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2010 Legislative Session Begins Thursday

If your political inbox is full with discussions of budget deficits, unallotment, GAMC, bonding bills, and the upcoming elections, it can only mean one thing - the 2010 legislative session is here.

Expectations

It is no secret that the state is facing yet another budget deficit, this time around \$1.2 billion for the remainder of the 2010-2011 biennium. The good news is that the updated economic forecast to be released in early March may show a bit of a decrease in the deficit, to about \$1 billion. Of course, neither of these numbers includes inflation.

Legislative leaders and the governor have already staked out their positions on balancing the budget: Gov. Tim Pawlenty is opposed to raising taxes; DFLers are looking for a more "balanced" approach of cuts and tax increases; and legislative Republicans are following the governor in calling for balancing the budget through cuts alone. It is unlikely that we will see anyone's budget proposals before mid-February, and possibly later into session.

The key players who factor in balancing the health and human services budget are all skeptical that it can be done without taking at least \$370 million more out of a budget that saw over a \$1 billion cut in the 2009 session. Sen. Linda Berglin, DFL-Minneapolis and Rep. Tom Huntley, DFL-Duluth chair the HHS finance committees in their respective bodies. Sen. Berglin and Rep. Huntley have both indicated there are few or no sacred cows this legislative session when it comes to balancing the budget, including care centers and other older adult services.

The two chairs are currently focused on finding a way to restore General Assistance Medical Care (GAMC), the state's safety net health care program for Minnesota's indigent population. The governor line-item vetoed spending for the program and later unallotted remaining funding, proposing instead to move these people into MinnesotaCare. Critics charge MinnesotaCare is the wrong program for a population with serious issues; in addition, the funding source for MinnesotaCare cannot support the influx of new enrollees without going insolvent in FY2011, which in turn will create an even bigger hole in the General Fund.

Legislative leaders have identified two early priorities for the session: passing a restoration of GAMC and job-creation legislation. The jobs legislation is found in the bonding bill and a "jobs" bill that includes tax incentives for hiring. The GAMC bill is expected to be voted on by both bodies within the first two weeks of session. Also look for fast movement on the bonding bill.

Another item to watch will be a state Supreme Court decision on Gov. Pawlenty's use of unallotment in June 2009. The governor has appealed a recent Minnesota District Court ruling against his usage of unallotment. Oral arguments for the appeal have been scheduled for March 15 before the Minnesota Supreme Court. If the Court upholds the lower ruling, it could potentially overturn his \$2.7 billion unallotment -- leaving that much more for the legislature to fix.

Advocacy

Aging Services will ask our Housing-with-Services Champions and Care Center Champions to again be our first line of grassroots advocacy action on legislative measures. You can join these Champions networks by clicking on HWS Champions at jmcnertney@agingservicesmn.org) or Care Center Champions or kthurlow@agingservicesmn.org).

Champions were the key to our successes in the 2009 legislative session. Given that budget cuts will again be on the table, we will need your help again this year.

In addition to our Champions networks, we will also be sending all members grassroots assignments and the tools you will need to carry out those assignments throughout the legislative session. The goal is to give members the tools they need when they need them. Later this week, all Aging Services members will receive more information about this "rolling toolkit" along with their first advocacy assignment.

Aging Services is again working with our partners in the Long-Term Care Imperative to protect funding for older adult services and protect the Housing-With-Services Contract Act.

Our key objectives are to continue to achieve tactical "wins" this legislative session while also laying the groundwork for long-range reform that can be implemented in 2011 and 2012. To that end, our 2010 legislative agenda is strategically focused

<http://www.agingservicesmn.org/inc/data/LegislativeAgenda-2010.doc> on reform and maintaining quality. Reform comes through realizing personal responsibility by repealing rate equalization and financing reform by implementing PACE. We will fight to maintain quality in older adult services by defending against rate reductions and any changes to housing-with-services that infringe on an individual's right to live where he or she chooses.

The LTCI has also put forth the "Change is Imperative" platform

<http://www.agingservicesmn.org/inc/data/ChangeIsImperative.pdf>, which is our long-range reform plan. This platform calls on policy makers to focus on addressing the Age Wave by recognizing the importance of personal and public responsibility as well as a call for administrative alignment in older adult services. This document is being shared with all legislators and candidates for elected office and is intended to be a ready-made "platform" for addressing our changing demographics. This platform is the foundation for our work during the 2010 election season and for future legislative sessions.

There is no doubt the 2010 legislative session will be a challenging one for older adult services. Aging Services will be fighting for older adult services at the capitol and will be asking for your help and support in contacting local legislators.

Key Dates for the 2010 Legislative Session

Feb. 11: Governor's State of the State Address

Week of March 1: Updated economic forecast expected

March 15: Unallotment argument before Minnesota Supreme Court

March 26-April 5: Likely legislative spring break

April 23-25: State DFL Convention, endorsement for governor

April 29-May 1: State GOP Convention, endorsement for governor

May 17: Constitutional deadline for adjournment

Legislative Deadlines

Every session there are three important deadlines to be aware of:

- 1st deadline: policy bills must be through all policy committees in one body
- 2nd deadline: policy bills must be through all policy committees in other body
- 3rd deadline: finance bills through finance committees, finance committees have omnibus bills put together.

The deadlines for the 2010 session have not yet been set. There is usually a good amount of politicking that goes with deciding the dates.

For Further Information:

Contact Jen McNertney at jmcnertney@agingservicesmn.org or Kari Thurlow at kthurlow@agingservicesmn.org.

Tomorrow is Precinct Caucus Day

Tomorrow (Tuesday, Feb. 2) marks the true beginning of the 2010 election year as all the major political parties hold their precinct caucuses.

A precinct caucus is a meeting organized by Minnesota's political parties where citizens can engage each other in a conversation about which candidates to support in the 2010 election and what public policy positions should be adopted as part of the party's platform.

Here are three reasons for you to attend:

- This is true grassroots politics. It is a place where you can talk to like minded people from your neighborhoods about issues that matter to you.
- This is a good chance to meet your local elected officials. Legislators and other local elected officials tend to show up at these events to hear about your concerns. So, this is a good way to catch your legislators before they head to St. Paul on Thursday, Feb. 4.
- This is where issues like older adult services begin to gain traction as priorities to candidates and parties. The more people who talk about older adult services at a precinct caucus, the more attention it garners down the road.

The caucuses are open to the public. To participate, you must be eligible to vote in the general election on Tuesday, Nov. 2, and be likely to support the candidates of the party whose caucus you attend.

You can find out the location of your precinct caucus by visiting the Minnesota Secretary of State's website at: <http://www.sos.state.mn.us/index.aspx?page=886> This Web site also contains links to all of the major political parties. We encourage you to visit these Web sites to get more information about each party's platform.

When you attend your precinct caucus, please take the following actions:

- Propose a resolution at your caucus and urge that other caucus attendees support the resolution. Resolutions help the parties develop their party platforms, and the more precincts that pass the same resolution, the more likely the issue will become part of the party platform. For three samples, click <http://www.agingservicesmn.org/inc/data/ResolutionsforPrecinctCaucus.doc>.
- Volunteer to be a delegate or alternate to the next level of the process--usually your legislative district convention, where delegates and alternates will then be chosen to attend the state convention. Delegates at the state convention have unique access to candidates for statewide office, and provide an opportunity to ensure that the candidates hear about older adult services.

For Further Information:

Contact Jen McNertney at jmcnertney@agingservicesmn.org or Kari Thurlow at kthurlow@agingservicesmn.org.

Immediate Action Needed on Therapy Caps

Because the Medicare therapy caps exceptions process expired as of Jan. 1, all Medicare beneficiaries once again are at risk for the cost of physical, speech and occupational therapy costs in excess of the annual caps.

This year, the caps are \$1,860 for physical and speech therapy combined and another \$1,860 for occupational therapy for each beneficiary. The exceptions process enables beneficiaries with specific health conditions to have Medicare cover the amount of therapy they need regardless of the caps.

Without the exceptions process, beneficiaries who receive their therapy through skilled nursing facilities, home health agencies, rehabilitation facilities, or physicians' offices will once again become subject to the annual caps.

Beneficiaries who exceed the caps before Congress extends the exceptions process will have three choices:

- Obtain therapy in a hospital outpatient department, where therapy is not subject to the annual caps

- Pay out of pocket for therapy services
- Delay further therapy until the exceptions process is restored.

Health care reform legislation would extend the exceptions process, but final passage of this measure has been delayed. We must urge Congress to act immediately to ensure that beneficiaries will not become subject to the caps.

Please click on the following link: <http://capwiz.com/aahsa/issues/alert/?alertid=14621881> to access AAHSA's Contact Congress website and send a message to your Representatives on this issue.

For Further Information:

Contact Jen McNertney at jmcnertney@agingservicesmn.org or Kari Thurlow at kthurlow@agingservicesmn.org.

Older Adult Stakeholders meet with Legislators

Last Thursday, representatives from Aging Services and other older adult stakeholder organizations came together for an informational meeting with state legislators and staff.

The meeting was designed to increase awareness and understanding of the state's home and community-based services model for older adults. Many legislators are still unaware of the rich array of services available to older adults outside of the care center setting.

Aging Services staff member Jen McNertney, our Long-Term Care Imperative Partner, AARP, **Courage Center**, Lutheran Social Services, Minnesota Home Care Association, Seniors and Workers for Quality, and the Office of the Ombudsman for Long-Term Care, spent over an hour with legislators and legislative staff, discussing different services and answering questions.

This informal group of older adult stakeholder lobbyists and advocates has been meeting together on a semi-regular basis to help unify messages around support for older adult services. The legislative meeting will be the first of many to continue our work advocating on behalf of Minnesota's older adults and those who serve them.

For Further Information:

Contact Jen McNertney at jmcnertney@agingservicesmn.org.

Health Care Reform to be Focus of Institute Programming

While national health care reform legislation may be stalled in Congress, there are pieces of it that have already gained some momentum and should be on members' radar screens as they think about and plan for changing their operations to respond to a changing environment.

There are a number of Institute programs that will provide excellent and up-to-the-minute information about emerging health care reform initiatives and their potential impact on aging services providers in Minnesota.

Beginning on Tuesday at next week's Institute, national MDS expert and popular trainer Leah Klusch will be doing an intensive one-half day program *"Operational Implications of the RUG IV Payment System and the MDS 3.0 Assessment Document"* designed to help members get a jump start on preparing their operations and assessment to deal with the dramatic changes in the SNF prospective payment system going into effect on Oct. 1, 2010 - many of which are known at this time. Registration for this session is separate and a few openings remain for the program.

Aging Services member CEOs, COOs and corporate office staff will want to attend the Leadership Intensive program - *"Health Care Reform Minnesota Style"* Thursday, Feb. 11. Once again, Minnesota health care and aging services organizations are way ahead of the rest of the country in changing up their systems and models of care and services in anticipation of broader reform initiatives.

After a brief overview of national health care reform, participants will learn about future payment trends beyond

Medicare and new payment models for reimbursement and care delivery such as bundled payment, health care homes and pay for performance. Attendees will also become familiar with what aging services providers are already doing with exciting new business models. Registration for this special event is separate from the regular Institute fee and limited space is available in the program.

And because Friday is a day where we're saving some of our best for last, we've scheduled a must-not miss session for everyone from 11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. with Suzanne Weiss, Senior Vice President, American Association of Homes and Services for the Aging. She'll be giving the *"Aging Services Public Policy Forum: A View from Inside the Beltway"* and will be covering a wide range of topics of interest to members - including up to the minute information on federal health care reform and the implications for aging services providers.

Woven throughout Institute programming, but perhaps not mentioned in specific learning objectives or session titles, where relevant, Institute presenters will be helping members connect topics to health care reform initiatives.

For Further Information on Institute Programming:

Contact Heidi Simpson at hsimpson@agingervicesmn.org.

Registration Questions May be Directed To:

Kellie Carlson at kcarlson@agingervicesmn.org.

Comparison of RUG IV and RUG III Domains Posted

Aging Services is posting an Excel worksheet that compares the RUG IV with the RUG III domains.

Each domain has its separate tab or page in the worksheet. Members can access this worksheet through this link: [http://www.agingervicesmn.org/inc/data/RUGS_III_v_IV_Comparison\(1\).xls](http://www.agingervicesmn.org/inc/data/RUGS_III_v_IV_Comparison(1).xls). It is also available at the RUGs IV link in the Hot Topics section of our home page.

DHS Releases RFP for Community Service/Service Development Grants

The Minnesota Department of Human Services (DHS), Aging and Adults Services Division, is seeking proposals from qualified responders for state fiscal year 2011 (July 1, 2010-June 30, 2011) to expand and integrate home and community-based services for older adults that allow local communities to rebalance their long-term care service delivery system, support people in their own homes, expand the caregiver support and respite care network and promote independence.

Approximately \$1.7 million in funding is available and requests per application may not exceed \$250,000 per year. An optional Responders Videoconference will be held Thursday, Feb. 4, at 9 a.m. Responders interested in attending the Videoconference must register online at: <http://www.agingtraining.dhs.state.mn.us> no later than 5 p.m., today (Monday, Feb. 1)

The complete RFP and application including directions is available online on the DHS Community Service/Community Services Development Web site at <http://www.dhs.state.mn.us/cssd> (applicant page). The deadline for receipt of proposals is Friday, March 26, at 4 p.m. Late, faxed and emailed proposals will not be considered.

For Further Information:

Contact:

Jacqueline Peichel

Community Program Policy Consultant

Aging and Adult Services

Department of Human Services

P.O. Box 64976

St. Paul, MN 55164-0976

Phone: 651- 431-2583

E-mail: Jacqueline.s.peichel@state.mn.us

Care Center Financial Survey Sent to Members

Recently, care center members should have received in the mail the Long-Term Care Imperative 2009 Financial Survey.

This survey provides important information about the financial condition of care centers for our advocacy activities. Care center members can enter their information online at

<http://www.isgsurveys.com/ssiweb/MN3/MN3logn.htm>.

The survey ID for your care center is in the letter that went out with the hard copy of the survey. Please be sure to complete this survey by the deadline of Friday, Feb. 19. We need our data on this topic to include information from as many Minnesota care centers as possible.

We are aware that some members are waiting for their year-end financial statements before completing the survey, but if you are able to complete the survey prior to Institute we would appreciate it so that we can review your data and have time to follow up with you if needed.

For Further Information:

Contact Jeff Bostic at jbostic@agingervicesmn.org.

Insurance Statutes Provide Means of Protection

The Department of Human Services told Aging Services last week that DHS has recovered payments made to care centers as required by law.

The law in question mandates that third party payments from insurers are primary to Medical assistance--i.e., MA is the payer of last resort--in most situations.

Indemnity policies and long-term care policies frequently call for payments directly to the beneficiary. The beneficiary then is supposed to pay the care center or other MA provider. The problem arises when the beneficiary (a family member, for example) decides that they have a better use for the money.

The insurance statutes provide you with a means to protect yourself. The MA statutes require the recipient to notify you of any insurance benefits (technically known as third party liability), including Medicare and Veterans. You can then contact the insurer to request that the benefits be paid directly to you. Minnesota Statutes 62A.045(d) states that:

"When a person covered by a health plan receives medical benefits according to any statute listed in this section, payment for covered services or notice of denial for services billed by the provider must be issued directly to the provider."

DHS published a provider update (LTC-09-01, "Other Insurance and Long-term Care and Home Care Services") on May 12, 2009, that you should consult. Here is the link: http://www.dhs.state.mn.us/main/idcplg?IdcService=GET_DYNAMIC_CONVERSION&RevisionSelectionMethod=LatestReleased&dDocName=dhs16_144934

Your responsibilities include the following:

- Obtain TPL coverage information by checking eligibility through MN's ITS. Eligibility responses will state indemnity or LTC policies under 'Other Insurance' as the following coverage types:
- 13 or 28 for nursing home benefits only
- 27 and 29 for nursing home and home care benefits
- Follow the indemnity or LTC insurance guidelines
- Bill liable third parties (including Medicare and indemnity/LTC insurance) and receive payment to the fullest extent possible before billing MHCP

- MHCP providers may request direct payment from Minnesota-approved indemnity and LTC insurance plans
- Report indemnity or LTC policy payments and denials on claims to MHCP
- MHCP will deny claims that do not show other insurance payment or denial when the recipient's records show indemnity/LTC insurance coverage. Your remittance advice will show remark code MA92.

For Further Information:

Contact Greg Leahy of the Nursing Home Rates and Policy section of DHS at 651-431-2271 or

Greg.Leahy@state.mn.us.

Issues Update on Apple Tree Dental's Proposal

Aging Services has received numerous questions about Apple Tree Dental's proposal that was presented to care centers in December.

We think there are significant problems with the proposal and have discussed the issue with staff at the Department of Human Services.

In response to this, we have prepared an Issues Update with our recommendations for members. Click here for more information - http://www.agingservicesmn.org/inc/data/DentalServices132_020110.pdf

Key Dates List Updated

Aging Services would like to remind members about a valuable web site feature, the "Key Dates" list of the key state and federal changes that impact providers of aging services.

Items such as new legislative mandates, rule changes, deadlines for annual activities, and more are included on this list that will help members become aware of upcoming changes and to access resources related to each activity.

Members can access an updated version of the Aging Services Key Dates List at <http://www.agingservicesmn.org/> (log in and look under Featured Topics in the right side bar). You can access the list directly by clicking on <http://www.agingservicesmn.org/inc/data/AgingServicesKeyDates012210.doc>.

The list is in chronological order but can be sorted by provider type as well. It also includes an archive of dates and deadlines that have recently passed, in case members need to review any of those.

For Further Information:

Contact Lori Meyer at lmeyer@agingservicesmn.org or Jeff Bostic at jbostic@agingservicesmn.org.

COMPASS Videoconference Announced

The Minnesota Department of Human Services, Continuing Care Administration will present upcoming videoconferences on the Minnesota Comprehensive Assessment (COMPASS) Project.

The two dates are:

Monday, March 1

http://www.dhs.state.mn.us/main/groups/county_access/documents/pub/dhs16_147918.pdf

Thursday, March 4

http://www.dhs.state.mn.us/main/groups/county_access/documents/pub/dhs16_147919.pdf.

MDH Conference Calls on Care Center Surveys Posted

The Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) will sponsor three statewide ongoing telephone conference calls on implementation of nursing home regulatory guidelines and updates.

These calls will take place on:

- Tuesday, Feb. 16, from 9 - 10 am
- Monday, April 19, from 9 - 10 am
- Monday, June 14, from 9 - 10 am

All care centers are invited to participate. Each care center is requested to use only one line. There is no charge to participate.

An agenda will be placed on MDH's web page for information bulletins (http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/fpc/profinfo/ib10_1.html) no later than the Friday prior to each of these calls.

An online registration link has been placed on this information bulletin site. Registration is available online at <http://www.health.state.mn.us/registration/nocharge/>.

Providers must register online for each of the phone calls to participate in these calls. The call-in number will be provided as part of the registration process.

Upcoming DHS Videoconferences Planned

The Department of Human Services (DHS) will hold two upcoming videoconferences focusing on older adult issues.

Suicide, Self-harm and Related Mental Health Issues of Older Adults will be held Thursday, Feb. 11. Atashi Acharya, ACSW, LICSW, Director, Senior Mental Health Services, Volunteers of America of Minnesota; and Joan Stauffer, MSW, LGSW, Suicide Prevention Grant Coordinator, Senior Mental Health Services, Volunteers of America of Minnesota will present.

The second video conference is MinnesotaHelp Network Technology Enhancements, scheduled for Thursday, Feb. 25, and held in partnership with the MN Board on Aging. Mary Chilvers, Technical Manager, and David Wallace, Technical Manager, Senior LinkAge Line will present.

To pre-register for either one of these programs, visit: <http://agingtraining.dhs.state.mn.us>.

HUD Webcasts This Week Focus on Transformation of Rental Assistance and More

HUD has announced four Web casts this week that are of interest to providers.

They are:

- Budget Overview Town Hall, which was broadcast today, Feb. 1 at 1-2:30 p.m.
- Transformation of Rental Assistance, Feb. 3, 10-11:30 a.m.
- Capacity Building, Feb. 3, 1:30-3 p.m.
- What the HUD Budget Does to Address Homelessness, Feb. 4, 1-2:30 p.m.

To view any of these Web casts, go to <http://www.hud.gov/webcasts/index.cfm>. The webcast will appear on this page on the day of the scheduled program.

If you won't be available to view the program live, the archive will be available within 24-48 hours after the program ends at <http://www.hud.gov/webcasts/archives/>.

HUD provides tips on watching a HUD webcast at <http://www.hud.gov/webcasts/troubleinst.cfm>. If you have trouble viewing the webcast please call 1-888-652-6811 for technical assistance.

For Further Information:

Contact Mary Youle at myoule@agingservicesmn.org.

My InnerView Users Group Available at InSTITUTE

Staff from My InnerView will be hosting a free users group at the upcoming Aging Services of Minnesota Institute.

The meeting will be held on Thursday, Feb. 11, from 4 to 5 p.m. in the Olsen Room on the third floor of the Hyatt.

The session will include a demonstration of new features of the product and the opportunity to get your questions answered by staff who are experts on it. This meeting is also an excellent opportunity to network with other My InnerView users and share ideas about ways to use the large amount of data available on the My InnerView system to improve processes within your organization.

We encourage all My InnerView subscribers to attend this meeting to find out how to get the most out of this valuable product. You can sign up for the meeting below by providing your name, title, organization, and email address.

<http://survey.minnesotacca.com/TakeSurvey.aspx?SurveyID=I81M7I5>

For Further Information:

Contact Jeff Bostic at jbostic@agingservicesmn.org.

Members Needed for Financial Exploitation Focus Group

Aging Services is arranging a focus group to help researchers identify protocols that providers can use to identify financial exploitation of their residents and clients.

We are still seeking a few more managers, administrators, social workers, business office staff or others who are concerned about financial exploitation to participate in this focus group. It will be held on Feb. 10, from 10:30 to 11:45 a.m. at the Hyatt Regency Minneapolis during the Institute.

If you are interested in participating, or if you have questions about the research project, please contact Mary Youle at myoule@agingservicesmn.org or Darrell Shreve at dshreve@agingservicesmn.org.

Is Your Senior Building in Compliance with Building and Fire Codes?

Providers, architects and others are concerned that the increasing frailty of residents of senior housing could potentially be interpreted as a "change in use" that could render a building out of compliance with Minnesota's fire codes.

Several members have encountered difficulties related change in use when they tried to remodel, and recently, an Aging Services member who created a memory care unit within its senior housing a few years ago was told that it does not meet the applicable code requirements.

Type of building construction, size and height of the building and the residents' ability to self preserve are among the variables that affect the applicability of Minnesota's code requirements.

You can learn more about Minnesota's building and fire codes, change of use and other issues at the Aging Services Institute. Dan Tideman, principal architect, GLT Architects, St. Cloud, will present session #219, Update on Fire and Building Codes for Senior Housing, at 12:30-1:30 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 11.

For Further Information:

Contact Mary Youle at myoule@agingsevicessmn.org.

Institute is the Best Value for Your Dollar -- Hands Down

We work hard to keep the registration fees for Institute as low as possible and give you the most value for your money.

The Institute is the one conference each year that allows you to pay a flat fee and bring as many team members

as you want. Think of how much you would spend for staff training and continuing education credits if you paid for individual seminars.

For one flat fee, your staff can experience three days of programming (3 keynote presentations and 92 concurrent sessions), two days attending the sold-out expo (174 exhibitors), up to 16 CEU hours per person (depending on attendance), free technology demos, opening night celebration featuring Dueling Pianos, Crazy Keys and so much more.

If you haven't registered yet, visit <http://www.agingservicesinstitute.org/> for complete details and registration information.

Hyatt is Sold Out: Millennium is Accepting Reservations for the Institute

The Hyatt is sold out for dates during Aging Services of Minnesota's Institute next week.

Members can make reservations with the Millennium Hotel Minneapolis (across the street from the Hyatt) at the rate of \$99 single/double. To make reservations with the Millennium, call 866-866-8086 or 612-332-6000.

Make sure to mention the "Aging Services Institute" when making reservations to guarantee the negotiated group rate.

2010 Member Directory Update Forms Due Feb. 12

The 2010 Aging Services Member Directory & Buyers' Guide will be published early this spring.

A sample of your member site directory listing was mailed in January. We ask your help in returning directory updates by Friday, Feb. 12.

Along with the standard directory listing, there are additional questions designed to keep our member data up to date and accurate.

For Further Information:

Contact Barbara Landeen at blandeen@agingservicesmn.org.

January District Meeting Resources Available

Hundreds of Aging Services leaders attended the January swing of District Meetings around Minnesota.

Below are the materials shared at the meeting, including the "What's On Your Radar Screen" presentation, which can be co-branded and used with your staff, families, Boards, etc. For questions or additional details, please contact Aging Services.

What's On Your Radar Screen - A 2010 Environmental Scan

<http://www.mhha-apps.com/downloads/Jan2010Scan.ppt>

RUGS IV Changes PowerPoint Presentation

Note: these materials have been updated from what was at the meeting â€" staff encourages you to use the information contained in this version.

<http://www.agingservicesmn.org/inc/data/RUGSIV012210.ppt>

RUGS Rates (Preliminary)

<http://www.agingservicesmn.org/inc/data/RUGSIVRatesPrelim.pdf>

Customized Living Tool Bulletin #09-25-11

http://www.dhs.state.mn.us/dhs16_147501.pdf

Customized Living Tool Resources

<http://www.agingservicesmn.org/inc/data/CustomizedLivingToolHandout.pdf>

In addition to these breakouts, other items discussed or shared at the January District Meeting include:

Leadership Academy - Call for Applications

<http://www.agingservicesmn.org/inc/data/LeadershipAcademyCall.pdf>

2010 Institute - Feb. 10-12, 2010

<http://www.agingservicesinstitute.org/>

Confident Choices for Senior Living

http://www.agingservicesmn.org/index/Quality_Initiatives

Health Care Reform Legislation - Summary

<http://www.agingservicesmn.org/inc/data/MedicareSummary.pdf>

Health Care Reform Legislation - Provider Provisions

<http://www.agingservicesmn.org/inc/data/ProviderProvisions.pdf>

2010 Legislative Agenda - One Page

<http://www.agingservicesmn.org/inc/data/Agenda1pager.pdf>

As you can see, District Meetings are a great way to get to know your colleagues in the field as well as take home important information for your site. Be sure to mark your calendar today to attend one of the next upcoming meetings:

District A Tuesday, April 6

District B Wednesday, April 7

District C Tuesday, April 13

District D Wednesday, April 14

District E Wednesday, March 31

District F Thursday, April 15

District G Thursday, April 1

For Further Information:

Contact Adam Suomala at asuomala@agingservicesmn.org

Eldercare Rights Alliance To Offer Training This Winter

ElderCare Rights Alliance (ECRA) will be offering two day educational programs this winter for long-term care staff and other aging services professionals on a variety of topics.

Two programs will be held in the Twin Cities, one for the east and north metro area on Feb.25-26 at Waverly Gardens in North Oaks and the same program repeated for the west and south metro area on March 18-19 at **Presbyterian Homes of Bloomington**.

Participants may choose to attend either or both days, or only those sessions that are of interest. The morning of day one will address "Dealing with Ethical Issues in Long-Term Care" and the afternoon will focus on "Elder Abuse Intervention and Prevention." The morning of day two will address "Communication Techniques for Elders with Dementia" and the afternoon will be a "Resident and Family Council Advisor Workshop."

Certificates of attendance will be issued for each session, with up to 13.8 CEUs available for the two full days. Each session has also been approved for clock hours for nursing home administrators, with a total of 10.75 clock hours available for the two full days.

For more information about these educational programs, including registration fees, online registration and payment by credit card, go to the ElderCare Rights Alliance website at <http://www.eldercarerights.org/> and click on "2010 Statewide Training."

Education Solutions At-A-Glance

When you need up-to-the-minute training on topics important to you, look no further than Aging Services of Minnesota. Members receive exclusive low registration fees.

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!

2010 Institute

The premier event of its kind in the upper Midwest with hundreds of seminars and exhibits for older adult services professionals.

Feb. 10-12, 2010 (Minneapolis)

Member Types: All

Audience: All

Training Mode: Live Training - Conference & Expo

CEUs: Most

http://eservices.agingservicesmn.org/imispublic_as/Core/Events/eventdetails.aspx?iKey=806000&TemplateType=A

Compliance for Class A Providers Focusing on Continued Success

Co-Sponsored with the Minnesota HomeCare Association

Feb. 16, 2010 (St. Paul)

Audience: Class "A" only licensed home care providers

Training Mode: Live Training

http://www.agingservicesmn.org/inc/data/ClassA_2010.pdf

Registration is through MHCA

Aging Services of Minnesota

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