

MONDAY

ONLINE

MAILING

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Top Stories

DHS to Hold Videoconference on New Customized Living Tool

At a Jan. 8 videoconference, the Minnesota Department of Human Services (DHS) will present the first part of a tool designed to facilitate discussion between Elderly Waiver (EW) lead agencies and providers of EW customized living services. Last Wednesday, **Jocelyn Schowalter, Director, Assisted Living for Amherst H. Wilder Foundation Supportive Housing Management**, and **Sarah VanWinkle, Home Care Nursing Director, Sholom Community Alliance**, along with Mary Youle, MHHA, and members and staff from the Minnesota HomeCare Association and Care Providers of Minnesota met with DHS staff, counties and health plan representatives to review and provide comments on the first part of the tool.

According to Darlene Schroeder of DHS, the tool will eventually have three parts. The first section, which will be presented at the videoconference, is designed to be completed by providers for their lead agencies. The form asks for information about the type of housing, the home care license, and the services eligible under the EW customized living service package that the provider has available. The second part of the tool will provide a format for the lead agency and provider to negotiate and then list the rate the provider will be given for each eligible customized living service that the provider offers. The third section of the tool will be the individual client planning form, which will identify the services the client is to receive based on the client's Long-Term Care Consultation needs assessment and the rate that will be paid. Schroeder says that when all three parts of the tool are completed, lead agencies will be expected to either use the DHS tool or a comparable methodology of their own.

The draft form reviewed last week included some questions that are similar to the Assisted Living Uniform Consumer Information Guide. Providers will be asked to check which of the eligible customized living services they offer, indicate the days of the week that each service is available, and add comments on service limitations or special features. The draft was seven pages long, but the final form may be shorter as a result of the feedback that providers and others gave DHS at last week's meeting. Although the first part of the tool will be available to lead agencies and providers at the videoconference, Schroeder indicated that it is "a work in progress" and may see additional revisions in the future.

If you were unable to attend the videoconference, the handouts from this session will be posted at <http://tinyurl.com/3d33s6>. For more information, contact Mary Youle, myoule@mhha.com.

Property Tax Conference Calls This Week

MHHA will sponsor two telephone conference calls on the recent Minnesota Supreme Court decision that tightened property tax exemption requirements for nonprofit organizations. The first conference call will be for housing members on Wednesday, January 9, from 1:30 to 2:30. The second conference call will be for care center members on Thursday, January 10, from 1:30 to 2:30. MHHA moved the care center call from Wednesday at the request of members who wanted to attend the MHHA educational program on the new Quality Indicators Survey.

MHHA sent information on how to dial in to the conference call to members in a Member Alert on Friday, January 4. MHHA will send another Member Alert containing additional materials regarding the case and issues to members prior to the conference calls.

Members who have not received this information the day before their conference call should contact Alecia Crumpler, acrumpler@mhha.com.

CMS Announces MDS 3.0 Timeline

On December 31, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services released its timeline for implementation of the MDS 3.0. CMS released its first draft of the MDS 3.0 back in 2003; the MDS has not been updated since 1995. If all goes as planned, CMS will implement the new MDS on October 1, 2009. On that date, all certified facilities will need to complete the MDS 3.0, but it will take two more years for the MDS 2.0 data to be completely removed from the derivative measures--the quality indicators used in the survey process and the quality measures reported on Nursing Home Compare.

CMS also announced a special open door forum (a national telephone conference call) for January 24 to report on the findings of a 5-year MDS 3.0 validation study. Unlike the regular open door forum calls, however, this one requires advance

registration. CMS's online registration form requested that registrations begin on January 8, but apparently CMS let people register early. On Sunday, January 6, the registration site indicated that the maximum number of telephone registrations had already been reached and that only onsite registration was available. MHHA has protested this procedure to CMS, but it is unclear whether CMS will provide more telephone lines.

In order to see if more telephone lines are made available, interested members should try to register online https://registration.intercall.com/menu.php?short_name=cms2. Make sure that you are registering for the telephone call, not the onsite meeting. If you are allowed to register, you will receive a confirmation e-mail containing further participation information.

Interested members can listen to an audio recording of the special open door forum here. It will be accessible for downloading beginning January 30, 2008 and available for 30 days.

Members will want to check the MDS 3.0 page, http://www.cms.hhs.gov/NursingHomeQualityInits/25_NHQIMDS30.asp on the CMS nursing home quality initiative website regularly over the next 21 months for current information on the MDS 3.0. The web site contains an important document--the implementation timeline. CMS will post the **updated** draft version and written introduction before the January 24 special open door forum, so interested members will want to check this site in a couple of weeks. The site also contains the draft MDS 3.0 that was field tested in several states in 2008.

The key dates in the implementation timeline are the following:

By January 24, 2008--posting of updated draft MDS 3.0 on CMS website (see above)
Spring 2008--MDS 2.0/3.0 crosswalk available to providers, vendors, and states
Spring 2008--MDS 3.0 transition plan available to providers, vendors, and states
November 2008--draft MDS 3.0 specifications to vendors and providers
February 2009--final MDS 3.0 specifications to vendors and providers
July 2009--RUG changes for SNF PPS system in *Federal Register*
October 1, 2009--implementation of MDS 3.0

In addition, there are separate implementation timelines for the use of the MDS 3.0 in the survey quality indicators and the quality measures reported on Nursing Home Compare.

For the survey quality indicators, here is the timeline:

- October 2009, June 2010: the QIs use MDS 2.0 and 3.0 data
- July 2011, Sept. 2011: the QIs use MDS 3.0 with minor carry forward of 2.0
- Oct. 2011, the QIs use MDS 3.0 only

Members will note that there is an entire year missing in this timeline--July 2010 through June 2011. MHHA has asked CMS whether the missing year will be included in the first or second bulleted timeframe and will let members know when CMS responds.

For the quality measures on Nursing Home Compare, here is the timeline:

Oct. 2009--March 2010: the QMs use MDS 2.0 data only
April 2010--Sept. 2010: the QMs use MDS 2.0 and 3.0 data
Oct. 2010--Sept. 2011: the QMs use MDS 3.0 with minor carry forward of 2.0 data
Oct. 2011: the QMs use MDS 3.0 only

For more information, contact Darrell Shreve at dshreve@mhha.com or Liz Sether at esether@mhha.com.

DHS Issues Study of Care Coordination in Managed Care Programs

DHS has released *A Study of Care Coordination and Case Management in Minnesota's Publicly-Funded Managed Health Care Programs for Seniors*, which was conducted by Halleland Health Consulting, Inc. in partnership with three co-investigators. The purpose of the study was to identify the structures and processes of care coordination and case management currently in use by the nine managed care organizations (MCOs) that contract with the State of Minnesota for Minnesota Senior Care (MSC), Minnesota Senior Care Plus (MSC+) and Minnesota Senior Health Options (MSHO). This information was collected to determine the impact of statewide expansion of MSHO on the care coordination and case management models, and to determine the models of care coordination that should be considered in the future.

Four models of care coordination and case management used by the MCOs were studied:

- MCO contracts with the county to provide care coordination services
- MCO has a MCO Care Coordinator to for each plan member/consumer
- The Care Coordinator or Case Manager is part of the clinic system or delivery operations that provides care coordination and case management services
- County-based purchasing model, where the county forms its own MCO and uses county-based purchasing employees or contracts with counties to provide care coordination and case management.

Consumers interviewed in the study reported an overall satisfaction rate of 89 percent, and between 72 and 91 percent of

those interviewed reported that problems are resolved quickly. The study also discussed consumers who refuse home visits from the care coordinator, special cultural needs, concerns that care coordination puts insufficient emphasis on support and coordination for informal caregivers, consumer complaints, accidental disenrollment issues, and more.

Echoing what providers have reported, the study notes that consumers "living in Assisted Living and Nursing Homes, where there are other skilled providers responsible to oversee their care and assess their needs, may pose a special case for the standard Care Coordination staffing plan. A close look at what the State requires for these types of providers and how the MCO's currently staff their Care Coordination requirements may reveal overlapping and resource inefficient processes." The study also found that "Providers... continue to have problems navigating the billing processes established by the MCOs. Providers report that MCOs offer varying interpretations of benefits."

Among the other findings, the study said that current case loads for care coordinators "exceed those established as goals by MCO administrators. The size of an appropriate case load may depend on the distance the Care Coordinator must travel, the fragility of the member, and the member's living situation. The need for an MCO Care Coordinator for members in nursing homes and in assisted living facilities is unclear."

The study's conclusions and recommendations are found in the executive summary, available here. The full 162-page study is available <http://edocs.dhs.state.mn.us/lfsrserver/Legacy/DHS-4986-ENG>. Two other documents prepared in conjunction with the study are a literature review, Appendix A, <http://edocs.dhs.state.mn.us/lfsrserver/Legacy/DHS-4986B-ENG> and a Care Coordination Framework, Appendix B, <http://edocs.dhs.state.mn.us/lfsrserver/Legacy/DHS-4986C-ENG>.

For more information, contact Mary Youle at myoule@mhha.com.

Tell MHHA about EW Clients Who Don't Qualify for 24-Hour Customized Living

If you serve Elderly Waiver clients who previously received services under the 24-hour Customized Living service package but no longer qualify because of the additional 2007 eligibility requirements, we'd like to hear about it. Please tell us about the impacts that you're seeing as a result of these new eligibility requirements by completing a short online survey for **each client** that has been negatively affected. This information will be helpful to MHHA and the Imperative as we talk to legislators about the consequences of the 2007 changes.

Please complete a separate survey form, <http://tinyurl.com/3x884c> for each EW client impacted by the new eligibility requirements for the 24-hour Customized Living service package. These requirements are described in the Department of Human Services' bulletin #07-25-07, found at <http://tinyurl.com/yodhcx>.

For more information, contact Mary Youle at myoule@mhha.com.

Chamber Schedules Regional Meetings on Legislative Priorities

The Minnesota Chamber of Commerce has announced a series of regional meetings to gather feedback on their 2008 Legislative Agenda. They invite Chamber members to join them to provide input on their 2008 transportation funding policy as well as address other critical issues facing the business community including the state budget, health care reform, workers' compensation costs, climate change and more. This is a great opportunity for MHHA members to raise awareness and support for long-term care with the Chamber and their local business community.

A strong point that we can make with the business community is the large economic impact providers of older adult services have on local communities. According to the *Minnesota Department of Human Services Transform 2010 Economic Impact Study*, Minnesota's nursing and residential care facilities support, either directly or indirectly, 120,000 jobs. Wages that are attributed to nursing and residential care facilities total \$2.6 billion each year.

With news of an economic downturn in Minnesota, policymakers are looking for ways to invest and jump-start the economy. Investing additional dollars in long term care can be part of the solution. Providers should attend these meetings and call on their local Chamber to include additional funding for older adult services as a top priority in 2008.

The list of meeting times and locations are listed below. Please confirm your attendance by e-mailing Doug McGregor at dmcgregor@mnchamber.com or calling him at (651) 292-4681 or (800) 821-2230.

Tuesday, January 8	8 a.m.	Austin	Austin Chamber of Commerce, 329 North Main, #102
Wednesday, January 9	2 p.m.	St. Paul	St. Paul Area Chamber of Commerce, 401 North Robert Street, Suite 150
Thursday, January 10	3:30 p.m.	Alexandria	Alexandria Extrusion Company - Main Plant, 401 County Road 22 NW
Thursday, January 10	7:30 a.m.	Chanhassen	Country Inn and Suites, 591 West 78th Street
Thursday, January 10	Noon	Fergus Falls	Otter Tail Power Community Room, 215 South Cascade Street
Thursday, January 10	7:30 a.m.	Hastings	Hastings Area Chamber of Commerce, 111 East Third Street

Thursday, January 10	8 a.m.	Litchfield	Litchfield Library, 216 North Marshall Avenue
Thursday, January 10	Noon	Marshall	Marshall Area YMCA, 200 South A Street
Thursday, January 10	12:15 p.m.	Owatonna	Torey's Restaurant, 685 W. Bridge St. #5
Thursday, January 10	3:30 p.m.	Ham Lake	Majestic Oaks Golf Club, 701 Bunker Lake Blvd.
Friday, January 11	Noon	St. Cloud	Spee-Dee Delivery, 4101 Clearwater Road
Monday, January 14	Noon	Willmar	Willmar Conference Center, 2100 East Highway 12
Tuesday, January 15	8 a.m.	Mankato	Technology Plus - Classroom B, 1961 Premier Drive
Wednesday, January 16	7:30 a.m.	Lakeville	Lakeville Chamber of Commerce, 19950 Dodd Blvd, Suite 101
Wednesday, January 16	7:30 a.m.	Plymouth	Twin West Chamber of Commerce, 10700 County Road 15
Thursday, January 17	9:15 a.m.	Brainerd	Brainerd Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce, 124 North Sixth Street

At the State Capitol

Senate Democrats Pick Up a Seat in Special Election for SD 25; Senate Now Veto Proof

The DFL Majority in the Senate grew to 45 seats after last week's special election in southern Minnesota. Senate Republicans will now only have 21 members of their caucus. The victory gives the Senate the two-thirds majority they need to override a gubernatorial veto. The Minnesota House majority caucus is still shy of the 90 votes it needs to have a guaranteed veto override. A two-thirds vote of the members in each house is needed to override a veto.

Democrat Kevin Dahle of Northfield will be District 25's next state senator. Dahle won the special election on January 3 with 55 percent of the vote, defeating Republican Ray Cox of Northfield with 42 percent and Independence Party candidate Vance Norgaard of Northfield with 2 percent.

Dahle has been a high school teacher in the Northfield School District since 1993. He teaches social studies and driver education. Dahle is married and had three children. Dahle's lists his priorities as "education, affordable health care, and building working coalitions."

The election to fill a state senate seat was called just a month ago after former Republican State Sen. Tom Neuville, who held the seat since the early '90s, resigned to take a Third District judgeship. District 25 includes northern Rice County, Le Sueur County, and portions of Sibley and Scott counties.

For more information, please contact Kari Thurlow at kthurlow@mhha.com.

News Briefs

Health Department Announces Nursing Facility Technology Grant Recipients

The Minnesota Department of Health has announced the recipients of the Nursing Home Technology Pilot Grant Program. A total of \$120,000 was awarded to nine facilities to implement innovative technology projects that benefit residents and can be replicated statewide.

The department received 25 applications in response to the RFP published last year, with funding requests totaling over \$678,585. This was five times the funding available and underscores the very real need for technology funding in aging services settings.

MHHA would like to congratulate our members (listed in **bold**) who were approved for funding. For more information, contact Lori Meyer at lmeyer@mhha.com.

Facility	City	Funding Request	Summary	Approved Funding
Bigfork Valley	Bigfork	\$40,000	Implement voice recognition Technology/ AccuNurse System. Provides staff with hands free audible resident care plans, reminders, and checklists, and can also serve as a paging system without the use of overhead announcements. Real time information is passed back and forth from aide to nurse.	\$22,000

Bridges Medical Center	Ada	\$11,390	Install Web Cams for residents to maintain contact with family. Two computers, outfitted with webcams, speakers, and microphones will be purchased and installed in the Center. 16 web cams will also be purchased for a lending library for family member use.	\$11,000
Elim Care & Rehab Center	Milaca	\$35,850	Restaurant Style Dining. Purchase a ticket ordering system and other kitchen equipment to provide a restaurant style dining experience which would address resident needs, restrictions and preferences.	\$11,000
Emmanuel Community	Detroit Lakes	\$8,500	[m]Power Cognitive Fitness Program. Purchase & implement 5 cognitive tech. stations (including subscription and warranty) specifically designed for cognitive fitness. (m) Power uses touch screen technology and has a built-in camera and automatic facial recognition feature. Technology self adjusts between five levels of challenge.	\$8,500
Evergreen Terrace	Grand Rapids	\$15,031	"Generation Connect." Purchase and install 4 lap tops with web cams & microphones. Provide wireless areas and Internet access for residents.	\$11,000
University Good Samaritan	Mpls	\$7,999	Use Soundbeam Technology to provide music creation opportunities for individuals with cognitive and physical limitations. Technology is from United Kingdom and would be new to U.S.	\$7,999
Presbyterian Homes	Arden Hills	\$22,878	Using Tech. to Improve Intellectual Wellness. Purchase and installation of the (m) Power Cognitive Fitness System. (m) Power uses touch screen technology and has a built- in camera and automatic facial recognition feature. Technology self adjusts between five levels of challenge.	\$8,500
Redeemer Health & Rehab	Mpls	\$35,850	Purchase computer equipment and pilot the "It's Never 2 Late 2 Learn" software - - computer based training programs targeting cognitive, physical and sensory activity. Touch screen/ interactive entertainment. Audio e-mail capabilities. Adaptive technology. Therapeutic application.	\$20,000
St. Mary's Regional Health	Detroit Lakes	\$26,000	Purchase and implement the "It's Never 2 Late" adaptive computer technology for residents. Touch screen/ interactive entertainment. Audio e-mail capabilities. Adaptive technology. Therapeutic application.	\$20,000

MHHA Develops Notice of Employee Rights

In response to numerous requests from members, MHHA has prepared a notice of employee rights and remedies that members can use to satisfy the new requirement under Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 181.9631. This new statutory language requires employers (with 20 or more employees) to provide written notice to a job applicant upon hire of the rights and remedies provided in Minnesota Statutes sections 181.960, <http://ros.leg.mn/bin/getpub.php?type=s&num=181.960&year=2007> to 181.965, <http://ros.leg.mn/bin/getpub.php?type=s&num=181.965&year=2007>. MHHA is also providing a copy of the statutory language for those members who wish to distribute it.

To download the notice of employee rights and remedies, click on <http://www.mhha.com/inc/data/EmployeeRightsNoticeJanuary2008.doc>. If you simply want to place the required notice in your employee handbook, you can just copy the first paragraph of MHHA's notice. Otherwise, you can distribute the entire notice to new employees.

To download the statutory language itself, click on <http://www.mhha.com/inc/data/EmployeeRightsStatuteJanuary2008.doc>. There is no requirement to distribute the statutory language, but you can do so voluntarily.

For more information, contact Darrell Shreve at [Darrell Shreve](#).

DHS Releases PIP Application Information

The Minnesota Department of Human Services (DHS) has informed MHHA that they received 67 applications for the Performance Incentive Payment Program (PIP) by the December 31, 2007, deadline. According to DHS, 23 of the submitted proposals involved collaborations between multiple nursing facilities--ranging from two to 52 facilities. DHS also notes that many facilities are involved in multiple proposals.

DHS is currently conducting an internal review of the applications to weed out proposals that do not meet specified requirements. A review team will then conduct a selection process and approved projects will be invited into contract

negotiations. Watch *Monday Mailing* for further updates or contact Lori Meyer at lmeyer@mhha.com for additional information.

Updates on HUD Policies and Resources

HUD has recently issued a revised Real Estate Assessment Center (REAC) bulletin and moved the HUDClips web site. In addition, the IRS has published the 2008 mileage rate for use in determining medical deductions. Here are the details:

REAC: REAC Compilation Bulletin, Revision 1, contains the standards and practices that all REAC inspections must follow beginning Jan. 1, 2008. This revision, found at http://www.hud.gov/offices/reac/products/pass/PDFs/pass_bulletin.pdf, replaces the Aug. 26, 2002, version. General information about REAC physical inspections is available at <http://www.hud.gov/offices/reac/products/prodpass.cfm>.

HUDClips: HUD's Client Information and Policy System (HUDClips) web site has been revamped and has been incorporated into the main HUD web site. The new HUDClips web site appears well-designed and user-friendly, and it contains quick links to:

- Laws
- Bulletins
- *Federal Register* publications
- HUD forms
- HUD guidebooks and handbooks, and more.

2008 Mileage Rate for Medical Expense Deductions: According to HUD Handbook 4350.3, exhibit 5-3, medical expenses may include transportation to/from treatment and lodging, either the actual cost (e.g., bus fare) or, if driving in a car, a mileage rate based on IRS rules or other accepted standard. The Internal Revenue Service has announced the following standard mileage rates for the use of a car (including vans, pickups or panel trucks), effective Jan. 1, 2008:

- 50.5 cents per mile for business miles driven (compared to 48.5 cents per mile in 2007);
- 19 cents per mile driven for medical or moving purposes (compared to 20 cents per mile in 2007); and
- 14 cents per mile driven in service of charitable organizations (same rate as in 2007).

Rural Health Forums Occurring this Month

The Office of Rural Health and Primary Care (ORHPC) will be hosting four community forums around the state to learn what is happening in rural communities regarding health care issues. These forums are a great opportunity for long-term care providers to express what you believe is needed or could be utilized differently in rural areas.

The following is a listing of locations and dates of the forums:

January 10, Mahanomen, Shooting Star Casino
January 11, Hibbing, Hibbing Community College
January 23, Owatonna, Gainey Conference Center
January 25, Marshall, AmericInn of Marshall

Each forum will include the following agenda:

10 a.m. Welcome and Overview of Rural Health Changes
Discussion on Critical Access Hospital issues
Discussion on Emergency Medical Service issues

11:45 a.m. Lunch Break

12:15 p.m. Discussion on Other Health Care Organizations' issues
Discussion on Consumer and/or Community Development issues by Community Leaders
Prioritization of issues/concerns per discussion group area

2 p.m. Adjourn

Information from forum participants will be used to guide development activities at ORHPC and shape policies at both state and federal levels.

Members can register online by clicking on <https://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/orhpc/flex/> for the specific forum you want to attend. Or, you can fill out this form <http://www.mhha.com/inc/data/CommunityForumRegistrationflyer.pdf> and return it by mail or fax. There is no charge to register, and lunch is provided.

For more information, contact Kari Thurlow at kthurlow@mhha.com.

Member News

Member News

In this week's Member News, http://www.mhha.com/index/Member_News read about Mary Leber being named head of Ecumen Consulting Services. Send your news to Jenny Mims at jmims@mhha.com.

Association News

Leader-to-Leader: January District Meeting Breakouts

In addition to the core purpose of the MHHA January district meetings, which is the legislative town hall forums highlighted in last week's *Monday Mailing*, breakout programs for care centers and housing are planned following the forums to maximize the value of the time you invest in travel. Connect with fellow leaders from your region by attending one of the following breakouts.

The housing breakout will be a dialogue on emerging legal issues facing senior housing providers, including leading strategies and resources to stay financially solvent in response to Elderly Waiver customized living, implications of the recent tax exempt status from the recent Supreme Court case, potential food licensing issues related to "activity" kitchens, and issues surrounding leave days, security deposits and rent limits for residents on Elderly Waiver.

The care center breakout will include a series of short presentations from fellow leaders in the district on a wide range of innovative activities. From new staffing models to wellness centers, there are lessons we can learn from each other on innovative ways to serve older adults differently. Topics will vary by district, but are likely to include changing business models, integrating emerging technologies, implementation of culture change, and incorporating new design trends into remodeling or building projects.

Mark your calendar today:

- January 15, District C, 1-4 p.m., Nelson Gables, 1220 Nokomis Street, Alexandria
- January 16, District A, 12-3 p.m., Fireside Grill & Patio, Highway 2 West, Bagley
- January 17, District B, 9-12 p.m., Lakeshore (A Superior Way of Life), 4002 London Road, Duluth
- January 22, District D, 9-12 p.m., Elim Care and Rehab Center, 701 1st street, Princeton
- January 23, District E, 12-3:30 p.m., Redwood Area Community Center, 901 Cook Street, Redwood Falls
- January 24, District F, 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Cabela's, 3900 Cabela Drive, Owatonna
- January 25, District G, 9 a.m.-12 noon, Lyngblomsten Care Center, 1415 Almond Avenue, St. Paul.

For further information, read the program online <http://www.mhha.com/inc/data/januaryprogram.pdf> or contact Adam Suomala, asuomala@mhha.com for more information.

PAC Silent Auction, a Sweetheart of a Deal

MHHA PAC will be holding a silent auction at MHHA Institute for Older Adult Services as its first major fundraiser of the year, and because it is just a week before Valentine's Day, it will be a great opportunity to take care of your shopping for your sweetheart. The auction will be held on February 6 and 7, with new items added each day.

MHHA PAC wants to thank those that have already committed donations for the silent auction:

Daniel McInerney Jr., Leonard, Street and Deinard, P.A.
Jeff Lindoo, Thrifty White Pharmacy Services
Nancy Rehkamp, LarsonAllen, LLP
David Newton, Sodexho Senior Services
Rick Steinhauser, Merwin LTC Pharmacy
Stephanie Atwell, Kraus-Anderson Construction Company
Wendy Finch, Easy CEU.com
Sheila Longie, Document Destruction
Susan Shaffer, Orbovich & Gartner, Chartered

There is still time to donate items to the silent auction. We are looking for fun, unique items at a variety of price points. How about a cozy handmade quilt to cuddle up with your Valentine, a trip to somewhere warm, a dog sledding trip for two in northern Minnesota, a Nintendo Wii Gaming System, or a gift basket for those pampered pets? This is a great way to show your support for MHHA PAC at MHHA's largest signature event. We have lots of ideas, so if you need help coming up with a donation, just let us know.

If you are interested in donating an item for the silent auction, please contact the MHHA PAC's silent auction coordinator, Rebecca Fritz, fritz6pak@charter.net or Kari Thurlow, kthurlow@mhha.com.

Nursing Facility Legislative Survey Deadline Extended

MHHA would like to thank those members who have completed and returned the 2008 Long-Term Care Imperative Nursing Facility Legislative Survey. The data collected in that survey is crucial to our advocacy efforts in the upcoming legislative session. Facilities who have not yet submitted that data can still do so; the deadline for that survey has been extended to

January 23. For members who do not have the form that was mailed to their nursing facility in December, the form is posted in the "Surveys and Data" section (log in) of <http://www.MHHA.com>. For more information, contact Jeff Bostic, jbostic@mhha.com.

Call for 2008 MHHA Committee Participation

As we head into the second year of our MHHA committee cycle, we encourage members to take another look at the committees and workgroups that are carrying out the strategic work of MHHA and invite your participation.

In 2008, our committees will be building off the exciting progress made over the past year. This progress is made possible due to the time and input of the members who volunteer to participate in MHHA committees. We hope you will be a part of this essential work in the coming year.

2008 committee charters and a sign-up form are posted on our website at <http://www.mhha.com/inc/data/2008committeesignup.pdf>. If you would like to participate on a 2008 MHHA committee, download the sign-up form and return it to Nancy Garrett by mail for fax no later than Friday, January 25, 2008. For more information, contact Nancy Garrett, ngarrett@mhha.com.

Space Reservation Deadline for the 2008 Member Directory and Buyer's Guide is Fast Approaching

The 2008 MHHA Member Directory & Buyer's Guide advertising deadline is fast approaching. MHHA Business Partners won't want to miss out on this great opportunity to get your name in front of MHHA members through your advertising support of this valuable member resource. MHHA members rely on this desktop directory and frequently use the publication as a networking, information and purchasing guide throughout the year.

If you have a product or service to advertise, check out MHHA's <http://www.mhha.com/inc/data/FullMediaKit.pdf> for further information. Contact Megan Prosser, mprosser@mhha.com or Jenny Mims, jmims@mhha.com at MHHA now to secure the best placement.

The space reservation deadline is extended until Jan 18 with artwork due by Jan. 25. The directory will be published in March.

MHHA thanks business partner [Health Service Innovations](#) and our other business partners for their support.

Minnesota Health and Housing Alliance
2550 University Avenue West, Suite 350S, St. Paul, MN 55114-1900
Phone: 651-645-4545, Toll Free: 800-462-5368, Fax: 651-645-0002

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