Summer is here!

We’ve been working hard to support family caregiving at home and abroad. At the beginning of June, we convened the 2nd Annual Meeting of the International Alliance of Carer Organizations. Representatives from Australia, Canada, EuroCarers, Finland, Ireland, Sweden and the U.K. met in Helsinki, Finland, to discuss how to support family caregivers as the world ages (read the press release here). The meeting was made possible through generous support from the BUPA Foundation of Australia and home care company Right at Home. The Alliance also participated in the Eurocarers meeting, after which I flew to the other side of the world for the International Federation on Ageing’s 12th Global Conference in Hyderabad, India, where I presented on working family caregivers.

The upcoming months are also exciting as we will release several caregiving-focused papers. Be on the lookout for our joint White Paper on caregiving and technology, building on the work of our national panel at the Palo Alto event on "Catalyzing Technology to Support Family Caregivers." We’re also working with the Alzheimer’s Foundation of America to finalize and distribute a paper on Implementing the National Alzheimer’s Plan in Your State.

The Alliance is excited to welcome three new member organizations in recent months: the Social Security Administration (SSA), Forest Laboratories, and home care company Right at Home. Ben Belton, Senior Advisor to the Acting Commissioner of Social Security, is representing SSA as an ex officio member of the Alliance’s Board of Directors.

For members, we’re offering a three part, summer webinar series that examines how family caregivers fit into new models of healthcare delivery. In case you missed it, you can watch the replay of the first webinar, on patient-centered medical homes, here. The second webinar with the American Academy of Home Care Medicine will be on July 8th at 3pm ET. We’ll be talking about how family caregivers fit within the
Independence-at-Home model of care.

Finally, the Advisory Committee of the 2014 Caregiving in the U.S. research report has convened. Working with AARP, we're looking forward to another tremendous report that will move the caregiving field forward.

Thank you for your continued support of our work and the work you do to support family caregivers.

Kind regards,

Gail

Gail Gibson Hunt
President and Chief Executive Officer

News from the Alliance

- On June 4th, the Alliance convened the Second Annual meeting of the International Alliance of Carer Organizations (IACO). IACO’s mission is to increase visibility of family caregiving across the lifespan as an international issue; promote sharing of best practices between countries; and to encourage and provide assistance to countries interested in developing family carer organizations. For more information, please visit http://www.caregiving.org/advocacy/international.

- The Alliance is excited to welcome three new member organizations in recent months: the Social Security Administration, Forest Laboratories, and home care company Right at Home. Ben Belton, Senior Advisor to the Acting Commissioner of Social Security, is also representing SSA as an ex officio member of the Alliance’s Board of Directors.

- Alliance President/CEO Gail Gibson Hunt was honored to present at the June 23rd White House Summit on Working Families on the caregiving panel. The event included remarks from the President, Vice President, First Lady and Second Lady on improving work-life balance for families in America. More information at http://workingfamiliessummit.org/.

- In case you missed it, the Alliance hosted the first webinar in its Members Only Summer Webinar Series. The webinar featured speakers from the Patient-Centered Medical Home. Catch the replay here.

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New Research, Reports & Publications

- AARP released the Long-Term Services and Supports Scorecard, featuring information on the fifty states (including caregiving). For the report, please visit http://www.longtermscorecard.org/.

- The RAND Corporation, in partnership with the Elizabeth Dole Foundation, released a comprehensive study on America’s Military Caregivers. Read the report here.

- RAND also released a new report on Improving Dementia Long-Term Care. Read it here.
• The National Institute on Aging released a guidebook on Home Safety for People with Alzheimer's Disease, [available here](https://ui.constantcontact.com/visualeditor/visual_editor_preview.jsp?agent.uid=1117493149761&format=html&print=true).

• An article in the June issue of *Maternal and Health Journal* examined the financial and time burden of caring for children with chronic conditions. Researchers found a correlation in caregiving burden based on the child’s chronic conditions. [Read more here](https://ui.constantcontact.com/visualeditor/visual_editor_preview.jsp?agent.uid=1117493149761&format=html&print=true).

• Washington State University released a literature review on the self-care needs of family caregivers with depression. [Read more here](https://ui.constantcontact.com/visualeditor/visual_editor_preview.jsp?agent.uid=1117493149761&format=html&print=true).

**Legislation & Advocacy Update**

*Josh Phoebus, Legislative Consultant, National Alliance for Caregiving*

**Federal Developments**

Beginning in January 2015, in 29 states, home care workers will be eligible for the federal minimum wage. Previously, Medicaid paid agencies, which then paid the home care workers with little oversight. The new executive order, which came out in April, will offer federal minimum wage, overtime, and travel time. The Department of Labor estimates it will cost $6.8M over 10 years and it’s unclear what the total cost will be.

**Executive Branch Developments**

The US Department of Health and Human Services announced on May 13, 2014 that their Medicare Fraud Strike Force had charged 90 individuals over seven states with Medicare fraud for their participation in schemes that led to approximately $260 million in false billings. This is the seventh Strike Force operation since its inception in March 2007. Over the past seven years, the Strike Force has charged almost 1,900 individuals with Medicare fraud leading to approximately $6 billion in false billings. To learn more about the Medicare Fraud Strike Force, please visit [www.stopmedicarefraud.gov](http://www.stopmedicarefraud.gov).

**State Legislative Developments**

The Oklahoma legislature passed significant caregiving-related legislation when the Governor's office signed it into law on May 12th. S.B. 1536, also known as the “C.A.R.E. Act”, permits hospital patients to designate a family caregiver upon their admission. In return, the hospital is legally required to notify the designated caregiver that the patient has been discharged and consult with them during the aftercare period.

The Massachusetts legislature is currently considering Senate Bill 987 which would permit spouses to serve as paid caregivers. The legislation was referred from the Committee on Public Health to adjoin a companion study order, S.B. 2114, on April 28, 2014, before being advanced to the Committee on Senate Ethics and Rules on May 1, 2014. The MassHealth Personal Care Attendant Program (MHPCP) spent $470 million in 2013 to compensate approximately 30,000 personal care attendants at a rate of $13 per hour. The current program allows family members, but not spouses, to receive financial support for caregiving. Supporters of the legislation point to study findings that found a high level of care provided by spouses in states where they are paid while opponents of the legislation argue that there is a cultural expectation that spouses take care of each other "in sickness and health." They are also concerned about Massachusetts' possible future liability for claims made by spouses for care provided to spouses prior to this legislation's possible passage.

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Member Spotlight: Intel-GE Care Innovations & the "Caregiver Connect" Program

As a member of the National Alliance for Caregiving and our Board of Directors, Intel-GE Care Innovations is looking for new ways to connect family caregivers and their loved ones to a health care industry increasingly reliant on new technologies. A joint venture between Intel and GE, Care Innovations works to bring new healthcare technologies and solutions into the home that can improve the health of patients and their families. Care Innovations also collects, aggregates, and analyzes data from a variety of in-home sensors and devices in order to develop best practices and better connect patients to the care continuum.

We sat down with Karissa Price, PhD, the Chief Marketing Officer of Care Innovations, to talk about the new technologies that are becoming available to support caregivers. Dr. Price describes the Caregiver Connect tool, a family caregiver portal which helps family caregivers manage their loved one’s care. Click here to read more!

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Caregiving Coalitions Corner

Do you know a Caregiving Champion?
The Caregiving Champion program will highlight persons of influence who have worked to bring family caregiving to the forefront of the discussion in their cities, states, or the nation. The Alliance is now accepting nominations for Champions. Champions will be displayed on the Alliance’s new website, beginning in late July 2014.

- A Caregiving Champion is someone who has supported family caregivers by raising public awareness, implementing public policy solutions, or educating others on the challenges facing caregivers. For example, a Champion might be a local lawmaker or policymaker, a public supporter of caregiving (such as a Governor’s spouse), the CEO of a company that supports a caregiver-friendly workplace, a local city councilperson, or an academic.

- To nominate a Champion, please view the Caregiving Champion criteria here and email your suggestions to gracewhiting@caregiving.org.

Coalition Updates

- The Florida Department of Elder Affairs's Purple Ribbon Task Force is surveying family caregivers caring for person with Alzheimer's disease or dementia. To assist in distributing the survey to your coalition members or to take the survey yourself, please email gracewhiting@caregiving.org.

- New Jersey is planning to launch two new coalitions, one in Mercer County and one in Hudson County. Caregivers of New Jersey continues to offer support to these growing coalitions, including its recent Caregiver Awareness Day in southern Ocean County. Learn more at http://njcaregivers.org/.

- Rosemary Rawlings, the author of Learning by Accident, will present to the Virginia Caregiving Coalition on July 17th. Ms. Rawlings became a caregiver suddenly after her husband suffered a brain injury in a biking accident. Learn more here.

- The Virginia Caregiver Coalition and the Metropolitan Caregiver Service
Collaborative of Minnesota are working with local AARP chapters on the legislative C.A.R.E. Act, which would provide additional support to family caregivers at the hospital discharge of a loved one. Learn more about the act by clicking here.

- United Way of Northern New Jersey is partnering with Sanofi US and the Sanofi Foundation for North America to create a caregiver-friendly workplace environment. United Way and Sanofi US held a Caregiver Summit in early May to help raise awareness and establish a resource group for caregivers. Learn more here.

Upcoming Events in Caregiving & Aging

**Answers on Aging: The 39th Annual n4a Conference**  
*July 12 - 16, 2014, Dallas, Texas*  
Join n4a in Dallas, Texas for its 39th Annual Conference & Tradeshow to see the most innovative policies, programs and services that assist older adults, persons with disabilities and their caregivers lead independent and productive lives showcased. To learn more or register, please click here.

**National Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) Conference**  
*September 13 - 28, 2014, Washington, DC*  
For thirty years, the nation's long-term services and supports system has been in the midst of an historic shift from institutional care to individualized home and community services for older adults and people with disabilities. Today changes continue and waiver programs and services are changing too. Learn more and register here.

**Get in Tune with Respite:**  
*16th Annual National Lifespan Respite Conference*  
*October 7 - 9, 2014, Nashville, Tennessee*  

If you would like the Alliance's President and CEO, Gail Gibson Hunt, to present on caregiving issues at your upcoming conference, please email stephanie@caregiving.org.