health measures on the Core Set of Adult Health Care Quality Measures for Medicaid (Adult Core Set). Mandatory reporting requirements apply to all states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and Guam. American Samoa and the Mariana Islands may, but are not required to, report Child and Adult Core Set measures.
 - Read the letter here: https://www.medicaid.gov/sites/default/files/2023-12/sho23005_0.pdf
 - The Mandatory Medicaid and Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) Core Set Reporting final rule can be found here: <https://www.federalregister.gov/d/2023-18669>
- Also on December 4th, CMS released a toolkit entitled Patient-Centered Messaging for Clinical Offices and Health Care Settings and asked stakeholders to help us make sure clinical offices and health care settings know where to find them and to share the information about Medicaid and CHIP renewals with patients. The toolkit includes a number of ready-to-use tools, such as Frequently Asked Questions, recorded phone/hold messages, no reply text messages and push notifications for patient portals, and e-newsletter and patient portal messages. The toolkit is available here: <https://www.medicaid.gov/sites/default/files/2023-11/patient-centered-messaging-clinical-offices-hlth-care-sett.pdf>
- On December 12th, CMS posted a press release highlighting the Administration’s historic investments in HCBS and the direct service workforce through Section 9817 of the American Rescue plan. Included is information about the release of updated data illustrating states spending of 9817 funding and an Informational Bulletin providing guidance to states on building and maintaining worker registries that make qualified health workers easier to find – so more individuals receiving Medicaid-covered services can receive care in a setting of their choice. In addition, the Informational Bulletin highlights federal funding available through the American Rescue Plan to help states build these registries.
 - Press release: <https://www.cms.gov/newsroom/press-releases/cms-provides-critical-tools-help-improve-access-millions-who-receive-medicaid-home-and-community>
 - Updated data: https://www.medicaid.gov/sites/default/files/2023-12/arp-sec9817-overview-infographic_0.pdf

- Informational Bulletin: https://www.medicaid.gov/sites/default/files/2023-12/cib12122023_0.pdf
- On December 14, CMS released a CMCS Informational Bulletin (CIB), "Guidance to State Medicaid Agencies on Dually Eligible Beneficiaries Receiving Medicare Part B Marriage and Family Therapist Services, Mental Health Counselor Services, and Intensive Outpatient Services Effective January 1, 2024." Beginning January 1, 2024, Medicare will become the primary payer for dual eligibles receiving these services from Medicare-enrolled practitioners or providers. For more information, please see the full informational bulletin: <https://www.medicaid.gov/sites/default/files/2023-12/cib12142023.pdf>

Department of Defense (DoD) – Army

- For the FY 2022 Autism Research Program (ARP), 11 projects were recommended for funding. Abstracts for the projects are now available here: <https://cdmrp.health.mil/search.aspx/>
- The FY23 ARP recently completed its two-tier review cycle; 12 projects (15 separate awards) were recommended for funding. The list of the investigators and their institutions recommended for funding can be found here: <https://cdmrp.health.mil/arp/awards/awards>
- The ARP will release its funding solicitations once the FY24 Defense Appropriations Bill has been signed into law. Once signed, funding opportunities will be available here: <https://cdmrp.health.mil/funding/arp>

Department of Education (ED)

The recently published paper titled “Earning Your Way into General Education: Perceptions about Autism Influence Classroom Placement” may be of interest to the IACC.

Abstract: The language used by teachers, school staff, and parents to talk about autistic students can send either positive or negative messages to other school staff, parents, and all students—with or without autism—about autistic students. Ultimately, these messages also extend to autistic people. Using qualitative focus group methods, we talked to parents, teachers, administrators, and other school staff to better understand how people speak about the inclusion of autistic students in general education classrooms in public schools. Overall, we found that many of our participants thought (1) autistic students need to earn their way into general education classrooms, unlike their peers without disabilities, (2) segregating students with disabilities away from their peers without disabilities is acceptable, and sometimes preferable, in school settings, and (3) there is power in inclusive education opportunities for students with and without disabilities in school settings. The findings from this study suggest that inclusive opportunities for autistic students were largely driven by stakeholder mindsets. These results should encourage school staff to think about and reflect on how they talk about autistic students in inclusive settings with the ultimate goal of creating more welcoming inclusive environments for autistic students.

Read the paper here: <https://doi.org/10.3390/educsci13101050>

Department of Justice (DOJ)

On November 2, 2023, the Department of Justice (DOJ)'s Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) hosted the webinar “BJA’s Crisis Response and Intervention Training (CRIT) Curriculum: Free Training Resources for Law Enforcement”. The webinar provided an overview of the Crisis Response and Intervention Training

(CRIT) curriculum, its development and the resources available to support law enforcement agencies in the implementation of CRIT. CRIT was developed for law enforcement officers responding to situations involving individuals with behavioral health conditions (including mental health and substance use) and developmental disabilities in a safe, effective manner. CRIT is a 40-hour training curriculum designed to support law enforcement officers in their responses to individuals experiencing crises in their community. The webinar had 818 registrants and 323 attendees. A recording and slides presented are posted here: <https://www.informedpoliceresponses.com/post/bja-s-crit-curriculum-free-training-resources-for-law-enforcement>

Department of Labor (DOL)

- DOL's Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP)'s Employer Assistance and Resource Network on Disability Inclusion (EARN) has released on-demand online recording for several recent webinar, including:
 - Neurodiversity: Dispelling Myths, General Awareness, and How to Build a More Inclusive Work Environment: <https://askearn.org/event/neurodiversity-dispelling-of-myths-general-awareness>
 - Strategies to Promote Culturally Competent Mental Health Awareness in Workplaces: <https://askearn.org/event/neurodiversity-dispelling-of-myths-general-awareness>
 - State of Digital Accessibility: <https://askearn.org/event/state-of-digital-accessibility>
- ODEP's Job Accommodation Network (JAN) has two upcoming webinars.
 - Accommodating Employees with Diverse Cognitive and Neurological Needs (April 11): <https://askjan.org/events/index.cfm?calview=eventdetails&dtid=8141E7BF-08FF-8725-2447D0F5550F9AAC>
 - This webinar parallels the 2023 JAN webinar on Accommodation Solutions for Neurodivergent Workers, which is accessible on demand here: <https://askjan.org/events/index.cfm?calview=eventdetails&dtid=8141E7BF-08FF-8725-2447D0F5550F9AAC>
 - Ask JAN Q&A: Cognitive and Neurological Team Edition (May 9): <https://askjan.org/events/index.cfm?calview=eventdetails&dtid=815AC287-E65F-A4C1-3B4BA1FC04DE305D>

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

In October 2023, EPA updated 20 of the America's Children and the Environment (ACE) indicators, including its indicator on the percentage of children ages 5 to 17 years reported to have autism (Indicator H8), from 1997 through 2021. EPA also incorporated a graphical display of autism prevalence stratified by race/ethnicity and family income for the four most recent years of data. EPA's ACE online web tool provides the latest data and trends on children's environmental health and illustrates insights on existing childhood health disparities.

See more information about ACE here: <https://www.epa.gov/americaschildrenenvironment>

See Indicator H8 here: <https://www.epa.gov/americaschildrenenvironment/health-neurodevelopmental-disorders>

National Institutes of Health (NIH)

Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD)

- In December 2023, NICHD funded an innovative study to assess the effects of swim instruction on autistic children's swimming and water safety skills (R21 HD111917). This study is highly significant because autistic children have a greater risk of drowning than the general pediatric population. The research team will compare a swimming and water-safety program designed for autistic children (i.e., Sensory Enhanced Aquatics) to standard swimming lessons. For more information on the study, see its RePORTER page: <https://reporter.nih.gov/project-details/10809351>
- NICHD will start a process to refresh its 2025 Strategic Plan over the next year. The Strategic Plan Refresh will be informed by the following sources of information:
 - Data analysis of achievements on current activities and accomplishments
 - NICHD staff input on progress and potential new scientific opportunities
 - External feedback from the scientific and advocacy communities and the publicNICHD's current strategic plan can be found here: <https://www.nichd.nih.gov/about/org/strategicplan>

National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS)

- Staff from the Division of Extramural Research and Training and the Division of Translational Toxicology at the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences published a paper describing their work on the development of a new interactive tool to comprehensively aggregate and assess highly variable and often conflicting data on environmental chemicals (e.g., pesticides, air pollution, endocrine disrupting chemicals) and autism. This tool, called a Webtool for Autism Research and the Environment (aWARE), will use an approach for the development of systematic evidence maps (SEMs) to identify and display all available relevant published evidence, enabling users to explore multiple research questions within the scope of the SEM. To learn more about this tool and the ways in which those developing the tool are engaging with the autism community and researchers throughout the process, you can read the publication here:
Singh, A.; Lawler, C.P.; Walker, V.R.; Pelch, K.E.; Garton, A.E.; Rooney, A.A.; Haugen, A.C. Becoming aWARE: The Development of a Web-Based Tool for Autism Research and the Environment. *J. Xenobiot.* **2023**, *13*, 492-499. <https://doi.org/10.3390/jox13030031>

Social Security Administration (SSA)

Two new cooperative agreements were awarded in the third round of competition for the Interventional Cooperative Agreement Program (ICAP) at the end of September 2023:

- The Colorado Department of Labor and Employment will conduct a randomized controlled trial to evaluate the impact of assisting potentially eligible individuals in their efforts to acquire SSA Disability Benefits while they are actively engaged in employment or actively seeking employment. This project is called Interagency Cooperative Action Network (ICAN) demonstration project.
- The University of Chicago Inclusive Economy Lab will conduct a three-phased randomized controlled trial to evaluate the impact of promoting the take-up and use of Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) account for SSI recipients to improve their financial security and self-

sufficiency, and ultimately their employment outcomes. This project is called the Developing Opportunities for ABLE Account Holders (DOABLE) demonstration project.

Public Member Updates

Autism Science Foundation (ASF)

- ASF will be hosting their 11th Annual Day of Learning in New York City on April 4th. Please save the date! Tickets and the agenda for the event can be found here: <https://autismsciencefoundation.org/11th-annual-day-of-learning/>
- ASF has announced the 2024 profound autism grant awards. They include projects on biomarkers, predictors of severe and dangerous behaviors, and improved visual acuity for those that cannot tolerate glasses. Learn more about what was funded here: <https://autismsciencefoundation.org/asf-funded-research/>
- ASF recently helped organize a guideline of clinical recommendations for autistic females, which appeared in the December issue of the *Lancet*. The article can be read here: [https://doi.org/10.1016/S2352-4642\(23\)00221-3](https://doi.org/10.1016/S2352-4642(23)00221-3)
- ASF released a 2023 Year End Review of autism research and how the findings can be translated into tools families can use. These include ways to speed up diagnosis and reduce waitlists, study of brains in females and clinical recommendations for helping autistic females at birth, evidence of better practices around intervention and supports, and a review of the numbers of people who have a diagnosis.
 - Read the full 2023 Year End Review here: <https://autismsciencefoundation.org/2023-year-end-review/>
 - Hear a podcast summary (20 minutes) here: <https://asfpodcast.org/archives/1625>

Autism Speaks

- Autism Speaks will host a two-part webinar series on Autism Friendly Inclusion. The webinars will focus on how all autistic people can participate in a full range of community activities and how to advocate for inclusion and locate inclusive organizations in the community.
 - January 25, 2024, 1:00 – 2:00 pm: <https://www.autismspeaks.org/events/part-1-autism-friendly-inclusion-series>
 - February 1, 2024, 1:00 – 2:00 pm: <https://www.autismspeaks.org/events/part-2-autism-friendly-inclusion-series>
- Autism Speaks will be hosting a webinar on February 21, from 6:00 – 7:00 pm on Psychiatric Care of Autistic Adults. Arthur Westover, MD, Director of Autism at UT Southwestern Medical Center, will discuss medication and support for autistic adults: <https://www.autismspeaks.org/events/psychiatric-care-autistic-adults>

Dena Gassner, Ph.D.

Dr. Gassner was named as one of two recipients of the Trailblazer in Diversity and Equity Award from the Association for Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies (ABCT) at the ABCT Conference in December 2023.

Hari Srinivasan, B.A.

Dr. Vivek Murthy, U.S. Surgeon General, has highlighted the loneliness epidemic in the United States. Inspired by Dr. Murthy's keynote at the PD Soros Conference last fall, Mr. Srinivasan published an essay in Time Magazine entitled "The Pervasive Loneliness of Autism": <https://time.com/6551520/loneliness-autism-essay/>

Simons Foundation

The Transmitter is a new publication focused on informing the broad community of neuroscientists about noteworthy developments, challenges, and unanswered questions in the field. Its goal is to be an essential resource for neuroscientists at all career stages and to help scientists stay current and build connections. *The Transmitter* represents a natural evolution for *Spectrum*, which remains a key part of *The Transmitter* and will continue to publish news and perspectives about autism research. Like *Spectrum*, *The Transmitter* is supported by but editorially independent of the Simons Foundation. Read *The Transmitter* here: <https://www.thetransmitter.org/>

Yetta Myrick, B.A.

In November 2023, the paper "A Multisystem Approach to Improving Autism Care" was published in *Pediatrics*, an American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) publication. This paper highlights work Ms. Myrick has done in collaboration with Children's National Hospital from 2017-2022 in D.C., focused on three specific areas:

1. Addressing systems that supports access to autism care
2. Developing community-level services to build capacity and connect providers and families to needed resources
3. Creating new supports for children and families that were helpful until necessary services could be provided more reliably.

The paper can be accessed here: <https://doi.org/10.1542/peds.2022-060584>

An AAP Journal Blog post about the article can be found here: <https://publications.aap.org/journal-blogs/blog/26798/A-Multi-System-Approach-to-Improving-Autism-Care>

Community Updates

Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD)

- AUCD has added new resources for winter COVID-19 and flu vaccine recommendations. Resources include graphics, drafted captions, and alt text. These resources are supported by the Administration for Community Living (ACL) through USAgings. Find the updated resources here: <https://nationalcenterdph.org/aucd-vaccine-outreach-messaging-tool/>
- AUCD's newest special interest group (SIG) on Migration and Disability held its inaugural meeting this past November. The group aims to address a gap in knowledge and expertise at the crossroads of migration and disability. If this SIG interests you, follow this link to subscribe to the listserv: <https://www.aucd.org/template/page.cfm?id=1313>
- The Center for Transition to Adult Health Care for Youth with Disabilities, a national resource center funded by ACL, has launched a new website to help young people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) direct their own transition to the adult health care system. The

site also includes resources developed by Center partners, including Family Voices, Got Transition, SPAN Parent Advocacy Network, and two University Centers of Excellence in Development Disabilities (UCEDDs): the Institute for Human Development at University of Missouri-Kansas City and the Waisman Center at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Both of these UCEDDs have done extensive work in the field of health care transitions for youth with IDD. The Center's website can be found here: <https://movingtoadulthealthcare.org/>

- Save the Date: The LEND Lived Experience Virtual Summit will take place from 3:00 – 6:00 pm, March 4-5, 2024 via Zoom:
https://www.aucd.org/template/event.cfm?event_id=9737&id=379&parent=379
- The Disability Policy Seminar is an annual federal legislative conference co-sponsored by The Arc, Autism Society, American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities, AUCD, National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities, United Cerebral Palsy, and Self Advocates Becoming Empowered (the partners). The Disability Policy Seminar strengthens federal advocacy efforts by providing training, learning opportunities, and updates, and opportunities to visit Members of Congress. The Disability Policy Seminar promotes unity, movement building, and amplifies the concerns of people with IDD before Congress. The 2024 Disability Policy Seminar will take place April 8-10, 2024, in Washington, D.C.:
<https://disabilitypolicyseminar.org/>

BRAIN Foundation

The BRAIN Foundation's Synchrony 2023 Symposium covered cutting-edge topics in basic and clinical research on autism and co-occurring conditions. Highlights from the Symposium are available here: <https://brainfoundation.org/synchrony-symposia/2023-synchrony-highlights/>

Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI)

PCORI is currently accepting Letters of Intent for several PCORI Funding Announcements (PFAs). Up to \$500 million is available through 10 funding opportunities, including:

- Five PFAs for patient-centered comparative clinical effectiveness research (CER), including studies aimed at improving maternal health, sleep health and care for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD).
- PFAs focused on evidence uptake, the science of engagement and research methods.

Letters of Intent are due February 6.

More details are available here: <https://www.pcori.org/funding-opportunities>

See PCORI's IDD funding announcement here: <https://www.pcori.org/funding-opportunities/announcement/intellectual-and-developmental-disabilities-topical-pcori-funding-announcement-cycle-1-2024>