AgeTech California – Updates and Opportunities

AgeTech California has several exciting developments to share regarding technology-enabled care in California. This article will provide you a brief update on these advancements, including: the Dual Eligible Integration project, The Telehealth Advancement Act of 2011, and an announcement regarding our charter AgeTech Partner sponsors. In addition to the below updates, please take a moment to read an article featured at HealthyCal.org on AgeTech and others at: http://www.healthycal.org/archives/7271.

Dual Eligible Integration Project

We are pleased to announce inclusion of provisions advocated by AgeTech California in the recently released Request for Solutions (RFS) that encourages the utilization of eCare technologies and requires applicants – health plans and county health systems - to describe how they propose to include such technologies in models of care. Provisions include:

"Technology: Coordinated care will increasingly depend on the effective use of eCare technology, such as telehealth-enabled critical and specialist care, home technologies (i.e. daily health vitals monitoring, medication optimization, care consultations), remote monitoring of activities of daily living, and safety technologies. Demonstration sites are encouraged to include such technologies in their models."

As the dual eligible demonstration moves forward, and potentially expands statewide under Governor Brown’s Coordinated Care Initiative, AgeTech continues to emphasize the importance of technology-enabled care to improve care coordination, reduce healthcare costs, and foster the wellness and independence of older adults.

To see the complete RFS, please visit www.calduals.org.

Exciting Opportunities Announced at the 2012 Care Innovations Summit

On January 26, Scott Peifer, Executive Director of AgeTech California attended the inaugural Care Innovations Summit in Washington DC, co-hosted by the West Wireless Health Institute – an AgeTech Advisory Council member organization, The Center for Medicare & Medicaid Innovation, the Office of the National Coordinator at HHS, and Health Affairs. We were thrilled that AgeTech California Advisory Council member Sutter Care at Home was recognized for their innovative transition of care model.

We want to let you know about three innovation challenge announcements made on stage at the Summit.

Alzheimer’s Challenge 2012
This challenge calls for inventive concepts to help improve the diagnostic identification and tracking of Alzheimer’s disease. It seeks simple, cost-effective, and consistent tools that could be used to assess the memory, mood, thinking and activity level of Alzheimer’s patients.
The awards will total $300,000, incorporating $25,000 to five finalists and $175,000 to one winner of the Challenge. The deadline for submission of concepts is March 16, 2012 and a complete Challenge description is available at www.alzheimerschallenge2012.com.

**Connected Care Challenge**

The Janssen Connected Care Challenge will provide $250,000 to encourage solutions in transitioning patience from hospital to home.

The Challenge is in search of solutions that will improve the coordination of care as patients are discharged after surgery or other inpatient stays.

The competition begins on February 27 with a final submission deadline of March 25. For more details on this challenge, please visit: http://www.janssenhealthcareinnovation.com/connected-care-challenge

**Kaiser HIV Challenge**

This consumer education challenge is intended to help health care providers nationwide improve health equity for people living with HIV.

Kaiser is challenging other private health care providers and public and community health clinics to increase the number of HIV-positive people getting effective treatment by sharing Kaiser Permanente’s toolkit of clinical best practices, provider and patient education materials, mentoring, training and health IT expertise.

To join the challenge or to learn more, visit kp.org/hivchallenge.

**AB 415 - The Telehealth Advancement Act of 2011**

The Telehealth Advancement Act of 2011 (AB 415), which went into effect on January 1, 2012, updated California’s telehealth law and removed outdated administrative and regulatory policy barriers to the use of crucial telehealth services. The bill modernized California’s landmark Telemedicine Development Act. It updates the legal definitions of telehealth, streamlines approval processes for telehealth services, and supports the expansion of telehealth services statewide. Telehealth has shown great potential in improving patient access to care, quality of medical care, and health care delivery system efficiencies.

Among its most important provisions is expanding the list of providers eligible to utilize telehealth for purposes of Medi-Cal and insurance plans operating in California.

Under the old law, only physicians, surgeons, podiatrists and clinical psychologists could provide services via telehealth. AB 415 expanded this list to include all professionals licensed under the state’s healing arts statute, which also include:

- Pharmacists
- Nurse practitioners
- Physician assistants
- Registered nurses
• Dental hygienists
• Physical therapists
• Occupational therapists
• Marriage, family and child counselors
• Dentists
• Optometrists (in limited scope)
• Speech and language pathologists
• Audiologists
• Licensed vocational nurses
• Psychologists
• Osteopaths
• Naturopaths

The telehealth act was sponsored by the California State Rural Health Association, with support from the Center for Connected Health Policy, AgeTech California, Center for Technology and Aging, and others. AgeTech California will continue to advocate for expansion of technology-enabled care and the role of aging services and home care providers in its implementation. For a full analysis of AB 415’s impact, please see: http://www.cteconline.org/sites/main/files/file-attachments/cchp-ctec_impacts_of_ab_415_final.pdf

AgeTech California Partner Sponsors

Finally, AgeTech is pleased to announce three Technology Partner sponsors: Care Innovations, as a Corporate Technology Partner, and recent start-ups Care Architecture and Independa, Inc. as Developing Technology Partners. AgeTech is also pleased to announce three Premier Provider Partner sponsors: Front Porch, Eskaton and ABHOW. We thank our partner sponsors for their support and engagement, and look forward to maximizing the value of these partnerships for care providers and technology organizations, and for the continued growth of AgeTech.

If you are interested in learning more about becoming an AgeTech California Partner sponsor and the many benefits, please contact us.

For any questions about any information in this article, please contact Scott Peifer at speifer@agetech.org.