

# MONDAY

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ONLINE

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# MAILING

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## Top Stories

### Join Us As We Rally At The Capitol

Where will you be on Wednesday, April 16? For those who care about long-term care, that place is the Capitol Rotunda in St. Paul.

That's where we'll stand together with one united voice and tell our lawmakers to make funding for older adult services a top priority this legislative session. This will be the event in which we unveil our petition in support of older adult services. We want to be sure that lawmakers see the faces behind the tens of thousands of names on our petition. We want to thank everyone who took the time to sign this petition.

MHHA and other long-term care groups will kick off the rally at 1 p.m. But before that day, there are several things you have to do. The first is call and tell us how many from your facility will be making the trek to the Capitol. We're also asking that you send us digital photos of caregivers and seniors that we can use on posters and other signage. Our message is simple: funding for older adult services is about people. Please be sure to obtain permission to use photos before you send them to us.

**Mary Krueger**, the CEO at **Glenwood Retirement Village** was the first to RSVP for the rally. She has told us her facility, as well as **Knute Nelson** in Alexandria and **Minnewaska Lutheran Home** in Starbuck will be chartering a bus and they hope to fill all 55 seats.

Let's see if any facility can challenge Mary and fill two buses. And if you can't find a bus, Krueger said there are always carpools or vans.

"Everyone is so busy and it can be expensive, but we can't let those excuses stand in our way," said Krueger. "We can't give up. We need to preserve and keep beating the drum and putting the pressure on our legislators. We must stand up and be heard."

This will also be a great opportunity to meet with your legislator. We can assist you in setting up an appointment if you provide us the appropriate information in advance of the date.

Please send your photos and an RSVP to Bill Floyd at [bfloyd@mhha.com](mailto:bfloyd@mhha.com) by **Monday, April 14**. More information on the rally will be available this week. Also, look for special Audio Broadcast updates on the event throughout the week.

### House and Senate Debate Budget Proposals

Last Thursday, both the House and the Senate took up their respective budget proposals. The House debated its budget proposal for nearly 14 hours, and ultimately passed the bill.

The Senate, spent considerable less time on the floor debating various amendments and completed its work in getting its proposal in the shape it desired. However, they stopped short of passing the proposal, opting to wait and amend the House budget proposal this week.

Throughout the lengthy floor debate in the House, there were a few attempts to improve the overall funding position with respect to long term care. Most notably, Rep. Larry Hosch (DFL-St. Joesph) offered an amendment supported by the Long Term Care Imperative to establish a floor and ceiling for rebasing dollars.

The result of the amendment is that it guarantees that every nursing facility will receive a 1 percent rate increase through the rebasing formula in rate year 2008. The floor will be paid for by the establishment of a ceiling (or a maximum rate increase cap) on rebasing increases.

The amendment was supported on a bipartisan basis, and passed on a unanimous voice vote. This amendment, in combination with the additional 2 percent COLA in the House proposal, would mean that at a minimum, nursing facilities would receive a 3 percent increase in rate year 2008 should this proposal prevail in conference committee.

Rep. Huntley (DFL-Duluth) also successfully amended the bill to authorize waiving the six mile limit for the construction of a new facility in Robbinsdale. Under this language, the facility still has to get approval for the project through the moratorium exceptions process.

Rep. Steve Drazkowski (R-Wabasha) unsuccessfully offered four amendments to increase funding for nursing facilities by

providing a one-time bonus. Many spoke against the amendment, arguing that the funding source was inappropriate.

Rep. Loeffler (DFL-Minneapolis) raised concerns that there were no additional increases in the House bill for home and community-based providers, and expressed a preference that if more money would go to long term care, it should be invested in those providers.

The Senate: The Senate's budget contains the following provisions with respect to long term care:

- Cuts to the COLA for home and community-based providers, in the form of a 3-month payment delay. Under the Senate proposal, the 2 percent COLA in current law would be delayed from 7/1/08 to 10/1/08.
- For nursing homes, the Senate proposed no cuts to the increases currently scheduled to take effect under rebasing.
- The Senate budget bill still does not include any additional rate increases for long-term care.

Throughout the Senate debate, there was little mention of long term care. A notable exception was an amendment offered by Senator Betsy Wergin (R-Princeton).

The amendment would have essentially bought back the proposed delay to the home and community-based service provider COLA by diverting funds from the Health Care Access Fund. The amendment failed. Senator Linda Berglin (DFL-Mpls.) in speaking against the amendment noted that long term care providers do not pay into the health care access fund, and argued that therefore the fund should not be used for long term care.

These floor debates cap off the first stage of activity in crafting the supplemental budget. Next week, we will likely transition to a period of closed-door negotiations as the House, the Senate and the Governor try to settle differences between their positions.

Nonetheless, it appears the House and Senate are on track to have a single conference committee to discuss the supplemental budget for all spending areas, rather than one conference committee for each budget area (like K-12 Education, Health & Human Services, Public Safety, etc).

**For further information:** Contact Kari Thurlow at [kthurlow@mhha.com](mailto:kthurlow@mhha.com)

### **Imperative Rebasing Bill Advances in Senate, House**

Last week, the Senate Health and Human Services Budget Division passed SF3366, a bill advanced by the Long-Term Care Imperative that creates a floor under rebasing to ensure that all nursing facilities receive at least a 1 percent increase in the upcoming rate year.

The bill, sponsored by Sen. Linda Berglin (DFL-Minneapolis), addresses one of the unintended consequences of the rebasing language that passed last session.

In 2007, the Legislature adopted rebasing as a mechanism to set nursing facility rates, but it was phased-in over eight years with much of the benefit occurring in the last four years. In the short term, that means that 48 nursing facilities would receive no operating rate increase effective Oct. 1, 2008, and 77 facilities would get less than 1 percent - based on DHS estimates. The floor will bring those 125 facilities up to 1 percent.

The floor is paid for by establishing a maximum percentage increase or "ceiling." The actual amount of the ceiling is unknown at this time pending 2007 cost report data.

In testimony before the committee, MHHA Senior Vice President Lori Meyer stressed that this is a short-term solution. "To be clear, we have a number of concerns with the rebasing provision as it was passed last year and we will be before you next session to address those concerns," Meyer said.

This provision is part of the Imperative's two-part legislative proposal for nursing facilities this session. The other piece is passage of a two-percent COLA for all nursing facilities so that when combined, every nursing home receives at least a 3-percent increase effective 10/1/08.

The 2-percent COLA is currently contained in the House Omnibus Supplemental Budget Bill (HF1812) and the rebasing floor provision was amended onto the bill on Thursday. (See previous story in this week's Monday Mailing.) Unfortunately, there is no COLA provision included in the current Senate bill and a conference committee will likely determine how differences between the two bills are reconciled.

**For further information:** Contact Lori Meyer at [lmeyer@mhha.com](mailto:lmeyer@mhha.com).

### **MHHA Takes on Washington, DC.**

Last week, a delegation of 20 MHHA members and staff attended the AAHSA Future of Aging Services Conference and Exposition in Washington, DC.

On April 1, MHHA members spent the day meeting with Minnesota's congressional delegation and discussing a variety of issues regarding older adult services, including funding for Medicare and Medicaid, Medicare therapy caps, and funding for Section 202 Housing.

Highlights of the visits included face to face meetings with Rep. Jim Ramstad and Rep. Keith Ellison. MHHA Staff also secured commitments from key staffers to follow up on issues affecting Minnesota's providers. We want to thank the following

members for helping us lobby:

**Shirley Barnes**, CEO, **Crest View Senior Communities**, Columbia Heights

**Sandy Bensen**, VP, **Senior & Community Living Services**, Bemidji

**Nancy Burton**, Director of Charitable Giving, **Crest View Senior Communities**

**Greg Carlson**, CEO, **Grandview Christian Communities**, Cambridge

**Bob Dahl**, President & CEO, **Elim Care, Inc.**

**Dan Dixon**, President & CEO, **Guardian Angels of Elk River, Inc.**

**Lowell Hawkins**, Consultant, **Horizon HealthCare Consulting**, Minneapolis

**Kelly Hitchcock**, Regional Director, **Ecumen**

**Paul Mikelson**, President & CEO, **Lyngblomsten**, St. Paul

**Carol Raw**, VP, **St. Francis Health Services of Morris**

**Jeff Thorne**, Administrator & CEO, **Cerenity Care Center - Marian Center of St. Paul**

**Tim Tucker**, CEO, **Augustana Care Corporation**

**Patricia Vincent**, CEO, **Three Links Care Center**, Northfield

**Barb Rode**, President and CEO, **St. Therese**, New Hope

**Dick Edwards**, **Charter House**, Rochester

**Mark Landerville**, Piper Jaffray



(From left to right) Shirley Barnes, Chief Executive Officer, Crest View Senior Communities, Lowell Hawkins, Consultant, Horizon HealthCare Consulting, Nancy Burton, Director of Charitable Giving, Crest View Senior Communities, Rep. Keith Ellison, Kelly Hitchcock, Regional Director, Ecumen, Dick Edwards, Charter House, Gayle Kvenvold, President/CEO, MHHA

### **At the State Capitol Reform Bill Continues to Advance**

Last week, the Long-Term Care Imperative's Reform bill, [SF3673](#), advanced through the Health and Human Services Finance Committee in the Senate.

It is now headed for a floor vote in the Senate. It is a very positive sign that this initiative is moving as a separate bill, rather than as part of the budget bill that may be subject to a veto.

The bill continues to receive unanimous support in every legislative committee where it is heard. An amendment added in the Senate last week made most of the language the same as the House version of the bill, [HF3955](#).

Both bills provide for two to three community consortium pilot projects, which will receive grants to help them improve the way older adults are served in their region. The grants are primarily funded by a transfer of 10 percent of the funds from Community Services/Services Development Grants and Nursing Facility Performance Incentive Payments, providing about \$1.4 million per year.

Community consortiums will also be eligible for funding of moratorium exceptions projects through this process, instead of the usual process, and would have priority for any technology grants, affordable housing assistance, or transportation funding aimed at older adults.

The House version of the reform bill still needs to be heard in the Ways and Means Committee before advancing to the floor.

Once the bills pass the floor of each house, there will be only a couple of small differences to resolve- the House bill contains authority to waive state laws and rules for community consortiums as well as a home care rules change, neither of which appear in the Senate bill.

Since the vast majority of the language is identical, The Long-Term Care Imperative is hopeful that both houses will quickly agree on a final version of the bill to send to the governor.

**For further information:** Contact Jeff Bostic at [jbostic@mhha.com](mailto:jbostic@mhha.com)

### **Moratorium Provisions Pass Senate**

The Minnesota Senate passed almost one hundred bills in a marathon session last Tuesday. Among them was SF3227, a bill that contains changes to the nursing facility moratorium process and other activities of the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH).

The bill, authored by Sen. Betsy Wergin (R-Princeton), includes the following provisions:

- Extends the timeframe for completing moratorium applications from 90 days to 150 days. This provision was sought by MHHA in response to member concerns regarding the short timeframe for completing applications.
- Allows for "phased" moratorium projects that provide rate adjustments following the completion of each distinct phase of a project rather than requiring completion of the entire project before reimbursement.
- Requires that a second round of moratorium projects be initiated in a biennium if remaining funds are either greater than \$300,000 or more than 50 percent of the baseline appropriation.
- Clarifies that the commissioner of health is not required to revoke, suspend or refuse to renew the license of a nursing facility that has incurred specified uncorrected or repeated violations, if the facility corrects the violation.
- Requires the commissioner of health to send notices of resident case mix classification to nursing facilities by electronic means rather than by first class mail.
- Requires nursing facilities serving persons with Alzheimer's disease or related disorders to document compliance with staff training requirements for dementia care and clarifies that MDH has enforcement authority to ensure compliance.

An amendment was added on the Senate floor that would require the MDH commissioner, in consultation with the DHS commissioner, to develop recommendations regarding provider standards for personal care assistant services. The report would be due to the legislature by Feb. 15, 2009.

The companion bill in the House has received its second reading and awaits action on the House floor.

**For further information:** Contact Lori Meyer at [lmeyer@mhha.com](mailto:lmeyer@mhha.com).

### **News Briefs**

#### **Save the Date - Seminar Will Look At Choice, Responsibility and Fairness**

Join state and national policy leaders Wednesday, June 4, when MHHA co-sponsors a long-term care financing solution seminar at the Hubert H. Humphrey Center in Cowles Auditorium from 8 a.m. to noon.

This special event will look at why there needs to be changes in the way we pay for long-term care. The current system leaves individuals with limited options, impoverishes families and if left unchecked will bankrupt state and federal budgets.

Joining MHHA as sponsors of this event are AARP and the Hubert H. Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs. Watch for registration information in future *Monday Mailings*.

#### **"Care Center of the Future" Project Charter Finalized**

Work on the Care Center of the Future initiative is unfolding with finalization of a project "charter" and survey of stakeholder organizations that may have an interest in being involved. The charter can be found on the DHS website at [www.dhs.state.mn.us/dhs16\\_140916](http://www.dhs.state.mn.us/dhs16_140916).

This effort, a four-way collaboration between DHS, MDH, MHHA and CPOM - will seek to develop a consensus about the role of the care center in the evolving continuum of care and the larger health care system.

Based on that vision, legislative and other strategies addressing capital financing, payment, care delivery models and quality assurance will be developed. Building on existing research and policy such as DHS' Transform 2010 and the LTC Imperative's Demand Model findings, initial work will identify the characteristics of those who will be served in care center settings in the future and the types of services they will need.

This information will provide the backdrop for broader questions of the models that should guide architectural, design and programmatic features for the future, what role technology will play in future care centers and the role that the state should play in care center replacement, location of beds, etc. The overall workplan for the project will be finalized by mid-April.

Given the large number of MHHA members who have indicated an interest in participating in this visioning initiative, MHHA is going to make use of its own new technology to gather your input and ideas.

Watch for a special email communication next week from MHHA's President, Gayle Kvenvold, establishing a Care Center of the

Future e-Community that will allow members to engage in an online dialogue as this exciting project moves forward.

Share your opinions with MHHA staff and see what other members are saying via this online e-community and play an active role in creating the future of this initiative.

**For further information: Contact Gayle Kvenvold at [gkvenvold@mhha.com](mailto:gkvenvold@mhha.com)**

### **Governor Appoints Kathryn Roberts, Ron Sanford**

Last week, Governor Tim Pawlenty announced that **Kathryn Roberts**, President and Chief Executive Officer of **Ecumen**, has been appointed to and will serve as chair of the newly formed Veterans Health Care Advisory Council.

**Ronald Sanford**, Chief Operating Officer of **Elim Care, Inc.** was also appointed to the Council.

The Veterans Health Care Advisory Council was recently created by executive order as a result of a recommendation of the Governor's Veteran's Long Term Care Advisory Commission.

The council will provide the Department of Veterans Affairs with advice and recommendations on the current and anticipated future needs of veterans. Other appointees include: Bradley Bennett, James Birchem, Dr. Kenneth Hughes, Julia Eszlinger-Jensen, Tom Mullon, H. Michael Tripple, and Diane Windham.

Roberts is President/CEO of Ecumen which employs over 4,000 staff and operates independent and assisted living housing, care centers, home health care and a wide variety of community-based services in 90 communities in the mid-west.

Prior to joining Ecumen, Roberts held a number of leadership positions in state government and non-profit organizations. She holds a Ph.D. in educational administration from the University of Minnesota. Roberts is appointed to a four-year term that expires January 2, 2012.

Sanford, of Edina, is COO of Elim Care, Inc. in Eden Prairie. Elim Care is a faith-based, non-profit corporation serving older adults in Minnesota, North Dakota and Iowa. He has over 20 years of leadership experience in the long-term care and older adult services field. Sanford is appointed to a two-year term that expires January 4, 2010.

MHHA congratulates Kathryn and Ronald on their appointments.

### **Health Care Engineers to Meet May 2**

The Minnesota Health Care Engineers Association will hold its fifteenth annual spring education seminar at Grand Casino in Hinckley on Friday, May 2.

This annual event once again will have a focus on the Life Safety Code and its enforcement. It's a great way for facility engineers and maintenance directors to catch up on the latest trends in federal citations (and yes, there is a federal inspector who still issues 20 or more citations on every survey).

The program runs from 8:30 to 3:30, and the \$25 registration fee includes lunch. The morning sessions cover OSHA and an update on the Life Safety Code citations.

The afternoon sessions address advocacy and the requirements for recurring testing, preventive maintenance, and documentation for fire safety systems. The speakers include Jim Loveland of the engineering section of the Minnesota Department of Health and Pat Sheehan of the fire marshal division of the Department of Public Safety.

Once again, MHHA encourages members to send their appropriate employees to this valuable day of programs and information. To download information on the program and the registration form, [click here](#). You can also download the registration information at [www.mhcea.org](http://www.mhcea.org). The registration deadline is April 21.

For further information, contact Darrell Shreve at [dshreve@mhha.com](mailto:dshreve@mhha.com) or Keith Carlson at [kcarlson@MHHC.SISUNet.org](mailto:kcarlson@MHHC.SISUNet.org).

### **Fourth Minnesota Facility Added to SFF List, Changes Announced**

The Minnesota Department of Health and the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services have added a fourth facility to the Special Focus Facilities list.

The new addition is Woodbury Health Care Center. It joins Infinia at Owatonna, which was added to the list the previous month, Golden Valley Rehabilitation and Care Center, which has been on the list for twelve months, and McIntosh Manor, which has been on the list for 38 months.

The latter two are designated by CMS as having made improvements in care on their most recent survey, while the first two have not been surveyed since being placed on the list. They replaced two facilities that graduated from the list in December.

CMS has also announced two more changes in the Special Focus Facilities list. In April, CMS will create links between individual nursing home pages on Nursing Home Compare and the SFF list. Then in August, CMS will announce methods by which SFF may obtain additional technical assistance to help them improve quality.

Members who wish to examine the entire SFF list may do so by clicking on this [link](#).

**For further information:**

Contact Darrell Shreve at [dshreve@mhha.com](mailto:dshreve@mhha.com)

### **MDH Seeks Comment on Uniform Electronic Claims Transaction Rules**

Last session, legislation was passed that requires the Minnesota Department of Health to promulgate rules establishing and requiring group purchasers and health care providers to use electronic claims and eligibility transactions with a single, uniform companion guide.

MDH is now seeking comments on the following Uniform, Standard Companion Guides for Health Care Claims Electronic Transactions, as developed by the Commissioner of the Department of Health in consultation with the Minnesota Administrative Uniformity Committee (AUC), and its Claims Data Definitions Technical Advisory Group.

- Health Care Claim, Professional Electronic Transaction (837P);
- Health Care Claim, Institutional Electronic Transaction (837I);
- Health Care Claim, Dental Electronic Transaction (837D);
- NCPDP Pharmacy Claim, Submission and Response (NCPDP 5.1);
- NCPDP Pharmacy Reversal, Submission and Response (NCPDP 5.1).

Interested persons or groups may submit data or views in writing. Written statements must identify which one of health care claims transactions they are concerning and should be addressed to Colleen Morse, MDH, P.O. Box 64882, St. Paul, MN 55164-0822, or e-mail at: [colleen.morse@health.state.mn.us](mailto:colleen.morse@health.state.mn.us) or fax: (651) 201-5179.

Comments on the applicability and functionality of guides and suggestions for improvements will be accepted at the above address until 4 p.m. Tuesday, April 29. After the Commissioner of Health has considered all comments received, the Commissioner will publish a notice of adoption in the State Register. The rules will take effect 30 days subsequent to that notice.

A free copy of the proposed rules is available upon request. Persons who wish to obtain a paper copy should call Colleen Morse at MDH, (651) 201-3570, or fax a request to (651) 201-5179 or write to the address above, and clearly identify which one of health care claims transactions is being requested.

All of the documents are available for downloading at: <http://www.health.state.mn.us/asa/index.html>.

#### ***For further information:***

Contact Lori Meyer at [lmeyer@mhha.com](mailto:lmeyer@mhha.com).

### **DHS Still Reviewing Performance Incentive Payment Proposals**

Nursing facility members who have applied for the current round of performance incentive payments may be wondering about the status of their proposals.

The RFP for the current round indicated that proposals would be selected by the end of March, with contract negotiations following over the next few months and rate adjustments taking effect on Oct. 1.

However, DHS has not yet finalized a list of selected proposals, so no nursing facilities have yet been contacted about negotiating contract terms.

DHS staff indicated that they hope to complete the selection process in the near future, and when that is done those nursing facilities whose proposals have been selected will be notified.

#### ***For further information:***

Contact Jeff Bostic at [jbostic@mhha.com](mailto:jbostic@mhha.com)

### **CMS Updates 2006 SNF PC Pricer**

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services announced last Friday that it has updated the SNF PC Pricer for federal fiscal year 2006.

CMS determined that there were some problems with the computer logic for core-based statistical areas (CBSAs) and revised the pricer accordingly. Members that have open claims that use this pricer can download it at: [www.cms.hhs.gov/PCPricer/04\\_SNF.asp](http://www.cms.hhs.gov/PCPricer/04_SNF.asp). Scroll down the page and click on the link for FY 2006.2.

#### ***For further information:***

Contact Darrell Shreve at [dshreve@mhha.com](mailto:dshreve@mhha.com)

### **South Central Emergency Preparedness to Meet May 2**

The South Central regional meeting on emergency preparedness will be on Friday, May 2, at 10 a.m. in the Nichols office building (3rd floor) in Mankato. Members are encouraged to attend (both care centers and housing).

Please contact Lavida Gingrich at 507-238-8521 or [gingrich.lavida@mayo.edu](mailto:gingrich.lavida@mayo.edu) for directions or to obtain the needs assessment survey (if you have not already filled one out).

If you wish to participate in the group, she would like to receive your email address, too

### **Alfonso Jackson Resigns as HUD Secretary**

U.S. Housing and Urban Development Secretary Alphonso Jackson announced last week he was stepping down as the nation's chief housing officer. Jackson will conclude his government service under a cloud as the nation's thirteenth HUD Secretary on April 18, 2008.

HUD issued a press release (found at [here](#)) detailing HUD's accomplishments under Secretary Jackson, but this resignation comes when Jackson has been accused of ethical breaches and political favoritism in the awarding of federal contracts. According to the April 1 Star Tribune, congressional Democrats had been pressing the Administration to remove Jackson.

Among the issues plaguing Jackson was a suit filed by the Philadelphia Housing Authority alleging that Jackson threatened to withdraw federal funding when the Authority did not hire a contractor friend of Jackson's. Jackson is also under FBI investigation, according to the *Star Tribune*, concerning ties between him and a friend that received \$392,000 in HUD payments as a New Orleans construction manager post-Katrina.

### **MHHA Seeks Home Care Provider Feedback on Spenddown/Waiver Obligations**

Collection of Medical Assistance (MA) spend downs and waiver obligations has been an on-going issue for providers - an issue MHHA hopes to address in future efforts to update and simplify the Elderly Waiver program.

Members of the Minnesota HomeCare Association have also identified this as a major concern in their advocacy efforts. To help inform our future advocacy efforts on these issues, MHHA has developed a short survey and is encouraging all member home care providers that serve MA clients to complete the survey by May 1. The survey can be found [here](#).

### **NCOA and SNAPforSeniors Launch National Senior Housing Locator**

The National Council on Aging (NCOA) and SNAPforSeniors has announced the launch of the Senior Housing Locator, an online navigational tool that will provide seniors and their families access to a current and comprehensive database of more than 60,000 senior housing communities nationwide.

This is a companion tool to the widely used BenefitsCheckUp found at [www.BenefitsCheckUp.org](http://www.BenefitsCheckUp.org).

According to NCOA, a recent analysis of the traffic on BenefitsCheckUp--NCOA's popular service that allows older Americans to identify benefit programs for which they may be eligible--indicated that one third of users are interested in finding senior housing. In response, the two organizations developed this free online service that will enable users to search an online database of assisted living communities, nursing homes, residential care facilities, continuing care retirement communities and independent living communities. SNAPforSeniors does not collect referral fees from housing providers assuring that the information is objective and reliable.

SNAPforSeniors reports that the Senior Housing Locator lists every licensed senior housing community in the nation, and a quick check by MHHA staff indicates the site also includes registered housing-with-services establishments in Minnesota.

To use the Senior Housing Locator, go to [www.BenefitsCheckUp.org](http://www.BenefitsCheckUp.org). The Senior Housing Locator can also be found at [www.NCOA.org](http://www.NCOA.org).

SNAPforSeniors, Inc. is a Seattle-based information company and developer of the most current and comprehensive web-based senior housing resource and listing service in the United States. The National Council on Aging (NCOA) is a non-profit organization, with a mission to improve the lives of older Americans. NCOA has 3,700 members and a national network of some 14,000 organizations, including senior centers, area agencies on aging, adult day service centers, faith-based service organizations, senior housing facilities, consumer groups and more. NCOA programs help older people remain healthy and independent, find jobs, access benefits programs, and discover meaningful ways to continue contributing to society.

For more information, contact Scott Parkin, NCOA, at 202-479-6975 or [scott.parkin@ncoa.org](mailto:scott.parkin@ncoa.org), or Karla Hurter, SNAPforSeniors, at 703-319-0957 or [khurter@health2resources.com](mailto:khurter@health2resources.com)

### **Providers are Reminded to Begin Preparing for HUD Fund Applications**

Although HUD has not yet published the 2008 SuperNOFA for programs such as Section 202, assisted living conversion program and service coordinators, providers are reminded that HUD has issued the general funding announcement for FY 2008.

The General Section of the SuperNOFA gives prospective applicants additional time to become familiar with and address provisions in the General Section, which constitute part of almost every individual program application.

Before the program-specific NOFAs are issued, potential grant seekers are strongly encouraged to familiarize themselves with the online, electronic submissions and systems requirements, document formats, and to register with Grants.gov - a process which is described as taking 2 to 4 weeks to complete.

Information on this initial part of the SuperNOFA is found at <http://a257.g.akamaitech.net/7/257/2422/01jan20081800/edocket.access.gpo.gov/2008/pdf/E8-5626.pdf>. Detailed instruction regarding how to apply for Grants.gov and other important funding request submission information for the FY 2008 funding round, including information on e-signatures, required identification and systems compatibility issues for online

document are found at

<http://a257.g.akamaitech.net/7/257/2422/01jan20081800/edocket.access.gpo.gov/2008/pdf/E8-4724.pdf>. The broadcast schedule for web casts on HUD funding for specific programs and other information is found at <http://www.hud.gov/offices/adm/grants/fundsavail.cfm>.

### **MHHA Member Reports Positive MDH Home Care Call**

MHHA has received a very positive report from Kathy Olson, executive director, Millstream Commons in Northfield, about the Minnesota Department of Health's (MDH) "telephone interview and education" calls.

These calls are a new tool that the MDH Case Mix Review staff has implemented to supplement its formal survey process. Newly licensed Class F and Class A (licensed only) home care providers as well as other providers who have not been surveyed by Case Mix Review staff will be the focus of these calls, which are described in MDH Information Bulletin 08-02, found at [http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/fpc/profinfo/ib08\\_2.html](http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/fpc/profinfo/ib08_2.html).

According Olson, the interaction was pleasant and it was clear that the MDH caller was committed to helping providers "do it right." The first question from MDH was how the provider learned about how to become licensed, apparently designed to identify the provider's health care experience and ties to organizations like MHHA. The MDH surveyor went on to ask about the level of services provided by the home care provider and other questions, in a call that lasted about 45 minutes. After the call, MDH sent an e-mail follow-up with links to various helpful web sites.

Olson indicated that she felt well prepared for the call and offered the following tips for others:

- Use Bulletin 08-02 to prepare for the call—it says what the MDH staff will be covering.
- In many cases it will be important to have key members of the management team (e.g., housing manager and RN in charge of home care) on the call. For example, the MDH caller asked about the marketing material, which is not handled by the RN at this site.

For more information about this telephone interview process, contact Mary Youle at [myoule@mhha.com](mailto:myoule@mhha.com).

### **DHS to Offer Videoconferences on Home/Vehicle Modifications and Social Work Ethics in LTC**

The Department of Human Services will offer a videoconference on "Home and Vehicle Modifications: Supporting Seniors Where and How They Want to Live" on April 17 (new date).

The program will be offered at 10 a.m. and repeated at 1:30 p.m. at various locations around the state. Presenter(s) will be Melanie Fry, Program Consultant, DHS Disability Services Division, and Darlene Schroeder, Program Administrator, Aging and Adult Services Division. The program will:

- Describe home modifications that make it easier for seniors to be self-sufficient in their own homes.
- Describe vehicle modifications that make it possible for seniors to continue to drive and/or access a vehicle.
- Identify barriers and solutions to assist seniors in selecting and securing desired modifications.

This program will provide a variety of examples of housing modifications, including integrated environmental controls, ramps and lifts. Modifications that can be made to vehicles, enabling access and driving will also be shown. Resource lists of modification types, consultants, providers and funding will be provided. Use of EW, AC and MA State Plan funds will also be discussed.

On April 24, DHS will offer a videoconference on "Social Work Ethics in Geriatric Long Term Care." The program will be offered in various locations around the state at 10 a.m. and again at 1:30 p.m.

This program will review basic ethical principles in social work and then provide an opportunity to discuss the application of principles to situations commonly encountered in long term care for seniors. Rosalie A. Kane, PhD, a professor of public health at the University of Minnesota and a faculty member of the Center for Biomedical Ethics, School of Social Work, and the Center on Aging will discuss ethical dilemmas arising in long-term care such as the tension between safety and protection -and- freedom and autonomy.

Pre-registration for all DHS videoconferences is required, and if you are unable to attend after registering, DHS requests that you cancel following the directions in the confirmation e-mail so that another person may take your spot. To register and see the locations for the programs available for each time slot, go to [agingtraining.dhs.state.mn.us](http://agingtraining.dhs.state.mn.us). Registration closes at 5:00 p.m. on the Monday prior to the session.

### **MDH Home Care Regulatory Framework Planning Group Focuses on Defining Terms**

Last Friday, the Minnesota Department of Health's (MDH) Home Care Regulatory Framework Planning Group met to continue its work to consider possible changes to home care requirements. The meeting began with a review of a proposed conceptual framework for different types of home care services. Set up like a pyramid, from bottom to top, the rows are labeled:

- Basic Home Care Services
- More than Basic Home Care—Includes Unlicensed Personnel Med Administration

- Comprehensive Home Careâ€”Includes Therapies
- Complex Care.

In trying to develop a conceptual framework, MDH is hoping that the current rules can be streamlined to delete redundant language and to simplify some requirements that differ only slightly from one class of license to another.

Most of the meeting focused on defining terms, with "consumer directed care" taking up most of the discussion time. It was suggested that "consumer direction" is a broader term that should be used. Questions were raised about whether this concept/program sets up unrealistic expectations, since the consumer directed services always have limits imposed by the MA program.

It was also noted that private pay consumers do not currently have this option under the current home care rules. Consumer directed care will undoubtedly pose a challenge as the home care requirements are examined, since this MA program permits (and even encourages) the use of unlicensed persons to provide care, compared to the significant requirements that staff must meet when working for a licensed home care agency.

Other terms that are being examined include skilled care, skilled nursing care, medical/non-medical care (or health care), supervision of client, oversight/supervision of staff, monitoring of care, service agreement and service plan.

MHHA's ad hoc home care group will meet for the first time on April 10 to develop recommendations related to any proposals that are developed by the MDH Planning Group. For more information, contact Mary Youle at [myoule@mhha.com](mailto:myoule@mhha.com).

### **Stratis Health Quality Improvement Outcomes Conference Planned**

The Stratis Health Quality Improvement Outcomes conference will be held this month in two locations: April 22 at the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum, or April 29 at The Lodge in Baxter/Brainerd.

The conference is an all-day event, beginning at 8:30 a.m. with a continental breakfast and networking and ending at 3:30. Registration costs are \$30 and CEU participation certificates will be provided.

Attendees will hear practical tips on how these organizations are making quality changes to enhance the quality of life of those they serve. Panels of providers will share first-hand the barriers, challenges, and successes encountered in their work. Local health care experts, Larhae Knatterud, director of Aging Transformation, Minnesota Department of Human Services; and Estelle Brower, senior vice president of Operations and Communications, Stratis Health, will share results from the Aging: Project 2030 report and building successful community partnerships.

Space is limited so please register early by contacting Vickie Switzer at (952) 853-8508, [vswitzer@stratishealth.org](mailto:vswitzer@stratishealth.org) or visit [www.stratishealth.org](http://www.stratishealth.org) to download registration information.

### **Workshop Planned in Hutchinson**

The ninth annual NAR workshop will be held Tuesday, May 13, at the Hutchinson Event Center. Presentations include, "How You Can Help Prevent Falls," "I don't have time to work out," "Dealing with Difficult People" and "Funky Footcare."

For registration information, contact **Tracy Marquardt**, Education Services Rep, at [tmarquardt@hahc-mn.org](mailto:tmarquardt@hahc-mn.org) or 320-234-5081

### **Member News**

#### **Reminder to Share Your News with Other Members**

The Member News area on the MHHA web site offers space for members to share news about their organization.

This space is for introducing new administrators, directors of nursing and housing administrators; for announcing the opening of new buildings and expansions; and for letting your colleagues know about special events that are open to them, including educational offerings, fund-raisers and open houses.

A Member News link is sent each week within the Monday Mailing email or you can find Member News under Newsletters from the main navigation of the MHHA web site.

Send your news items to Bill Floyd at [bfloyd@mhha.com](mailto:bfloyd@mhha.com) by noon of Friday each week.

### **Question of the Week**

#### **Question of the Week**

Q. What responsibilities will we have for helping residents or tenants deal with the economic stimulus payments? How will these affect people who are on MA?

A. If the resident (or someone on behalf of the resident) filed income tax forms, the IRS will send a check automatically. This includes situations where the individual is a dependent on someone else's income tax. If there was no income tax filed, the individual will be able to file for the stimulus payment, once the government tells everyone how to do it.

The facility has no obligation to assist the resident in filling out any tax forms. Family members, responsible parties, and

non-profit organizations that provide free assistance to the elderly are people or entities that can help residents.

MHHA asked DHS how the stimulus payment will affect people on MA (or GAMC or MinnesotaCare) and here is what they said. For the recipient, the stimulus payment is NOT considered income in the month it is received OR in the two months following.

After the expiration of those two months, it will be counted as an asset if it has not been spent. DHS is working on a bulletin that will address the economic stimulus package with respect to these programs and others, like Food Stamps.

The bulletin should be available later this month.

## Association News

### MHHA Receives HealthForce Minnesota Grant

MHHA received official notice last week that \$100,000 will be granted to the Association to launch the Health Support Specialist (HSS) Registered Apprenticeship Program in Minnesota.

"There is a high need for a replicable model for recruiting and retaining older adult service workers in the state", wrote HealthForce Minnesota Executive Director Jane Foote in her letter announcing the grant. "I sincerely look forward to working with you in the months to come as we together try and advance practice and healthcare education."

HealthForce Minnesota is a Center of Excellence created by the Minnesota State Colleges and University System to focus on healthcare innovation, diversity and learning.

The HealthForce Minnesota grant will provide MHHA with the resources necessary to establish this program, including the opportunity to hire a project coordinator, contract with Minneapolis Community & Technical College for curriculum development, offer necessary support to providers in the first round of implementation, conduct research and evaluation of the program results and several other related activities.

In a subsequent meeting last Thursday, MHHA's Workforce Solutions Council provided guidance to staff on the necessary next steps for the implementation activities. Many members have already learned about the HSS program and the Association services that will be offered through presentations at the Institute or in March district meetings.

MHHA will be creating an "intent to participate" form for providers interested in participating in serving as initial implementation sites this summer.

Look for more information coming soon. In the meantime, for further information on HealthForce Minnesota, visit [www.HealthForceMinnesota.org](http://www.HealthForceMinnesota.org).

For further information on Health Support Specialist program and MHHA's efforts, contact Adam Suomala at 651-603-3530 or [asuomala@mhha.com](mailto:asuomala@mhha.com).

### Program Deadline is Tuesday

The registration deadline is fast approaching for MHHA's 'Preparing the New LTC DON for a Successful Future' Series

Members interested in attending this timely and popular educational series are reminded that the registration deadline for attending the whole series is by day's end on Tuesday, April 8.

Space for it is limited and on a first-received basis. Just a few spots remain for this once-a-year offering to be held:

- April 15 - 17, St. Francis Retreat Center, Little Falls
- May 20 - 22, St. Francis Retreat Center, Little Falls
- June 17 - 19, MHHA Offices, St. Paul
- July 22 - 24, St. Francis Retreat Center, Little Falls
- August 26 - 28, St. Francis Retreat Center, Little Falls

The series is designed for staff new to the DON position or for the experienced DON who may need to refresh her/his knowledge on a particular topic. Don't miss this year's series and register today online or via FAX.

For further information on the program content, contact Heidi Simpson. Registration questions may be directed to Beth Gabrysiak.

### Spring ALNet Meetings Scheduled for April-May

MHHA's spring ALNet meetings will begin with the District E ALNet meeting April 17 and the District C meeting on April 24.

The District B and D ALNet meetings are scheduled for May.

MHHA's regional ALNet meetings are designed to provide an informal networking opportunity for nurses working in home care, including assisted living settings.

Participants are encouraged to use these gatherings to talk to peers about how they interpret and implement the state's home care requirements, how they deal with reimbursement issues and for suggestions concerning client and family issues.

Participants also share their experiences with recent surveys and often share policies, procedures and forms. Staff provides updates on legislation (such as the COLA and credentialing of managers of assisted living buildings) and state agency activities.

Details on the upcoming meetings follow:

<b>District E</b> Thursday, April 17 1-3 p.m.	Countryside Retirement Community, Family Room (Second Floor), 1100 First Avenue South, Sleepy Eye, (507) 794-3200, host: Karen Braulick.
<b>District C</b> Thursday, April 24 1-3 p.m.	Pioneer Care Center, (Conference room), 1006 S. Sheridan St., Fergus Falls, 218-739-7700, host: Heather Nelson. Discussion topics will include disposal of medications.
<b>District D</b> Thursday, May 6 1-3 p.m.	St. Scholastica Convent, 1845 20th Ave SE, St Cloud, 320-251-2225, host: Sister Judy Schaffer. Discussion topics will include Elderly Waiver Customized Living.
<b>District B</b> Thursday, May 22 1:30-3:30 p.m.	Evergreen Knoll Assisted Living, 1308 14th Street, Cloquet, 218-878-3302, host: Ginger McKean

Dates for meetings in Districts F and G are not yet confirmed.

**For further information:**

Contact Mary Youle at [myoule@mhha.com](mailto:myoule@mhha.com).

**MHHA Launches CFO Network**

MHHA has created a new opportunity for member financial experts to network with each other and learn about important financial management issues. Our CFO network will hold its first meeting on the morning of May 1 at MHHA.

At this initial meeting of the group, MHHA member CFOs from around the state will discuss plans for how this group should operate as well as identifying key issues it should address.

Last Wednesday, MHHA sent all identified member CFOs an email informing them about the network and the upcoming meeting.

If you did not receive that email, but would like to be a member of our CFO Network and participate in its activities, please contact Jeff Bostic at [jbostic@mhha.com](mailto:jbostic@mhha.com)

**MHHA Presents Workforce Display at State Capitol**

According to MHHA's 2006 and 2007 Member Value Survey results, issues related to workforce are the second greatest challenge facing members - falling a close second to the constant pressures of inadequate funding.

To help educate Minnesota lawmakers on the real impacts their work has, MHHA currently has an informational booth on display at the Minnesota State Capitol.

Starting April 2, MHHA assembled a booth in the State Capitol outside key committee hearing rooms. The booth shares compelling information on the current financial crisis in older adult services and connects those financial strains to the thousands of jobs and economic impact our member settings have in communities across the state. The display also introduces the new Health Support Specialist career being launched by MHHA.

This display is part of MHHA's ongoing advocacy work and a collaborative effort with the Healthcare Education Industry Partnership (HEIP), which is a statewide group working to raise the visibility of Minnesota's healthcare workforce and connect the higher education community with the provider community for mutually beneficial solutions.

MHHA's workforce booth will be on display until Friday, April 11. For further information, contact Adam Suomala at 651-603-3530 or [asuomala@mhha.com](mailto:asuomala@mhha.com).

**March District Meetings Cover Several Topics**

Large crowds of members gathered in communities across the state to meet with the MHHA team this month.

In those meetings, MHHA President/CEO Gayle Kvenvold reviewed key findings of MHHA's recent poll of Minnesota households, which can be used in advocacy efforts and to benchmark and track the views of Minnesotans toward older adult services. Members can access this presentation online at [www.mhha.com/inc/data/PublicPollingResults.ppt](http://www.mhha.com/inc/data/PublicPollingResults.ppt)

In addition, Kvenvold provided a timely update on our advocacy efforts, including the latest information used by MHHA at the Capitol and with recent media events around the state. Members can incorporate these compelling slides into advocacy and community outreach efforts today by accessing the information at [www.mhha.com/inc/data/AdvocacyUpdate.ppt](http://www.mhha.com/inc/data/AdvocacyUpdate.ppt).

In the Care Center program, MHHA Manager of Member Relations Adam Suomala reviewed the challenging workforce trends facing older adult services and the strategies created by MHHA's Workforce Solutions Council to respond, including efforts to launch a new frontline career model - Health Support Specialist - as well as replicate regional LTC LPN training centers.

For further information, members can access that presentation online at:  
[www.mhha.com/inc/data/ElevatingOurFutureWorkforce.ppt](http://www.mhha.com/inc/data/ElevatingOurFutureWorkforce.ppt)

In the Housing Program, MHHA Vice President of Housing and Community Services Mary Youle reviewed the hot topic of credentialing for housing managers. Included in the discussion were a summary and the bill language proposed this session by the ElderCare Rights Alliance and a copy of MHHA's survey on the existing credentials of housing managers.

While this legislation is no longer moving forward this session, MHHA President/CEO Gayle Kvenvold will soon be sending members additional details on this important issue. In the meantime, for the background information on this topic, visit [www.mhha.com/inc/data/ECRALicensurebill.pdf](http://www.mhha.com/inc/data/ECRALicensurebill.pdf).

Also discussed in the housing program was the upcoming launch of MHHA's Confident Choices program.

For more information on this program, contact Mary Youle at 651-645-4545 or [myoule@mhha.com](mailto:myoule@mhha.com).

For further information on MHHA district meetings or the resources provided, contact Adam Suomala at 651-603-3530 or [asuomala@mhha.com](mailto:asuomala@mhha.com).

### **Mark Your Calendar Now for June District Meetings**

Don't miss the next series of MHHA district meetings. MHHA members know through working together we achieve far more than individually.

A hallmark component of membership is the welcoming community of colleagues that gather in formal and informal ways to network. District Meetings are designed for administrators, housing managers and others leaders to network with colleagues from the region, access timely information emerging from legislative, regulatory and association environments and to shape the work of MHHA. Please make time to join us.

District A, June 25  
District B, June 26  
District C, June 24  
District D, June 17  
District E, June 18  
District F, June 20  
District G, June 27

Times and locations will be confirmed in the next few weeks.

For further information: Contact Adam Suomala at 651-603-3530 or [asuomala@mhha.com](mailto:asuomala@mhha.com).

### **Act Now - District Meeting Survey to Close**

All members are asked to participate in a very brief survey on district meetings. Whether you have never been to a meeting or you are a frequent participant in the events, please take two minutes right now to complete the survey.

The survey will close by Friday, April 11. To participate in this quick survey, visit <http://survey.minnesotacca.com/TakeSurvey.aspx?SurveyID=n6LM9ol>.

For further information on district meetings or to share your ideas and feedback, contact Adam Suomala at 651-603-3530 or [asuomala@mhha.com](mailto:asuomala@mhha.com).

### **Minnesota HOSA Seeks Judges**

Minnesota's Health Occupation Students of America (HOSA) is holding a Spring Leadership Conference on April 22-23, 2008 at the Southwest Marriott in Minnetonka.

They are currently seeking interested MHHA members to serve as Judges for a variety of events. Have you considered your connection to your future workers? Perhaps MN HOSA would provide a good link.

HOSA is a student organization whose mission is to promote career opportunities in health care and to enhance the delivery of quality health care to all people. Over 200 students from around the state will be meeting to compete in health science knowledge and skills. MHHA invites members who like to interact with students to judge in all competitive events with all skill

levels.

Examples of events you may be interested in judging for include:

#### ***Creative Problem Solving***

This event will involve two rounds of competition. Round One will consist of a written test to evaluate the team's understanding of problem solving processes and theories. The top scoring teams will advance to Round Two and will be given a potential problem related to a healthcare issue or the healthcare community. Teams will have 30 minutes to analyze the problem. Selected resource materials related to the problem will be provided. At the end of the preparation time, teams will have ten (10) minutes to present their solution to a panel of judges.

#### ***CPR/ First Aid/ Rescue Breathing***

This event will consist of two rounds of competition for a 2-person team. Round One is a written, multiple choice test of knowledge and understanding. The top scoring teams will advance to Round Two for the performance of selected skill procedure(s) identified in a written scenario. The scenario will require the use of critical thinking skills. The performance will be timed and evaluated according to the event guidelines.

#### ***HOSA Bowl***

Teams consisting of three-four (3-4) members each will take a written test in Round One. Top scoring teams advance to Round Two and compete by giving appropriate responses to items presented by a moderator. These items may be in the form of questions, incomplete statements, and/or definitions. Winners will be determined by a series of elimination rounds. The last remaining team becomes the first-place winner of a section. Section winners play in final rounds to determine the top three teams.

#### ***Written Knowledge Tests***

Each "Knowledge Test" will be a 100 item multiple choice written exam with an essay tie-breaker question. Each test will be related to a specific career or specialty area from within the health care community or related information that applies to several health specialties. Questions will measure knowledge at the recall, application and analysis levels. Students will select only one test and each test will be considered a separate event. Students will be given 1 1/2 hours to complete the examination.

These events are an exciting opportunities to connect with students and experience this unique organization. Several MHHA members have recently joined Minnesota HOSA, including **Ecumen, St. Francis Health Services, and Crestview Communities.**

For more information, on judging, visit the national HOSA website at [www.hosa.org](http://www.hosa.org) and click on the event you are interested in judging for the scoring sheets. You will be provided scoring sheets the day of the event. Two judge orientations are scheduled.

Those trainings will occur on Tuesday, April 22, from 3- 3:45 p.m. or on Wednesday, April 23 from 7:15 - 7:45 a.m. in the Bryant Lake room.

For further information, contact event contact Sonya McNamara at 507-389-3262 or [sonya.mcnamara@mnsu.edu](mailto:sonya.mcnamara@mnsu.edu). For further information on Minnesota HOSA, visit [www.minnesotahosa.org](http://www.minnesotahosa.org) or contact Adam Suomala at 651-603-3530 or [asuomala@mhha.com](mailto:asuomala@mhha.com).

### **Education Solutions At-A-Glance**

We're happy to introduce our new MHHA Education On Demand program. Now, any time - any place, you're just a click away from important information.

Download these Video Casts from the 2008 Institute.

[Click Here to Order](#)

Making Dreams Come True (session 120)

Culture Change: Do More Than Look At Me - Involve Me (session 105)

Motorized Assistive Devices: Balancing Individual Rights and Safety (session 133)

Creating Relationship-Centered Environments For Living (session 206)

Ethical Dilemmas in Refusal of Cares: The Challenge and Solution (session 222)

#### ***Spring Training - REGISTRATION NOW OPEN***

[Click Here](#) for more information or to register

Preparing the New LTC DON for a Successful Future April 15-17, May 20-22, June 17-19, July 22-24, Aug. 26-28

Minnesota's EW and GRH Programs

Part 2 - Group Residential Housing phone conference (GRH)

April 8 - (phone conference)

Part 3 - Successfully and Legally Operationalizing the EW and GRH Programs May 22, June 11, June 16, June 19 (Multiple locations around the state - stay tuned for details.)

Housing-with-Services Management Certificate Program April 22-23, May 8-9, June 4-5 (St. Paul)

#### ***Summer's Hot Tickets - COMING SOON***

Class A Licensing program June 11 (Twin Cities)

Midsummer Senior Living Conference July 23 (St. Paul)

Legal Issues for Senior Housing Providers July 24 (St. Paul)

Nurse Managers in Home Care Settings Certificate Program July 29-30, Aug. 13-14, Sept. 9-10 (St. Paul)

Innovation and Technology Conference Aug. 6-7 (Blaine)

Cool Fall Opportunities - COMING SOON MHHA Annual Meeting & Leadership Forum Sept. 16-19 (Brainerd)

MHHA/MHCA Assisted Living Home Care Conference Oct. 22 (St. Paul)

Marketing & Sales for Senior Living Communities Certificate Program Coming in October (St. Paul)

### **Winter Specials**

2009 Institute for Older Adult Services Feb. 11-13, 2009 (Minneapolis)

### **Watch this space for these upcoming 2008 Events**

Financial Management for Home Care Providers Co-Sponsored with Minnesota HomeCare Association Fall (Twin Cities)

## **AAHSA News**

### **Salary and Benefits Survey Deadlines Extended**

Hospital and Healthcare Compensation Service (HCS) in cooperation with the American Association of Homes and Services for the Aging (AAHSA) is conducting salary and benefit surveys for Continuing Care Retirement Communities (CCRCs).

The deadline for both surveys has recently been extended. Completed CCRC questionnaires should be sent to HHCS by Friday, April 25. The report will be available in June.

Completed nursing home questionnaires should be sent to HCS by Monday, May 5. The report will be available in July.

Participants may purchase either survey at a reduced cost of \$135, while nonparticipating members will pay \$295. To download a copy of the survey, visit [www.hcsinc.com](http://www.hcsinc.com) or call HCS at 201-405-0075.

## **Your MHHA.com**

### **Visit MHHA.com Daily**

MHHA's web site at [MHHA.com](http://MHHA.com) provides members access to a variety of valuable resources, including updated information on legislation, regulations, data you can use, directories, registration for events, products for purchase and more. Members are reminded to be sure to log in to take full advantage of the expanded information and special pricing available only to members.

Make it a habit, visit [MHHA.com](http://MHHA.com) daily.

For further information, Contact Jenny Mims at 651-645-4545 or [jmims@mhha.com](mailto:jmims@mhha.com).

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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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