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2010 Legislative Session under Way

With the bang of two gavels, the Minnesota State Legislature opened its 2010 session on Thursday, Feb. 4.

Quick action was taken on two priorities for the House and Senate majorities: restoring some kind of General Assistance Medical Care (GAMC) program and passing a substantial bonding bill.

Rep. Erin Murphy, DFL-St. Paul and Sen. Linda Berglin, DFL-Minneapolis are the chief authors of the legislation to restore GAMC. HF2680

(<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/bin/bldbill.php?bill=H2680.0.html&session=1s86>) was heard last Thursday in the Health Care and Human Services Policy and Oversight Committee, and was passed as amended to the Finance committee, where it will receive a hearing on Tuesday.

SF2168 (<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/bin/bldbill.php?bill=S2168.0.html&session=1s86>) will be heard in the Senate Health and Human Services Finance Division this Monday.

Floor votes on the legislation are expected soon.

The two bills seek to restore a scaled-down, temporary version of GAMC through increasing surcharges on hospitals, health plans, and county-based purchasing plans, and using that additional surcharge to collect more federal money. This additional federal money will go to support the program. Additional funding mechanisms are a rate cut to GAMC service providers and county contributions.

Gov. Pawlenty line-item vetoed funding for GAMC in the 2009 legislative session, and unallotted remaining funding. His alternative is to move this population into MinnesotaCare.

Critics of this alternative argue MinnesotaCare is not the appropriate program for this population of indigent single and childless adults, and also note the increased enrollment in MinnesotaCare will cause the program's funding source to become insolvent more quickly. This insolvency will in turn lead to an additional hole in the state's general fund.

The House and Senate DFL's other priority, a bonding bill, is also beginning to move through the process. DFLers argue a large (nearly \$1 billion) package will serve as a jobs-creation bill. Rep. Alice Hausman, DFL-St. Paul has introduced HF2700

(<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/bin/bldbill.php?bill=H2700.0.html&session=1s86>).

The first hearing will be held this Tuesday. Sen. Keith Langseth, DFL- Glyndon introduced SF2360

(<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/bin/bldbill.php?bill=S2360.0.html&session=1s86>). SF2360 has already been heard in committee and is already on the Senate floor, with a possible floor vote on Monday.

Neither the House nor the Senate has included a top priority of the governor's, bonding for an expansion of the Moose Lake Sex Offender Treatment Program.

Gov. Pawlenty released his own bonding bill proposal last month. The proposal calls for \$685 million in general

obligation bonds, with additional bonding bringing the total to \$815 million

(<http://www.mmb.state.mn.us/doc/budget/bud-cap/10/summary-final.pdf>).

The governor has repeatedly stated he is not interested in signing a much larger bill and has threatened to veto an entire bonding bill if it is larger than he likes. In the past, the governor has line-item vetoed projects to bring large bonding bills back to a size he is more comfortable with.

The governor will give his last State of the State address on Thursday. He is expected to release his supplemental budget later this week.

For Further Information:

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

President Obama Releases Proposal for 2011 Budget

Last week President Barack Obama released his 2011 budget which contains proposals for many older adult services programs.

House subcommittees are beginning to hold hearings on the budget. Please click on the following link to access the budget documents:

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/budget/Overview/>.

The 2011 budget is only one of several major issues lawmakers are dealing with this month. President Obama is attempting to resurrect health care reform this year. Separate legislation is being introduced to move several pressing issues forward. It is as yet unclear whether these measures will move separately or as part of some larger measure yet to be determined. Two measures will take immediate precedence on Capitol Hill over the next couple of weeks: another jobs bill and budget reconciliation legislation for fiscal 2010.

Here are a couple of the key issues we are tracking:

Medicare physician fee schedule fix:

Congress passed temporary relief back in December, but that measure expires at the end of this month. Skilled nursing facilities' Medicare Part B therapy fees are based on the physician fee schedule, and could fall by 21 percent if payment relief is not extended. AAHSA is reporting that provisions for another doc payment fix could be added to the jobs bill that is to be taken up next week.

Medicare therapy caps exceptions process:

The process that facilitates beneficiaries' getting coverage for the full amount of therapy need expired on Dec. 31. This year's caps are \$1,860 for physical and speech therapy combined and another \$1,860 for occupational therapy. If the exceptions process is not renewed soon, many beneficiaries will begin to hit the caps. Sen. John Ensign, R-Nev. has drafted legislation that should soon be introduced to extend the exceptions process. This is another measure that could be added to the jobs bill. We strongly support the extension.

FMAP:

The additional Medicaid money that states received under last year's economic stimulus package is due to expire Dec. 31. There are a variety of efforts underway to extend the enhanced match. The President has proposed a six-month extension (see below). In addition, there was some hope that the extension would be included in Senate Majority Leader Reid's Jobs Bill, but the provision was not included in the legislation. Leader Reid and Senator Jay Rockefeller, D-WV put forward plans to introduce the FMAP extension separately via its own legislation. We strongly support the extension of the enhanced federal match.

The following is a briefing summary of some of the key provisions in the President's budget proposal as it relates to older adult services.

FMAP

As noted above, administration called for extending by six months the increased federal Medicaid match that originated with last year's American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. Although the FMAP enhanced rate does not expire until Dec. 31, many states, including Minnesota, are still hurting from the effects of the recession and this

additional funding will be needed well into 2011 to prevent or minimize cuts in services for older adults. The President's budget proposes to set aside \$25 billion to continue the stimulus funds for the federal Medicaid match. Minnesota would receive about \$500 million in additional federal funding if the enhanced FMAP rate is extended.

Home and Community-Based Services

The president's budget gives a healthy overall 7.4 percent increase to home and community-based services (HCBS) overall with a 13 percent increase for HCBS supportive services, a 31 percent increase in the National Family Caregiver Program, a 60 percent increase in Lifespan Respite program, and an investment of \$102 million in nutrition and supportive service grants to help families care for aging relatives. Congregate meals were funded with a 1.1 percent increase, and Homebound Meals received an additional 1.3 percent in funding.

Housing

The administration proposed no increase in funding for the Section 202 senior housing program. AAHSA is advocating for a significant increase in funding for the program and is pointing out that construction of new affordable housing units for seniors would put thousands of people to work.

Jobs

The administration is emphasizing jobs. We must also emphasize that investment in older adult services results in jobs: senior housing construction equals jobs; services that help people stay at home equals jobs; improved Medicaid and Medicare reimbursement equals jobs. Please refer to our latest fact sheet

<http://www.agingservicesmn.org/inc/data/LTCIFactCard1-EconomicImpact.pdf> to access Minnesota-specific information about the jobs we support.

For Further Information:

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

Care Centers Blind-Sided with IJs for Glucometers

Last week, several Aging Services members received deficiency citations at the Immediate Jeopardy level for not cleaning glucometers after every use.

These IJ citations came without warning, and Aging Services has protested them to MDH. It may take several days or weeks to get the issue resolved. In the meantime, care centers should make sure that they clean each glucometers after every use. Follow your manufacturer's instructions.

Aging Services discussed this issue with AAHSA staff, who heard from other states as well. It is clear that the responsibility for this rests with CMS, not MDH. The citations are based on obscure revisions to the example for severity level 4 for a deficiency on infection control (F441).

On Nov. 30, CMS changed "and" to "and/or" in one sentence of its example for the immediate jeopardy severity level for infection control deficiencies, and this change is at the center of the controversy. CMS claims that this change means that either a failure to clean the glucometers or the re-use of the lancet constitutes immediate jeopardy.

CMS buried this change in Transmittal 54, describing the changes in the transmittal as "minor." CMS then rescinded the transmittal three days later, but kept its changes in the new Transmittal 55. Virtually the entire transmittal is redlined, and CMS drew attention only to new information about *C. difficile*. CMS has removed Transmittal 54 from its web site.

Aging Services has asked MDH to stop issuing citations at the IJ level for glucometers that have not been cleaned and to lower the severity level on all those issued under CMS's latest "example" of immediate jeopardy.

More complete information is available in the Issues Update available at this link:

<http://www.agingservicesmn.org/inc/data/GlucometerCleaning133-020810.pdf>.

For Further Information:

Contact Darrell Shreve at dshreve@agingervicesmn.org.

MDS 3.0 Training: Aging Services Offers Comprehensive Training Options

With implementation of the MDS 3.0 and RUGS IV on track for Oct. 1 of this year, we know that members are looking for training opportunities to prepare for these upcoming changes.

Aging Services has developed a comprehensive set of training options that:

- Includes programs for multi-disciplinary staff that need to know about these changes including but not limited to nurses, administrators, MDS coordinators, activities, dietary and social services staff.
- Addresses a range of needs - preparation and implementation; operational strategies and technical training;
- Includes distance learning options to eliminate travel costs and allow as many staff to participate as needed;
- Utilizes national experts and others trained by CMS at their national MDS 3.0 training;
- Includes free and low cost resources so your training dollar goes farther; and
- Partners with other key stakeholders including CMS and the MN Department of Health.

Additional details and programming will be developed as information continues to come from CMS and MDH, but here is an outline of what is currently being planned.

Jan. - District Meeting program on RUGS IV; revised materials available to all members at RUGs IV link in Hot Topics section of the home page on the Aging Services website at <http://www.agingervicesmn.org/>

Feb. 1 - CMS training webinars for providers and surveyors--access these free recorded webinars at any time (12/17/2009 webinar currently available with additional programs added this spring and summer).

Feb. 9 - Pre-Institute Intensive workshop "*Operational Implications of the RUG IV Payment System and the MDS 3.0 Document*" featuring national expert Leah Klusch.

Feb. 10 - Institute concurrent session "*Preparing for RUGS IV: The Myths and the Realities*" featuring Debbie Eley, LarsonAllen LLC, and Darrell Shreve, Aging Services of Minnesota.

April 13-15 - CMS' national "train the trainer" conference in Washington DC. Liz Sether, Aging Services' Nurse Consultant, will be attending, but a limited number of additional spots are available for other interested trainers. Registration opens on Feb. 22 and spots are expected to fill quickly.

April 20, 21 - One-day intensive, hands-on workshop designed to help prepare skilled nursing facility members to transition their operations to MDS 3.0 and featuring national expert Leah Klusch.

Early May - Joint provider/surveyor training held live around the state and sponsored by MDH in partnership with key stakeholder groups with a focus on skill building, critical thinking, analysis and assessment related to MDS 3.0. The workshop will feature Dr. Steve Levenson who was very well-received at last year's statewide training on F-309 (pain management and end-of-life issues).

May-July - MDH sponsored webinars on a variety of topics in partnership with various stakeholder groups. These will be held prior to any live training MDH offers.

July-August - Live one day face-to-face training held in 7 locations - done in partnership with MDH and other stakeholder groups who will also assist in planning them. Dates and locations have been set by MDH and are designed to accommodate a large number of attendees at each location. It is anticipated that registration information will be made available in late spring/early summer and will be done through MDH.

- July 22 - St. Paul
- July 29 - St. Paul
- August 3 - Fergus Falls

- August 5 - Duluth
- August 10 - Marshall
- August 12 - Rochester
- August 17 - St. Paul

Summer - Aging Services webinar series featuring Aging Services of Minnesota's own Liz Sether who attended national CMS sponsored MDS 3.0 and other experts.

September - MDH begins to conduct weekly conference calls post implementation to address problems and concerns, every two weeks in December and January, and monthly thereafter through the rest of 2011.

Sept. 21-24 - Annual meeting programming focusing on the financial implications and operational strategies related to MDS 3.0 and RUGS IV for care center administrators and other executive level staff.

Members are encouraged to visit the both the CMS MDS 3.0 website

http://www.cms.hhs.gov/NursingHomeQualityInits/25_NHQIMDS30.asp and Minnesota Department of Health website http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/fpc/MinnesotaMDS3_0.html to access a number of resources that will help your organization become familiar with the new system.

Members will especially want to go to the MDH Minnesota Implementation of the Minimum Data Set 3.0 web site and opt to receive their periodic briefings with the latest info - free of charge and sent automatically for those that subscribe.

For Further Information:

Contact Heidi Simpson at hsimpson@agingservicesmn.org or Liz Sether at lsether@agingservicesmn.org or Darrell Shreve at dshreve@agingservicesmn.org.

Aging Services Foundation Announces Scholarships for Leadership Academy

The Aging Services of Minnesota Foundation is offering two scholarships for eligible Leadership Academy participants.

The Leadership Academy is a new leadership development program offered by Aging Services of Minnesota to cultivate high potential leaders so they can creatively lead their organizations, and the aging services field, with extraordinary vision, service excellence and passion.

Each scholarship will be in the amount of \$2,000 covering all tuition costs and partial travel expenses.

Scholarship awards will be considered for individuals who have been selected for the 2010-2011 Leadership Academy class and will be based on the following criteria:

- (1) A demonstration of financial need on the part of the sponsoring organization and/or the participant;
- (2) The applicant is not eligible for the state nursing facility scholarship program (see below); and
- (3) High leadership potential as expressed in the applicant's leadership essay.

Another scholarship option is available through the Minnesota Nursing Facility Employee Scholarship Program. The Minnesota Department of Human Services (DHS) has determined that the Aging Services Leadership Academy qualifies for reimbursement through the Minnesota Nursing Facility Employee Scholarship Program, provided that the following statutory criteria are met:

Employee Criteria:

- Employee works a minimum of 20 hours average in the nursing facility;
- Employee is not an RN, administrator or department supervisor; and
- The training leads to recognized career advancement resulting in a wage increase or bonus.

Eligible Expenses:

The scholarship program will cover *"costs related to tuition and direct educational expenses."* Mandatory fees,

required books and supplies are considered direct educational expenses, however, travel or other costs would not be reimbursed through this program.

The Leadership Academy will engage participants in a coordinated and multifaceted curriculum over twelve months that includes:

- In-person collaborative learning experiences;
- Site visits showcasing visionary leadership and innovation;
- Mentorship support through personal coaching teams;
- Individual action learning projects;
- Self-exploration through assigned readings and exercises; and
- Group discussion forums.

Whether you are an experienced or emerging leader, working in a care center, senior housing or home and community-based services, through this program you will:

- Build a foundation of leadership knowledge based on sound, multi-dimensional theory;
- Enhance your leadership skills and core competencies in communication, building trust, decision-making, knowledge management, problem solving and more.
- Experience firsthand the innovative programs and leadership styles that set certain organizations apart.
- Be part of a network of leaders throughout the state to share best practices and shape the future of aging services.

Applications for the first class of Leadership Academy fellows are now being accepted and are available at the Aging Services website at <http://www.agingservicesmn.org/>

Interested individuals are encouraged to apply soon--the deadline for applications is **Monday, Feb. 22.**

For Further Information:

Contact Lori Meyer at lmeyer@agingservicesmn.org.

Leadership Academy Questions and Answers

Q: What is the Leadership Academy?

A: A twelve month leadership development program designed to cultivate high potential leaders so they can creatively lead their organizations and the aging services field with vision, excellence and passion.

Q: Who is eligible for the Leadership Academy?

A: The program is available to anyone who works for an Aging Services of Minnesota member (care center, housing, home & community-based services) irrespective of clinical or managerial experience. Participants do not need to hold a specific job title but need to demonstrate strong leadership potential.

Q: How can I participate in the Leadership Academy?

A: Anyone interested in participating in the Leadership Academy for the 2010/2011 class will need to complete an application and submit it by the Feb. 22, 2010, deadline. The application has five parts: applicant information, summary of qualifications, statements of commitment, letters of reference and leadership essay.

Q: When is the deadline for applications?

A: Monday, Feb. 22.

Q: How many people will be selected?

A: Approximately 20 applicants will be selected for the 2010/2011 class. This is a competitive process and the final number is contingent on the number and quality of applications.

Q: What is the cost to participate?

A: The tuition for the Leadership Academy is \$1,500. This includes books, materials, participant 360° evaluations, CEUs and registration for the 2011 Aging Services Institute. Lodging and travel costs incurred as part of the program are not included in the tuition.

Q: Who is responsible for the tuition and travel costs?

A: Each participant's organization (employer) is responsible for tuition costs and may also cover some or all travel expenses. This is to ensure that the organization is invested in developing the leadership skills of the participant, will accommodate the time necessary to participate fully in the program, and will work with the participant to bring the skills and concepts learned through the Leadership Academy back to the organization for internal training and development. In addition, the participant will be working on an action learning project designed specifically to address a challenge or opportunity within their organization.

Q: Are scholarships available?

A: Yes. The Aging Services of Minnesota Foundation is offering two scholarships for full tuition and partial travel expenses. They will be awarded based on financial need and leadership potential. Program costs (tuition and direct education expenses) may also be reimbursed through the Minnesota Nursing Facility Employee Scholarship Program for eligible employees.

Q: What is the estimated time that a participant will spend on Leadership Academy activities?

A: Participants should plan on spending an average of 10-15 hours a month engaged in Leadership Academy activities.

Q: Who are the faculty for the Leadership Academy?

A: The lead facilitator for the program is national leadership development expert Michele Holleran, PhD., from DeArment Consulting LLC. Dr. Holleran has also served as facilitator for the Leadership AAHSA program for the past four years. She is joined by co-facilitator Brad Ballinger, Learning & Development Specialist with Presbyterian Homes, guest speakers and five coaches who will provide small group mentorship support.

Q: How long does the program run?

A: For twelve months. The 2010/2011 class of fellows will begin in April 2010 and go through March 2011.

Q: How is the program structured?

A: The curriculum includes: in-person collaborative learning experiences; site visits showcasing visionary leadership and innovation; mentorship support through personal coaching teams; application of learning through individual action learning projects; self-exploration through assigned readings and exercises; and group discussion forums.

Q: What are the benefits to the participant?

A: Through this program, participants will build a foundation of leadership knowledge based on sound, multi-dimensional theory. They will also enhance their leadership skills and core competencies in communication, building trust, decision-making, knowledge management, problem solving and much more. They will experience firsthand the innovative programs and leadership styles that set certain organizations apart, and be part of a network of leaders throughout the state to share best practices and shape the future of aging services. They will also receive an estimated 30 Continuing Education Units (CEUs).

Q: What are the benefits to the sponsoring organization?

A: Through this program, organizations will develop or enhance the leadership skill sets necessary to operate in our changing environment. They will identify and develop potential successors for their leadership team. They will experience the results of an action learning project specifically tailored to address a challenge or opportunity within their organization. They will be able to connect to a network of leaders throughout the state who are able to share best practices with one another, and develop leadership facilitators who can "bring back" the concepts learned to their teams for internal training and development within their organization.

Q: Where can I find the application and further information?

A: At the Aging Services of Minnesota web site at www.agingservicesmn.org or by contacting Lori Meyer at lmeyer@agingservicesmn.org.

Precinct Caucuses Held - First Step in 2010 Election

Thank you to the Aging Services members who took the time to attend their precinct caucus last Tuesday and participate in the political process.

A special thanks to those of you who proposed an older adult services resolution.

The main business of the night for the DFL and GOP parties was to hold a non-binding straw poll for governor to test the waters of support among party activists.

Republicans have seven candidates in the field. For the Republicans, Rep. Marty Seifert of Marshall won with 50 percent of the vote. Rep. Tom Emmer, Delano, came in second with nearly 40 percent. Senator David Hann, Eden Prairie, placed third with just over 5 percent.

The DFLers have a larger field of candidates to choose from, with 11 candidates in the race. Minneapolis Mayor RT Rybak took first place with 22 percent. In a close second was Speaker of the House Margaret Anderson Kelliher with 20 percent.

"Uncommitted" won third, at almost 15 percent. Sen. John Marty, Roseville, came in fourth with nearly 10 percent of the vote. Reps Tom Rukavina from Virginia and Paul Thissen, Minneapolis tied for fifth with just over 7 percent. Former Rep. Matt Entenza and Sen. Tom Bakk each won about 6 percent of the vote.

The Independence Party is holding an online caucus and non-binding straw poll which will continue through the month of February. As of this writing, Tom Horner is ahead with 48 percent of those voting, and Joe Repya is second with 28 percent.

More information on the straw poll results can be found online at <http://caucusresults.sos.state.mn.us/>.

For Further Information:

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

EPA Rule Requires Certified Renovation Contractors; Exempts Senior Housing

Members may have received information from training companies about an EPA rule that will require that renovations of certain types of housing constructed before 1978 must be done by contractors who are trained and certified to know how to deal with lead-based paint, effective April 2010.

Most Aging Services members will not be affected by this requirement unless they own housing that serves non-elderly families, or in the case of HUD buildings, the senior residents include those who may have a child under the age of six living with them. Buildings with child care facilities are also covered by the rule.

The April 22, 2008 EPA rule defines the target housing for these requirements as "as any housing constructed before 1978, except housing for the elderly or persons with disabilities (unless any child under age 6 resides or is expected to reside in such housing) or any 0-bedroom dwelling."

EPA's comments go on to note, however, that "renovations in common areas in a building built before 1978 that contains both housing units reserved for the elderly and regular housing units would be covered by this rule."

Under the rule, contractors who do specified types of renovation work in housing, including maintenance staff working in multifamily housing, must be trained and certified on lead-safe work practices and must give property owners an educational pamphlet. EPA's web site says: "The rule does not apply to minor maintenance or repair activities where less than six square feet of lead-based paint is disturbed in a room or where less than 20 square feet of lead-based paint is disturbed on the exterior. Window replacement is not minor maintenance or repair."

More information on this EPA requirement is found at <http://www.epa.gov/lead/pubs/renovation.htm> and the 2008 rule is found at <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2008/pdf/E8-8141.pdf>. For those members with buildings that may be covered by this rule, the EPA web site lists the three EPA-Accredited Renovation, Repair, and Painting Program (RRP) Training Providers in Minnesota.

For Further Information:

Contact Mary Youle at myoule@agingservicesmn.org.

Huge Recall on OTC Products

McNeil Consumer Healthcare, a maker of Tylenol and a host of other products recently announced a massive recall.

The situation appears to involve chemicals used to treat wood pallets used for storing and transferring packaging materials. The chemicals may have leached into the medications or their containers.

According to press reports, more than 70 people have become ill. They experienced gastrointestinal problems of nausea, stomach pain, vomiting, or diarrhea after using OTC medications with an unusual moldy, musty, or mildew-like odor.

The recall involves these products:

- Tylenol
- Motrin
- Benadryl Allergy UltraTab
- Roloids Antacid Tablets
- Simply Sleep products
- St. Joseph products

The McNeil Consumer Healthcare website is your source for finding the lot numbers for the recalled products. The link is: <http://www.mcneilproductrecall.com/>. This webpage lets you click on any of the six types of products to get to a listing of the recalled lot numbers.

This website presents a picture of the package box along with the NDC and UPC codes. Then it lists the lot numbers for that item that are being recalled. For the Benadryl and Simply Sleep products, there is only one package shown. However, for the other products, there are multiple packages shown. These will be time consuming, especially the Tylenol products. The website shows more than 30 packages and a total of 277 lot numbers.

If you have any of these products with an unusual odor, we recommend that you gather all of the lot numbers you have for each type of product. Then you can use the webpage. On the webpage for each product, there is a search box, and the instructions are to enter the lot number in the box to see if it is in the recall. When we tried this function, it did not work. You will need to scroll down to look at all the lot numbers.

Or, you can call the company and ask them. The number is 1-888-222-6036. This is also the number to call for refund or replacement information.

For Further Information:

Contact Darrell Shreve at dshreve@agingservicesmn.org.

Informational Meetings on Return to Community Scheduled for March

The Department of Human Services and the Minnesota Board on Aging have scheduled ten informational meetings in March on "Return to Community."

"Return to Community" is a 2009 legislative initiative designed for people in nursing homes who want to go home and have the potential to live successfully in the community. The service is being implemented through the Senior LinkAge Line and the MinnesotaHelp Network. Minnesotahelp Network Community Living Specialists will provide one-on-one assistance to the targeted group of nursing home residents. The Specialists for each area of the state will be introduced at the meetings.

These informational meetings are designed for nursing home social workers, directors of nursing, nursing home administrators, home and community-based service providers, managed care organizations, hospital discharge planners, county case workers, long term care consultants, Senior LinkAge Line staff, Disability LinkAge Line staff, Area Agency on Aging staff, centers for independent living and the general public.

The meetings will cover the following information:

- the target profile group and how the Minnesotahelp Network Community Living Specialists will work with the target group
- the protocols for contact and referral between Senior LinkAge Line and Nursing Homes
- the marketing materials that will be provided to Nursing Home staff for distribution to consumers.

The dates and locations for the meetings are:

Thursday, March 4, 10 a.m. - Noon (Rochester)

The Homestead at Rochester 1900 Ballington Boulevard
Rochester
507-535-2000

Friday, March 5, 9:30 - 11:30 a.m. (Minneapolis/St Paul Area)

Waverly Gardens
5919 Centerville Road
North Oaks
651-765-4000

Friday, March 5, 1:30 - 3:30 p.m. (Minneapolis/St Paul Area)

St Therese of New Hope
8000 Bass Lake Road
New Hope
(763) 531-5000

Monday, March 8, 9:30 - 11:30 a.m. (Crookston)

Mount St Benedict Center
Adjacent to Villa St Vincent Assisted Living Facility
Marian Hall Lounge
620 Summit Avenue
Crookston
218-281-3441
Please use west side parking lot

Tuesday, March 9, 9 - 11 a.m. (Fergus Falls)

Broen Memorial Nursing Home
Light & Life Auditorium
824 S Sheridan Street
Fergus Falls
218-998-7300

Tuesday, March 9, 2-4 p.m. (St. Cloud)

St Benedicts Nursing Home
1810 Minnesota Blvd S.E.
St Cloud, MN 56304
320-252-0010

Wednesday March 10, 9:30 - 11:30 a.m. (Brainerd)

Bethany Good Samaritan Center

804 Wright Street
Brainerd
218-829-1407

Friday, March 12, 1:30 - 3:30 p.m. (Duluth)
Benedictine Health Center
2nd Floor Multipurpose Room
935 Kenwood Avenue
Duluth
218-723-6408

Monday, March 29, 1:30 - 3:30 p.m. (Marshall)
Avera Marshall Regional Medical Center
Adjacent to Morningside Heights Nursing Home
Classrooms A & B
300 S Bruce Street
Marshall
507-537-9131
Please use parking lots B & D

Tuesday, March 30, 9:30 - 11:30 a.m. (Mankato)
Pathstone Living on Sibley Park
718 Mound Avenue
Mankato
507-345-4576

RSVPs will not be taken for these events, and CEUs will not be offered as these are informational events only.

Still Time to Register for the Compliance for Class A Providers Workshop

Co-sponsored with the Minnesota HomeCare Association, this program for non-Medicare certified agencies is specifically for those providers who have a Class A home care license or intend to get one.

It is designed to keep members updated on Class A changes and requirements to help stay compliant and avoid survey deficiencies. It's practical and interactive, allowing ample opportunity to ask questions and engage in important discussions with faculty and colleagues.

The program will be held at the Holiday Inn East in St. Paul from 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. The registration fee is \$110 for members and registration is being handled through the Minnesota HomeCare Association.

<https://m360.mnhomecare.org/frontend/portal/viewcalendar.aspx>

For Further Information:

Contact Heidi Simpson hsimpson@agingservicesmn.org.

Upcoming Audio-Conference Will Discuss Addressing CPR Issues

In response to a number of members contacting Aging Services' nurse consultant Liz Sether about having to work through with some very challenging and difficult situations related to CPR policies and their residents and/or clients, an audio conference has been developed.

The program *When Seconds Count: Addressing CPR Issues in Aging Services Settings* has been scheduled for Thursday, Feb. 25, from 11:30 a.m. - 1p.m.

It is part of Aging Services "Live from 350 South" audio conferences for care teams series that are offered periodically. The over the lunch hour format is ideal for a brown bag learning opportunity that's cost effective for all staff to attend.

This program features Barbara J. Blumer, Attorney, Barb Blumer Law, PA, Eagan and Liz Sether of the Aging Services staff. Using case study examples, it will examine a variety of common scenarios and offer up best practices that members can use to help minimize conflicts and uncertainty in urgent situations.

Participants will become familiar with the new Minnesota Physician Orders for Life Sustaining Treatment (POLST) form and how aging services organizations can utilize it with and for their residents and clients.

This audio conference is being co-sponsored by Aging Services Group to help keep the cost affordable for members at \$55 per line for members. It includes both handouts, CEUs and an opportunity to ask questions and have them answered. Registration brochures were sent to all members last week.

For Further Information:

Contact Heidi Simpson at hsimpson@agingervicesmn.org.

Registration questions may be directed to:

Kellie Carlson kcarlson@agingervicesmn.org.

DHS offers Videoconference on Civil Commitment

On Thursday, Feb. 18, the Department of Human Services will hold a video conference on the civil commitment process.

Roger Schwab, Regional Ombudsman Supervisor and Coordinator of the Civil Commitment Training and Resource Center housed in the Office of Ombudsman for Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities will present.

This training covers the definitions in the Minnesota Civil Commitment and Treatment Act, use of emergency hold orders, the pre-petition screening process and the requirements for commitment and the court process. It also covers the discharge process used for people who have been committed.

Please register at

<http://agingtraining.dhs.state.mn.us>.

Forecast Looks Great for Institute

This is it - the 2010 Aging Services Institute is this week.

The forecast calls for sunny disposition, warm camaraderie and a moderate breeze of optimism. Almost 4000 members have recognized the great value of attending this annual event. If your plans have changed and you find you can make it after all, we will be happy to accommodate your onsite registration.

The fun kicks off at 8:30 Wednesday morning with the first day of annual award presentations, a knock-your-socks-off keynote and a few surprises.

2010 Member Directory Update Forms Due This Friday

This is the last week to submit changes to your company listing in the 2010 Aging Services Member Directory & Buyers' Guide.

A sample of your member site directory listing was mailed in January. Please return directory updates by Friday, Feb. 12.

If you have any questions or need a copy of your listing, contact Barbara Landeen at blandeen@agingervicesmn.org.

2010 Call For Committee Participation

Members are encouraged to participate on an Aging Services Committee in 2010.

Requests for committee assignments are now being taken. Complete a committee assignment request form and

submit it to Nancy Garrett no later than **Friday, Feb. 26.**

Committee information - charges, work plans and proposed work products, along with assignment request form - may be accessed by clicking on

<http://www.agingservicesmn.org/inc/data/2010Committees.pdf>.

Members who served on a committee in 2009 and wish to continue on the same committee are asked to reaffirm their interest in doing so by completing an assignment form.

Again, this year's committees will address our key areas of strategic focus: Public Policy and Advocacy, Customer Excellence and Innovation and Leadership Development. Our direction, our policies and our future depends on participation by members in association governance and committee work.

For Further Information:

Contact Nancy Garrett at ngarrett@agingservicesmn.org.

Son of Parkview Home Administrator Injured in Accident

The son of **Parkview Home** Administrator **Jim Broich** is continuing the long road to recovery after an accident on Interstate 94 near Clearwater that nearly took his life.

Cory Broich, a Clearwater firefighter, was on a routine call on Interstate 94 when a passing car hit and pinned him against the fire truck. He was airlifted to St. Cloud Hospital with extensive injuries to his legs and doctors don't know if he will walk again.

The accident garnered statewide attention after it aired on KARE 11. To view the story, visit

http://www.kare11.com/news/news_article.aspx?storyid=840024&catid=391

There is a fund set up for the Broich family at:

Annandale State Bank

P.O. Box 224

Clearwater, MN 55320

Aging Services of Minnesota

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