



Weekly Roundup

...Reporting the state and national long term care news

Please disseminate relevant information to the appropriate department.

- Administration
 Nursing
 Dietary
 Activities
 Social Services
 Rehabilitation
 Housekeeping
 Maintenance
 Laundry

Friday, July 19, 2013

ANHA NEWS

Ms. Alabama Nursing Home Pageant Set for Monday

Contestant Reception Begins at 9:30 a.m.

The 2013 Ms. Alabama Nursing Home Pageant will take place on Monday, July 22 at the Hyatt Regency Birmingham – The Wynfrey Hotel in Birmingham. The day begins at 9:30 a.m. with a reception featuring live entertainment and refreshments for all contestants, families and nursing home staff. At 2:00 p.m., the top ten finalists will take the stage to compete for the title of Ms. Alabama Nursing Home. Admission is free and the event is open to the public. Everyone is encouraged to attend and support these ladies as they compete for the coveted crown.

From the field of 70 contestants, the following ladies were selected the top 10 finalists:

- Ms. Andalusia Manor, Jane Lucas, Andalusia
- Ms. Cullman Health Care & Rehab Center, Ruthann Salser, Cullman
- Ms. El Reposo Nursing Facility, Marion Sharp, Florence
- Ms. Enterprise Health & Rehab Center, Verdell Goodson, Enterprise
- Ms. Florence Nursing & Rehab Center, Ruth Elaine Alexander
- Ms. Golden Living Center Arab, Willodean Weaver, Arab
- Ms. Hillview Terrace Rehab Select, Gloria Walker, Montgomery
- Ms. Lauderdale Christian Nursing Home, Lois Townsend, Killen
- Ms. Talladega Health & Rehab, Martha Grant, Talladega
- Ms. Woodland Village Health Care, Elaine Blankenship, Cullman

Each contestant will receive a special pin, corsage, a bag full of goodies and more. All contestants are encouraged to attend the pageant because they will be individually recognized.

Schedule of Events

9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.	Contestant Check-In	2 nd Floor Reg. Desk
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	Finalist Interviews with Judges	Suffolk Room
9:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.	Dressing Room Available	Dorset Room
9:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.	Contestant Hair/Makeup Assistance	Essex Room
9:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.	Professional Portrait Photographer	Hampshire Room
9:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.	2012 Pageant Contestant Reception	Pre-function Area
11:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.	Lunch Break – On Your Own	

1:30 p.m.	Line-up & Seating of Pageant Contestants	Wynfrey Ballroom
2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.	2013 Ms. Alabama Nursing Home Pageant	Wynfrey Ballroom

Professional Portrait Photographer

A professional photographer will be on hand to take portraits and group pictures. Please bring a check or cash if you are interested in purchasing pictures. Checks should be made payable to Focus Photography. Prices are below.

- Package #1: \$35.00 – Includes 2-5x7s and 8-wallets
- Package #2: \$45.00 – Includes 1-8x10 and 2-5x7’s
- Package #3: \$75.00 – Includes 2-8x10s, 2-5x7s and 8-wallets
- Additional Prints will also be available for the following costs: \$20.00 additional 8x10 portrait, \$15.00 additional 5x7 portrait, \$10.00 eight (8) additional wallets

ANHA Office Schedule

The ANHA Office will be closed on Monday, July 22 due to the Ms. Alabama Nursing Home Pageant. The office will re-open at 8:00 a.m. on Tuesday, July 23.

“2013 Summer Regulatory Update” Educational Seminar July 30

Join ANHA as we present a full-day seminar for long-term care providers on providing a regulatory update on the following issues: Hospice Care; OSHA and Whistleblower Regulations; Medicaid Issues; and Financial Plans Needed for ACA. The seminar will be held on July 30 at the Wynfrey Hotel located in Birmingham, Alabama from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. This program has been approved for 6 hours of continuing education credits by the Alabama Board of Examiners for Nursing Home and the Alabama Board of Social Work Examiners. It has also been approved for 7.2 contact hours of continuing education for nurses. The Alabama Nursing Home Association is an approved provider by the Alabama Board of Nursing (ABNP0151- expires 3/12/2017). *Please see the attached flyer for more details.*

Educational Seminars Announced for 2013 ANHA Owners’ Meeting & Educational Symposium

Sponsored by:

American Medical Technologies	AJG/Robinson-Adams Insurance
Associated LTC Insurance Company	Senior Care Pharmacy
Felder Services	Sherlock, Smith & Adams
Gericare Medical Supply	Starnes Davis Florie, LLP
Healthcare Services Group, Inc.	

Join ANHA for the 2013 Owners’ Meeting and Educational Symposium. The event will be held August 8-10 at the Inn on Biltmore Estate in Asheville, North Carolina. The annual owners’ meeting and breakfast will be held on August 10.

Overnight group rates have been negotiated with the hotel for this meeting at a rate of **\$249** per night. To make overnight reservations, please contact the hotel at 866-779-6277 and identify yourself as being part of the Alabama Nursing Home Association.

This entire event has been approved for a total of four (4) hours of continuing education credit for nursing home administrators. *Please see the attached flyer for more details.*

NATIONAL NEWS

CMS Issues Survey & Certification Memos

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has issued two Survey & Certification. The first relates to changes to state survey agency responsibilities in obtaining information for Civil Rights clearances for initial certifications and changes of ownership (CHOWs)

<http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Provider-Enrollment-and-Certification/SurveyCertificationGenInfo/Downloads/Survey-and-Cert-Letter-13-46.pdf>. Key provisions of this memo:

- **Office for Civil Rights Clearance Process** – A health care provider that applies for participation in the Medicare Part A program must receive a civil rights clearance from OCR, as set forth in 42 CFR 480.10(b).
- **Initial Enrollment or CHOW-** State Survey Agencies (SAs) are to include the OCR Civil Rights Certification Information Request Packet (Civil Rights Packet) with their initial enrollment package that is sent to a potential provider or to a provider undergoing a CHOW.
- **Civil Rights Packet may be submitted on line-** SAs must now also offer the potential provider the option to answer all questions and submit the entire civil rights clearance package on line at <https://ocrportal.hhs.gov/ocr/pgportal/>.
- **Online Application Submission Start Date-** This change will be effective July 15, 2013

The second memo relates to compliance with the Life Safety Code in End Stage Renal Dialysis facilities and includes a sample attestation letter <http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Provider-Enrollment-and-Certification/SurveyCertificationGenInfo/Downloads/Survey-and-Cert-Letter-13-47.pdf>. Key provisions of the memo:

- **Limited LSC Applicability to ESRD Facilities:** Effective July 16, 2012, compliance by certified ESRD facilities with the applicable requirements of the 2000 edition of the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Life Safety Code 101 is limited to those ESRD facilities that are located adjacent to high hazardous occupancies and those facilities that do not exit to the outside at grade level from the patient treatment area.
- **Retained Compliance by ESRD Facilities:** All ESRD facilities are still required to comply with State and local fire codes and other safety standards required by 42 CFR Part 494 Conditions for Coverage (CfC) for ESRD facilities.
- **Attestation by ESRD Facilities for Exemption:** ESRD providers may submit an attestation to claim an exemption to the NFPA LSC requirements if they are not located adjacent to high hazard occupancies and they do provide exits at grade level from the patient treatment area level.
- **Effective Immediately.**

CMS Guidance on Medicare Demand Letters Associated with an Item or Service Provided to Incarcerated Beneficiaries

Important guidance from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) regarding Demand Letters to Medicare Providers and Suppliers Associated with an Item or Service Provided to Incarcerated Beneficiaries has been issued. A direct link to the guidance is provided below.

<http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Medicare-Contracting/FFSProvCustSvcGen/Downloads/DemandLetters.pdf>

SNFs to Receive PEPPER Postcard

ANHA has been notified that a CMS contractor, TMF Health Quality Institute [HQI], that HQI had sent out, via regular mail, an informational postcard to all 15,000+ SNFs. The postcard indicates that all SNF providers will soon receive a report called the Program for Evaluating Payment Patterns Electronic Report (PEPPER). This report provides Medicare claims data in specific targeted areas comparing the SNF to other SNFs throughout the US. The Report will be mailed to SNFs via regular mail on August 30.

The Pepper program was initiated in 2003, but since 2003 has focused on other types of providers over the years. It is now adding SNFs. PEPPER gives provider-specific Medicare data statistics for services vulnerable to improper payments, according to the federal government, and allows providers to see how their facility compares to all other SNFs across the state, nation or MAC jurisdiction. For SNFs, the targeted areas were determined by recent OIG reports in 2010 and 2012 and conversations with CMS staff, and include: a) Therapy RUGs with High ADLs; b) Nontherapy RUGs with High ADLs; and c) Change of Therapy Assessment.

PEPPER data will be shared with both the MACs and the Medicare Recovery Auditors (RAs); but not the Zone Program Integrity Contractors (ZPICs). HQI did acknowledge, however, that CMS contractors have much more sophisticated databases and systems for looking at SNF Medicare claims data. To obtain more information on SNF PEPPER, you may visit <http://www.pepperresources.org/>.

ACA Important Update: Employer “Pay or Play” Mandate Delayed One Year

On July 2, 2013, the federal government announced that it will delay implementation of the employer shared responsibility (i.e. “Play or Pay”) and insurer reporting requirements for one year. The administration attributed the delay to the regulations’ complexity and the impracticability associated with implementing them on the original timeline. The requirements will instead be effective January 1, 2015. This means that you will not have to provide health insurance for your employees in 2014.

In a blog post on the Treasury Department’s website, Assistant Secretary for Tax Policy Mark Mazur stated that Administration officials “have heard concerns about the complexity of the requirements and the need for more time to implement them effectively.” Similarly, in a blog post at the White House website titled “We’re Listening to Businesses about the Health Care Law,” Senior Advisor to the President Valerie Jarrett stated that the Administration was still working on simplifying employers’ reporting requirements, and that without reporting procedures in place, the IRS was simply not in a position to enforce the penalties.

Despite the delay in enforcement, the Administration is still urging employers to “voluntarily” comply with the mandate, and to use the extra year to prepare to ensure compliance by January 1, 2015. *ANHA will provide updates as more information becomes available.*

OIG Evaluation Regarding Compliance with Reporting Allegations of Abuse

ANHA has been alerted that OIG, Office of Evaluation and Inspections, Region VII (Kansas City, MO) has begun to send out letters to certain skilled nursing centers alerting those providers that “OIG is conducting an evaluation that will determine whether nursing facilities complied with Federal requirements related to reporting allegations of abuse and ensuring that covered

individuals report reasonable suspicions of crimes.” ANHA is aware of this letter being received by at least one Alabama facility.

OIG is conducting an evaluation in two separate parts to determine whether skilled nursing centers have adequately complied with 42 CFR § 483.13(c) and the Social Security Act (SSA), Section 1150.

The American Health Care Association (AHCA) has learned the following:

1. Rae Hutchison, Program Analyst, HHS/OIG/OEI Region VII, 1201 Walnut St, Suite 934, Kansas City, MO 64106, 816.426.4963 (p), 816.426.2146 (f), rae.hutchison@oig.hhs.gov is the contact on the study;
2. 250 Skilled Nursing Centers have been randomly chosen, using CASPER data, to participate in the study;
3. The study is nationwide;
4. Providers contacted must participate and provide the information requested;
5. OIG will not share the study design with AHCA;
6. Part 2 of the study will be a “follow-up” to whatever information is found within Part 1;
7. The study is not in the 2013 Work Plan. The study was originally slated to be a study involving State LTC Ombudsman Programs’ in the Community Setting (see blurb from 2013 OIG Work Plan below); but after internal OIG discussion, it was determine that the community living setting lacked “strong federal criteria” and a new design plan was developed to look at abuse in skilled nursing centers.
 - a. *AoA - State Long-Term-Care Ombudsman Programs’ Efforts To Identify, Investigate, and Resolve Elder Abuse Cases* - We will determine whether ombudsmen follow statutory requirements to identify, investigate, and resolve elder abuse cases. (42 U.S.C. § 3058g(a)(3)(A).) We will also assess AoA’s oversight of the ombudsman programs. Ombudsman responsibilities include identifying, investigating, and resolving cases made by or on behalf of residents in long-term-care facilities, including cases involving elder abuse. (42 U.S.C. § 3058g(a)(3)(A).) AoA’s data on elder abuse show significant variation between State Long-Term-Care Ombudsman programs. AoA administers the State Long-Term-Care Ombudsman programs pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 3058g, as set forth by the Older Americans Act Amendments of 2000, § 704. (OEI; 00-00-00000; expected issue date: FY 2014; new start).
8. On June 6, 2013, OIG alerted CMS to the upcoming study with the email below:
 - a. This study will determine the extent to which nursing facilities complied with Federal requirements at 42 CFR § 483.13(c) related to reporting allegations of abuse. More specifically, we will determine the extent to which nursing facilities: (1) developed and implemented written policies that address reporting allegations of abuse; (2) reported that allegations involving abuse occurred; and (3) complied with Federal requirements for reporting such allegations and the subsequent investigation results of those allegations. For a sample of nursing facilities, we will review documentation related to allegations of abuse reported by the facilities in 2012. Our review will include determining whether nursing facility records document that facilities are reporting allegations of abuse and the subsequent investigation results within the appropriate timeframes and to the appropriate individuals. We will determine whether nursing facilities have policies related to reporting allegations of abuse, but we will not determine the adequacy of such policies. This study will also determine the extent to which nursing facilities had policies and procedures to ensure that

owners, operators, employees, managers, agents, or contractors of nursing facilities (covered individuals) report reasonable suspicions of crimes. More specifically, we will determine whether nursing facilities have documentation to support that the facility notified all covered individuals of their responsibilities and rights related to reporting reasonable suspicions of crimes pursuant to Section 1150B of the Social Security Act.

ANHA is preparing educational materials regarding this issue. If your facility has been randomly chosen to participate and you received a letter regarding this issue, please let us know.

CMS Issues Three S&C Letters

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has released the following S&C letters:

- *Public Release of the Five-Star Quality Rating System Three-Year Report*
(<http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Provider-Enrollment-and-Certification/SurveyCertificationGenInfo/Downloads/Survey-and-Cert-Letter-13-44.pdf>)
This contains the results of an analysis that examined trends in the first three years of the Five-Star Quality Rating System. (2009-2011). The report states: “Since implementation of the Five-Star Quality Rating System, there have been improvements in nursing facility performance in all three domains of quality that the system utilizes: health inspection surveys, quality measures (QMs) and staffing levels.”
- *Reminder: Access and Visitation Rights in Long Term Care (LTC) Facilities*
(<http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Provider-Enrollment-and-Certification/SurveyCertificationGenInfo/Downloads/Survey-and-Cert-Letter-13-42.pdf>)
This reminder emphasizes that residents must be notified of their rights to have visitors on a 24-hour basis, who could include, but are not limited to, spouses (including same-sex spouses), domestic partners (including same-sex domestic partners), other family members, or friends.
- *Changes to the Nursing Home Compare Website Data that is Available for Download on the Medicare.gov Website (Effective July 2013)*
(<http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Provider-Enrollment-and-Certification/SurveyCertificationGenInfo/Downloads/Survey-and-Cert-Letter-13-43.pdf>)
In July 2013, all users of the Nursing Home Compare website that wish to download the nursing home data will be redirected to the data.medicare.gov website (<https://data.medicare.gov/>)
There will be new data layouts and additional nursing home data available for viewing and download on the <https://data.medicare.gov> website.

STATE NEWS

ANHA Encourages Use of Medicaid EXPEDITE System

Members of the Alabama Nursing Home Association have been meeting regularly with Medicaid since last fall on ideas and ways in which we can improve the current Medicaid Nursing Home Eligibility process. As a result of our joint efforts, we now have an online web portal (EXPEDITE) for nursing facilities and residents/sponsors to use in order to complete the Medicaid application online and submit it electronically. Submitting a hard copy of the application is still an option.

We held 8 webinars during the month of June and a copy of Session #3 Expedite Nursing Home Training delivered Tuesday, June 4, 2013, is now available on the public Alabama Medicaid site at this address:

http://www.medicaid.alabama.gov/documents/3.0_Apply/3.5_Expedite/3.5_EXPEDITE_Web_Portal_6-13-13.wmv

For more information please visit the Medicaid website at www.medicaid.alabama.gov, click “Apply for Medicaid”, then “Expedite On Line Nursing Home Application System”. You may also try this link: http://medicaid.alabama.gov/CONTENT/3.0_Apply/3.5_Expedite.aspx. ANHA encourages you to utilize this tool and submit applications via the EXPEDITE System.

Alabama Board of Nursing: LPNs Must Have Citizenship Verified

Renewal for licensed practical nurses will begin September 1, 2013. The Alabama Board of Nursing (ABN) must have verified citizenship or the LPN will not be able to renew. As of Friday, July 12, 2013, the numbers are as follows:

- Total Active and Active Probation LPNs: 18,711
- Total Active and Active Probation LPNs Verified: 3,450
- Percentage Verified: 18.43%

While ABN has a few more to verify, it will not come close to the total that are eligible to renew. **If you have LPNs in your organization, please remind them to get their citizenship verification in ASAP.** LPNS and RNs can check to see if their citizenship has been verified by going to <https://www.abn.alabama.gov/abnonline/MyprofileLogin.aspx> and using the license number and last 4 digits of the social security number, signing in to the profile. For citizenship purposes, this will be what the licensed nurse will see (with the information filled in) and if citizenship has been verified, it will reflect “yes” in the citizenship verified box. If the citizenship has not been verified (meaning ABN has not entered it in the licensing database), it will say “no”. However, ABN is sending hundreds back because the submitted documents are illegible or the wrong checklist was sent in or the checklist without documents. If ABN sends the information back to the licensed nurse, it should be returned to us as soon as possible so they can verify citizenship.

Medicaid Recovery Audit Contractor Audits: Second Round Coming

ANHA was notified by the Alabama Medicaid Agency that the next round of facilities scheduled for a financial Recovery Audit Contractor (RAC) will be coming soon. Facilities in this category will be notified by a certified letter from Health Management Systems (HMS) –Medicaid’s financial RAC Contractor – requesting records related to Medicaid beneficiaries. It is anticipated that HMS will mail the letters on or about July 8. These audits are mandated by federal law.

HMS will provide a webinar for facilities involved in his round of financial RAC audits on July 25. The webinar will be similar to the one held in January for facilities that were in the first RAC audit. Over the next few years all facilities will have a financial RAC audit. ANHA has no way of knowing when your facility will be scheduled. We encourage you to contact your financial and legal consultants to assist in preparation of this audit when you are notified.

Details for the webinar are as follows:

During this webinar we will review the process of the audits and answer any questions.

Title: HMS Financial LTC Audits

Date: Thursday, July 25, 2013

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Time: 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. CDT

You will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

System Requirements

PC-based attendees: Windows 7, Vista, XP or 2003 Server

Mac-based attendees: Mac OS X 10.6 or newer

Mobile attendees: iPhone, iPad, Android phone or Android tablet

Reserve your Webinar seat now at: <https://www2.gotomeeting.com/register/771942586>

Changes to Medicaid Hospice Election and Physician's Certification Form 165

Hospice providers are required to include within the medical record a Medicaid Hospice Election and Physician's Certification form (Form 165) that has been signed and dated by the physician. The exception to this is when an individual is eligible for Medicare as well as Medicaid. In that case, the Medicare election form will continue to serve as election for both hospice programs.

Form 165 was recently revised to include blanks to enter the *Date of Benefit Period* and the *Date Physician Signed*. Effective September 1, 2013, all Hospice Providers should discard all copies of the previous Form 165 and utilize the revised form.

The revised Form 165 and the *Instructions for Completion of Hospice Election Form 165* will be located on the Agency's website, effective September 1, 2013 and can be accessed at the following:

http://medicaid.alabama.gov/CONTENT/5.0_Resources/5.4_Forms_Library/5.4.3_LTC_Forms.a_spx, then go to the Form 165.

For questions or concerns regarding the *Medicaid Hospice Program*, please contact Felicha Fisher at (334) 353-5153.

Update on New Power of Attorney (POA) Law

Governor Robert Bentley signed the "Protecting Alabama's Elders Act" into law in May 2013. This act makes misuse of the POA a felony. As with most new laws, there is a waiting period for the effective date. The effective date for this new law is September 1, 2013. While we will have more guidance for you nearer to the effective date, we think it is important to let you know that the September 1, 2013, effective date will be an important date for you to remember. This is because the law applies only to POA's who misuse an individual's funds/property AFTER September 1, 2013. Those who have used funds or transferred properties inappropriately prior to September 1, 2013, will fall under the old laws which require that the individual actually file a lawsuit in Circuit Court to attempt to have resources returned or to gain financial compensation for assets which were misused by the POA. It is also important to note that this law does not change the existing Adult Protective Services laws and there will continue to be the need to contact DHR for assistance in all appropriate cases. *Editor's Note: This article was provided by ANHA Associate Member Healthcare Compensation Solutions.*

Graduate Scholarships

The Alabama legislature appropriated \$166,027 for graduate scholarships administered by the Board of Nursing. The application and instructions are posted on their website, www.abn.alabama.gov, under Nursing Programs and then Graduate Scholarships. The deadline for application is July 31, 2013.

FACILITY NEWS

Meadowview Nursing Center has a Special Visitor



Meadowview Nursing Center in Cook Springs recently received a visit from Marine Mac McQuown. McQuown is on a mission to walk to the steps of every state capitol to raise awareness of homeless and wounded veterans. The journey is over 15,000 miles and the facility was McQuown's route. McQuown is pictured with Meadowview residents.

OTHER NEWS

Free Alzheimer's Training for Nursing Homes

A free seminar is available to Alabama nursing homes. Alzheimer's Education, Resources and Services is offering every nursing home two free registrations to attend the 11th Annual Alzheimer's Professional & Caregiver Conference on August 2 in Montgomery. This is a great opportunity to further your understanding of Alzheimer's while earning CEUs. *Please see the attached flyer for more details.*

Upcoming AHCA Webinars

Webinar: Implementing the Affordable Care Act: Countdown for Understanding Employer Requirements

Date & Time: Tuesday, August 6, 2013, 1:00 p.m.–2:00 p.m.

Speakers: Nancy Taylor, Attorney, Greenberg Traurig

Registration Link: <http://webinars.ahcancal.org/session.php?id=11155>

Session Description: Beginning in 2014 employers with 50 or more full-time or "full-time equivalent" employees during the previous calendar year must offer minimum essential health care coverage or pay a penalty. However, simply offering coverage to employees may not be enough to comply with the law.

Learning Objectives:

- What kind of coverage do you need to offer to you employees?
- Does your plan measure up to the minimum value requirements?
- Is your health care plan affordable, according to the ACA employer-mandated definition? What types of plans can continue into 2014?
- What can a self-insured group do with wellness incentives?

Save the Dates and Listen to Pre-recorded Webinar Events – July 23, August 6, 20, September 4, 10

Be Prepared. Don't Let New Surveyor Guidance for F309 Catch You Off-Guard!

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) recently released new surveyor guidance to assess compliance with F309 and F329 as they relate to residents with dementia and use of antipsychotic drugs. AHCA is pleased to offer a series of six, brief, fast-moving and content-rich webinars to help your nursing center ensure that you are well-prepared for these changes. Webinars will be grounded in a QAPI approach and provide strategies for achieving compliance with the new guidance. **Each webinar is 30-minutes and will be available on-demand.** The first webinar in the series will be available during the week of July 9. Please visit the American Health Care Association (AHCA) website <http://webinars.ahcancal.org/index.php> for more information.

Week of July 23

F 309 & Antipsychotics?! Compliance?! QAPI?! : Your Integrated Pathway to Dementia Care.

Part Two: What's Up Doc?!

Speaker: David Gifford, MD; Senior Vice President, Quality and Regulatory Affairs; AHCA

Session Description: Your nursing center has developed processes to improve individualized care for residents with dementia (consistent with new guidance at F309) and staff has become proficient in following these processes. Now....a BIG question- how do you get the doctors on board?! This session will provide insight and practical strategies to engage your external physicians so that everyone is rowing in the same direction.

Learning Objectives:

1. Be able to define actions performed by physicians
2. Determine what information physicians need to make a decision
3. Be able to explain the importance of utilizing Medical Directors to communicate with physicians

Week of August 6

F 309 & Antipsychotics?! Compliance?! QAPI?! : Your Integrated Pathway to Dementia Care.

Part Three: Mining the Family Gold

Speaker: Marguerite McLaughlin, Senior Director of Quality Improvement, AHCA

Session Description: New guidance at F309 anticipates families being engaged and providing information to nursing centers about helpful approaches when caring for their family member. The information the families possess is equivalent to gold nuggets. What they know is boundless and immensely helpful in providing individualized care. Creating a climate where families are regarded as allies and partners who not only enhances care but also makes great business sense! Join us for this short and energizing session that offers insights into engaging families.

Learning Objectives:

1. Explore ideas that enhance the level of family engagement
2. Examine ways that families skills and talents can be put to use in your setting
3. Consider small steps that can more fully engage families

AQAF Offers Hand-In-Hand Training

The Alabama Quality Assurance Foundation (AQAF) would like to help you comply with Section 6121 of the Affordable Care Act of 2010. The *Hand in Hand Training Series* is being made available to you and your staff as part of AQAF's Statewide Learning Action Network

events. AQAF is offering 25 “Train the Trainer” educational events over the next 12 months, beginning July, 10 2013. The first training session will be held in the Mobile area at Allen Memorial Home.

As many of you are aware, CMS, supported by a team of training developers and subject matter experts, created the *Hand in Hand Training Series* to ensure that nurse aides receive regular training on caring for residents with dementia, and on preventing abuse. Additionally, the series aligns with the National Partnership to Improve Dementia Care.

CMS provided to every nursing home in the country a copy of the Hand in Hand Training Series Toolkit. The toolkit is contained within a very large binder. Do you know where your binder is? Have you had the opportunity to start training? Not to worry – let AQAF help you!

The training is best done with relatively small groups due to the nature of the training and the interactive component. They plan to limit attendance to 30 per session. AQAF encourages you to take advantage of this educational opportunity! Do not wait to register as it is anticipated that the sessions will fill up quickly. *Please refer to the attached flyer for event details.*

Funding Available for Applied Research Projects to Advance Person-Centered Care

The Harvey Picker Center of Innovation and Applied Research Program is seeking proposals for specific interventions and innovations within long term care settings that facilitate the development and advancement of person-centered cultures and person-centered care within the healthcare delivery system. The expected outcome of a grantee’s project will be a demonstration, including a robust dissemination plan, of the measurable effects, affordability and sustainability of the effort to advance person-centered cultures and/or the implementation of person-centered care. The project must be consistent with one or more of the Planetree or Picker Principles of Patient-Centered Care. Details regarding the application process and eligibility can be found in the Request for Proposals at <http://newsmanager.commpartners.com/ahcamemo/downloads/Ruta01.pdf>.

The purpose of the Harvey Picker Center of Innovation and Applied Research Program is to provide annual grants to support research of innovative projects which are designed to facilitate successful initiatives that will advance the development of person-centered cultures and implementation of person-centered care across the spectrum of long-term care settings and services.

AHCA Quality Improvement Toolkits/Webinars

The 4 Key Strategies to Retain New Hires and Reduce Employee Turnover (toolkit and webinar) and the *Clinical Considerations of Antipsychotic Management* (Toolkit and webinar) are available (free) to all AHCA members at: <http://qualityinitiative.ahcancal.org>. This resource uses a process framework, based on the Nursing Process, to identify care objectives and expectations. It identifies tools and resources to help providers successfully manage antipsychotic medication use at the resident and facility level. The guide focuses on 7 critical steps needed to ensure quality outcomes that are successful and continuous.

Members will need to log-in to access the toolkits, as it is a member-only benefit. If log-in information is needed, please contact your facility Administrator or State Association and they can give you the information you need.

AHCA Convention & Expo Early Bird Registration Ends Soon!

Register before July 19 for the Greatest Savings

Before you break for summer vacation, don't forget to [register](#) for the AHCA 64th Annual Convention & Expo. Held October 6-9 in Phoenix, this is an event you don't want to miss. The convention and expo brings together thousands of long term and post-acute care professionals from across the country and creates excellent opportunities for networking and learning.

Early bird registration ends July 19 so don't wait. When you register before the early bird deadline, you'll save \$100 off the Premium and Full meeting registration packages. Additional savings are offered on other registration packages as well. For a complete list of education sessions, speakers, expo information, and event schedules, visit our [Convention & Expo website](#).

Hotels Rooms Are Booking Up Fast – Make Your Reservations Soon

NOTE: All attendees must register for the convention before hotel reservations can be made. AHCA has negotiated discounted rates with our official hotels so be sure to register and make your hotel [reservations](#) soon because rooms are going fast!

Presenters Announced for Alabama's Best Practices

Mark your calendars for August 29, 2013, for the Alabama's Best Practices Program at the Cahaba Grand Conference Center in Birmingham. Congratulations to the following facilities that have been chosen to make presentations for the 2013 Best Practices Program:

“Serenity Suite”	Oak Park Nursing Home
“Caring Paws”	Arbor Springs Health & Rehab Center
“5-Alive”	Hanceville Nursing and Rehab Center
“Off the Chain”	Coosa Valley Nursing Home
“Young Bloods”	Athens Rehabilitation Center & Senior Care
“Weight Watchers’ Happy Hour”	River City Center
“Hicks & Giggles”	Haleyville Health and Rehab
“DARE to Care Program”	South Haven Health & Rehab - Birmingham

Participants will also receive information from twelve other facilities about their Best Practices. Continuing education credit applications are pending for administrators, nurses, risk managers, assisted living administrators, social workers and activity professionals. *Please see the attached flyer for more details.*

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Time</u>
July 22	Ms. Alabama Nursing Home Pageant	Hyatt at Wynfrey Hotel	2:00 p.m.

July 29	ANHA Facility Standards Committee Meeting	Hyatt at Wynfrey Hotel Birmingham	1:30 p.m.
July 29	ANHA Region IX Meeting & Election RSVP: Irma Taylor (205) 391-3600 Irma.Taylor@northporthealth.com Guest Speaker: Joel Black, Alabama Ham Radio Club Topic: Overview of Ham Radio Services	Cypress Inn Tuscaloosa	12:00 p.m.
July 30	Seminar: 2013 Summer Regulatory Update	Hyatt at Wynfrey Hotel Birmingham	8:30 a.m.
July 30	ANHA Region III Meeting & Election RSVP: Kevin Ball (205) 788-6330 kball@ballhealth.com Lunch will be provided	Genesis Magnolia Ridge Gardendale	12:00 p.m.
July 31	ANHA Region II Meeting RSVP: Jim Walker (256) 927-7408, jimwalker@earthlink.net	Catfish Cabin Albertville	12:00 p.m.
August 1	ANHA Region V Meeting & Election RSVP: Eldridge Stewart (334) 682-4231, estewart@frontiernet.net	Golden Ranch BBQ Selma	12:00 p.m.

Alabama Nursing Home Association

4156 Carmichael Road ♦ Montgomery, AL 36106 ♦ PH: (334) 271-6214 ♦ FAX: (334) 244-6509

Links:

Alabama Nursing Home Association <http://www.anha.org>

AL Board of Examiners of Nursing Home Administrators <http://www.alboenha.state.al.us>

AL Dept. of Public Health <http://www.adph.org>

CMS <http://cms.gov>