

# MONDAY

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ONLINE

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# MAILING

Posted:05-23-2008

## Top Stories

### Spotlight on Legislation - Older Adult Services Community Consortium Pilot

Much of our legislative summary on Monday focused on the state budget and the COLA for nursing homes and home and community based service providers. Today, we wanted to spotlight another success story from the 2008 Legislative Session: the passage of HF 3955 / SF 3673.

The idea of this proposal emerged from August 2007 MHHA Board Retreat and MHHA brought the idea forward to the Long Term Care Imperative for inclusion in our 2008 legislative priorities.

The objective was to break down silos around funding that currently exists to promote long term care reform. Our thinking was that while the marketplace of older adult services is transforming, significant local and regional gaps, particularly in Greater Minnesota, remain - gaps that for many seniors will make the difference between remaining in a home-based setting versus a care center stay and/or an acute episode requiring hospitalization.

We presented this proposal to Governor Pawlenty in February. At that meeting, he told us the proposal was "spot on" and gave us the green light to move forward with the proposal and that we would have the backing of the administration.

Rep. Paul Thissen (DFL-Mpls.), chair of the House Health and Human Services Policy Committee and Senate Tony Lourey (DFL-Kerrick), a member of the Senate Health and Human Services Budget Division both enthusiastically signed on as our lead authors.

Both legislators deserve high praise for moving this bill through the process. The bill was signed into law on May 19 by the governor. The law establishes up to three "Older Adult Services Community Consortia." A consortium may consist of health care and social service providers, county agencies, health plan companies, and other community stakeholders within a demonstration site, that have established a process for joint decision-making. Demonstration sites may include a portion of a county, an entire county, or multiple counties. A Community consortium demonstration project is intended to accelerate the development of community-based services to fill identified gaps through use of a pool of funds and flexibility in their use and distribution. As such, projects must do the following:

- Ensure access to a continuum of older adult services
- Create an adequate supply of affordable home-based alternatives to care for persons currently using nursing facilities, or likely to need nursing facility services in the future;
- Establish and achieve measurable performance targets for care delivered throughout the continuum of care services needed by older adults

Under this law, portions of existing funds dedicated to long term care will be pooled together to fund grants to the consortiums. The pool of money will be created by using 10 percent of money allocated in the next biennium to Community Service/Service Development (CS/SD) grants, moratorium exception process funding, and performance incentive grants for nursing facilities to fund up to three Consortium pilot projects.

In addition, consortiums will be given priority for technology-related grants from MDH for funding from MHFA to create or preserve affordable housing options for older adults, and by MNDOT when distributing transportation-related funds to create transportation options for older adults.

MHHA will be covering this new opportunity for care centers and housing members alike at our 2008 Public Policy Forum on June 10.

For Further Information:

Contact Kari Thurlow at [kthurlow@mhha.com](mailto:kthurlow@mhha.com) or Jeff Bostic at [jbostic@mhha.com](mailto:jbostic@mhha.com).

### There's Still Time To Register for Long-Term Financing

Your response to our Long-Term Care Financing Forum on Wednesday, June 4, at the Humphrey Institute, has been overwhelming.

The reservations are streaming in, but there's room for more at this groundbreaking interactive discussion about potential

approaches to long-term care financing reform and what Minnesota can do to be a national leader in creating solutions.

The Minnesota Health & Housing Alliance, in partnership with the Center for the Study for Politics and Governance at the Hubert H. Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs, AARP and AAHSA are committed to bringing this important policy discussion to Minnesota. We have partnered to bring together the top experts on this topic for a frank discussion on the best possible solutions to this issue. Your involvement in this discussion is important. There is no cost to attend.

For Further Information:

Contact Beth Gabrysiak at [bgabrysiak@mhha.com](mailto:bgabrysiak@mhha.com)

### **Funding Issue Explored in MPR Report**

This morning, Minnesota Public Radio aired a news story by Tom Robertson on the financial crisis facing nursing homes in our states and how lawmakers took action during the recently completed session to begin correcting the problem. The report featured interviews with Sandy Bensen, the administrator at Neilson Place in Bemidji, Barry Robertson, the Fair Meadow Nursing Home Administrator in Fertile and Minnesota Health & Housing President & Chief Executive Officer Gayle Kvenvold.

#### **Below is the story.**

Eighty-five-year-old Dorothy Conrad moved into Neilson Place nursing home in Bemidji about four years ago, when health problems made it difficult for her to live on her own.

Conrad says her move to the nursing home was sudden and unexpected.

"It never entered my mind. I thought I'd never be here," Conrad says. "I thought I'd always live in that house, but it didn't work out. This is home, but I still keep thinking I'd like to be home, really home, you know. But it's a nice place. I really like it."

Living in a nursing home isn't cheap. Caring for people like Dorothy Conrad costs on average about \$172 dollars a day in Minnesota, but the state limits the rate nursing homes can charge to what's reimbursable through Medicaid.

That rate is about \$147 dollars a day; \$25 dollars less than the actual cost. That may not sound like much, but when you consider there are more than 30,000 nursing home residents in the state, the losses add up to around \$750,000 every day.

According to Sandy Bensen, administrator at Neilson Place, which opened in 2004, the situation is critical. "It's just not as much coming in as is going out, and eventually, that creates huge issues," she says.

Bensen says the 78-bed facility is usually filled to near capacity. Yet it still has an annual budget shortfall of about \$500,000.

She says Neilson Place is lucky because the deficit is subsidized by its non-profit owner, North Country Health Services, which also operates a hospital.

Bensen says Neilson Place operates as efficiently as possible. But skyrocketing prices for food, fuel and utilities are making things more difficult.

"All of these different ways that we try to cut our costs, try to hold the line, you maybe can do for a year, you maybe can do for two years, but eventually it catches up to you," she explains. "It puts that whole area in crisis, you'd better believe. It's just not adequate. That's all there is to it."

Fifty nursing homes have closed in Minnesota since 2000.

The funding problem is worse in northwest Minnesota, where 60 percent of nursing homes are currently at risk of closing. That's according to Gayle Kvenvold, who heads an advocacy group called the Minnesota Health and Housing Alliance.

Kvenvold says Minnesota is one of only two states in the country that caps nursing home rates.

This month, Minnesota lawmakers agreed to reevaluate the rate cap for the first time since the 1990s. It means a one to two percent rate increase this year, with additional increases phased in over eight years.

The Legislature also passed a modest cost of living increase for nursing homes that will go mostly toward wages. Kvenvold says it's not enough, but it's a start.

"We've got a number of facilities that are in survival mode, and this isn't going to necessarily solve everything in one year's action, but we would certainly see it as a step in the right direction," she says. "I think we will still see some closures, despite the action in this legislative session."

Fair Meadow Nursing Home in the small town of Fertile in northwest Minnesota is one of those homes that are considered at risk.

The 54-bed facility lost more than \$900,000 over the past six years.

Administrator Barry Robertson says he's frozen wages, reduced staff hours and even cut back on laundry service for residents. Robertson says he's not optimistic about the future of the nursing home industry.

"It's been challenging and it continues to be a challenge, but I really do fear for the future, though, in Minnesota," he says. "I would just like to see Minnesota value its nursing homes a little bit more... And it's just kind of sad to see it really go downhill the past six years."

There are about 10,000 fewer nursing home beds in Minnesota than there were 15 years ago. But the reduction is mostly due to shrinking demand. Seniors increasingly have more alternatives, including home-based care and assisted living.

As the number of Minnesotans over 85 nearly doubles in the next 20 years, many will need nursing home care. As a result, the demand for beds could rebound as baby boomers reach their golden years.

To listen to an audio of the interview, click [here](#)

## At the State Capitol

### 2008 Nursing Facility Increases Provide More Unrestricted Money than Usual, But Encumbrance Requirements Are Increasingly Cumber

The exact impact will not be known until the data from the 2007 cost reports is analyzed and run through the new rate rebasing formula, but at this point it appears that the average nursing facility rate increase for the year beginning on Oct. 1, 2008 will be around 4 percent.

This is the highest average increase since the 2001 and 2002 rate years, when the addition of a rate disparities adjustment pushed the average increase to around 5 percent.

The rate increase for this year comes in three parts- a rebasing adjustment, a permanent rate increase of 1 percent, and a temporary rate increase of 1 percent that applies for only one year.

The rebasing portion of the increase is expected to average around 2 percent, and for roughly half of facilities, none of that increase will be subject to encumbrance. Even those who have an encumbrance will see only a small amount of that increase, probably less than 5 percent, subject to encumbrance. The rebasing increase combined with the unrestricted portions of the COLA increases should provide most nursing facilities with an unrestricted operating rate increase of nearly 2.5 percent.

The complexity of the encumbrance requirements has increased considerably this year, primarily because of the addition of a temporary rate increase which cannot be used to fund permanent wage increases, and because the Legislature was not amenable to eliminating the requirement for equal percent per hour increases for all employees which they adopted for the first time last year. Here are the details on the encumbrance of each portion of the rate increase.

#### Permanent 1 Percent Rate Increase-

Encumbrance requirements for these funds are identical to the 2007 rate year. 75 percent of the revenue generated by this increase is subject to encumbrance to compensation spending, including salaries, payroll taxes, and other employee benefits.

Two-thirds of the 75 percent (or 50 percent of the total rate increase) is encumbered to an equal percent per hour salary increase for all eligible employees. Eligible employees are essentially all persons directly employed by the facility other than the administrator. These salary increases must all be effective on the same date, which has to be on or after Oct. 1. The remainder of the encumbered funds can be used for additional salary increases, payroll taxes, and the costs of other employee benefits.

#### Temporary 1 percent Rate Increase-

75 percent of the revenue generated by this increase is subject to encumbrance to quarterly bonus payments, the associated costs of bonuses (payroll taxes), and other benefits. Two-thirds of the 75 percent (or 50 percent of the total rate increase) is encumbered to equal percent per hour quarterly bonuses for all eligible employees.

The encumbered amount that is not used to provide the equal percent per hour bonuses can be used to cover associated costs, to provide higher bonus amounts, and to address other benefit increases.

#### Rebasing Increase-

Facilities are only subject to having a portion of their rebasing increase encumbered if their compensation spending is less than 75% of their operating costs. The amount subject to encumbrance is the amount of their increase from rebasing times the difference between their percentage of compensation spending and 75%. For example, a facility that spends 70 percent of their operating costs on employee compensation would have 5% of their rebasing rate increase subject to encumbrance requirements. Any rebasing money subject to encumbrance is subject to the 2007 rules, with 75% required to be spent on compensation costs and two-thirds of that on equal percent per hour increases.

DHS is already working on a bulletin to explain the implementation of the different aspects of the encumbrance to wages and benefits. They will also develop a calculator to assist facilities in the calculation of the amount they are required to spend on each portion of the encumbrance.

Facilities will be expected to submit one distribution plan for all of the encumbered money, with the calculator showing how it is to be distributed. As was the case last year, unionized employees are exempt from the encumbrance requirements, but each union is required to submit a letter supporting a facility's compensation plan.

MHHA will be working with DHS as the details of the encumbrance rules for the 2008 rates are developed, in order to insure that members can receive their rate increases with as little difficulty as possible.

For Further Information:

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

## News Briefs

### **Carbon Monoxide Alarm Recall Is Issued**

Maple Chase Company of Plain City Ohio and the Consumer Product Safety Commission has announced a voluntary recall of two series of carbon monoxide (CO) alarms. The alarms can sound a "double chirp" in the presence of CO before going into full alarm.

The instructions in the owner's manual, however, recommend taking the alarm out of service when hearing the "double chirp," which could expose the consumer to hazardous levels of CO.

The CO alarms at issue are the FireX Branded 10000 Series CO Alarms and the 12000 Series CO/Smoke Combo Alarms. The alarms have item numbers 10000, 12000, 12000C, 12000-6, 12200, 12220, 12400, or 12400C and were manufactured between June 1, 2007, and Feb. 1, 2008. The date code appears on the back of the unit (example: 2007JUN1 for June 1, 2007). Units manufactured before June 1, 2007, are not affected by this recall.

Maple Chase says that the alarms were primarily sold to commercial electrical distributors, electrical contractors, and builders for installation in new home construction. There were also some that were sold at Menard's nationwide.

Members who have these alarms should contact Maple Chase toll-free at (888) 879-3906 between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m. Monday through Friday or go to the firm's Web site at [www.firexsafety.com](http://www.firexsafety.com).

DO NOT take the alarm out of service until you receive the replacement alarm. DO NOT disconnect the alarm if you hear the "double chirp" unless you have another alarm in place.

To see the recall announcement and pictures of the recalled products, please go to <http://www.cpsc.gov/cpsc/pub/prereel/prhtml08/08267.html>.

For Further Information:

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

### **Tax Bill Includes Moratorium on Property Taxes for Purely Public Charities**

In the waning hours of the legislative session, the legislature passed the omnibus tax bill, and it included the moratorium on property taxes for institutions of purely public charity.

The bill imposes a moratorium on changes in assessments, except for specified exceptions (e.g., for a change in ownership, to correct an error, to change the estimated market value). The legislature acted in response to the Minnesota Supreme Court's decision in *Under the Rainbow*, which dramatically changed the common law regarding property tax exemptions for "institutions of purely public charity."

The bill requires the commissioner of revenue is to prepare an analysis of the standards applied to determine the tax status of purely public charities, based at least in part on a survey of all county assessors. The bill specifically states that in requiring the study, the legislature does not indicate any intention to expand or narrow the existing rules. The commissioner must report to the legislature by Feb. 1, 2009 and the moratorium will expire on the earlier of the enactment of legislation establishing criteria for the property taxation of purely public charities or adjournment of the 2009 regular legislative session to a date in calendar year 2010.

MHHA will actively participate in this review.

For Further Information:

Contact Darrell Shreve at [dshreve@mhha.com](mailto:dshreve@mhha.com) or Lori Meyer [LMeyer@mhha.com](mailto:LMeyer@mhha.com)

### **Calling all grassroots activists - Make the case to your local business leaders to support older adult services!**

It may seem strange to already be discussing policy priorities for the 2009 Legislative Session when we just wrapped up the 2008 Legislative Session just a few days ago.

Nonetheless, the work for the 2009 legislative session has begun, as evidenced by the schedule for the Minnesota Chamber of Commerce's regional policy meetings.

In the interest of expanding our support beyond the older adult service provider community, we are asking MHHA members to attend one of the Chamber's focus groups this summer and ask that older adult services be included in their priorities for 2009.

We know that many of our members are active in their local Chamber organizations, and we want to take advantage of those relationships. This year we learned that the local economic impact older adult service providers have in their communities is not well understood, but can be a powerful way to gather support for our issues.

When you attend, please consider making the following points:

- Educate your fellow local chamber members about your site. Be prepared to tell others about the number of seniors you serve, the geographic area you serve, the number of people you employ and any other information you can provide about the economic impact you have in the community
- Discuss how maintaining older adult services in your community helps keep customers for their business. The best way

to ensure that people stay in their hometown as they grow older is to have a full continuum of older adult services available;

- For assisted living providers, point out that it would be bad public policy to turn assisted living into nursing homes with more regulations. In the 2008 session there was a bill that MHHA successfully lobbied that would have forced AL managers to be licensed, much like a nursing home administrator. A similar proposal may be introduced in 2009. If such a proposal would become law, it would be a step towards government encroachment on our customers' independence and keeping people from entering the profession.
- For care centers, point out that while care centers received some additional funding during the 2008 Legislative Session, they remain financially vulnerable. Lawmakers must continue to make progress towards closing the gap between the cost of providing care and the rates it pays providers by preserving the funding tied to rebasing. It is important to keep increases delivered through rebasing free from encumbrances.
- For all providers, the health care workforce shortage is even more acutely felt in the older adult services sector. Providers have a difficult time recruiting quality, committed staff because wages lag so far behind other health care sectors. We must work together to increase wages of caregivers and to recruit additional people to the field.

For Further Information:

Contact Kari Thurlow at [KThurlow@mhha.com](mailto:KThurlow@mhha.com)

<b>Below is a schedule of all of the Chamber's upcoming meetings.</b> Tuesday, May 27 - Rochester Noon	HGA Architecture 202 First Avenue SW, Suite 200 Wednesday, May 28 - Austin Noon
Austin Chamber of Commerce 329 N. Main, #102 Wednesday, May 28 - Fairmont Noon	Holiday Inn 1200 Torgerson Drive Wednesday, May 28 - Hutchinson Noon
Hutchinson Chamber of Commerce 2 Main Street South Please reserve your attendance by May 26 Wednesday, May 28 - New Ulm 3:30 p.m.	New Ulm Chamber of Commerce One North Minnesota Street Wednesday, May 28 - Winona 3:00 p.m.
Mississippi Welders 5150 West 6th Street Wednesday, May 28 - Worthington 4:00 p.m.	Wells Fargo Worthington 1010 Second Avenue Thursday, May 29 - Faribault 8:00 a.m.
Faribault Chamber of Commerce 530 Wilson Avenue Thursday, May 29 - Fridley 7:30 a.m.	Parson's Electric 5960 Main Street NE Thursday, May 29 - St. Cloud Noon
Bernick's 801 Sundial Drive, Waite Park Friday, May 30 - Marshall Noon	The Schwan Food Company 115 W. College Drive Friday, May 30 - Monticello 7:30 a.m.
Crostini Grille 254 W. Broadway St. Friday, May 30 - Stillwater 7:30 a.m.	Lowell Inn 102 2nd St. North Friday, May 30 - Willmar 8:00 a.m.
Northern States Supply 600 Industrial Drive Monday, June 2 - Cloquet 3:00 p.m.	Cloquet Chamber of Commerce 225 Sunnyside Drive Monday, June 2 - Duluth Noon
Minnesota Power 30 West Superior Street Tuesday, June 3 - Brainerd 3:00 p.m.	Brainerd Lakes Chamber of Commerce 124 North Sixth Street Tuesday, June 3 - Detroit Lakes 3:00 p.m.
Ulteig Engineers, Inc. 1041 Hawk Street Tuesday, June 3 - Fergus Falls Noon	Otter Tail Power 215 South Cascade Street Tuesday, June 3 - Grand Rapids 11:00 a.m.
Timberlake Lodge 144 SE 17th Street Tuesday, June 3 - South St. Paul 11:30 a.m.	Waterous Company 125 Hardman Ave. South, South St. Paul Tuesday, June 3 - Virginia 7:30 a.m.
Wells Fargo 401 Chestnut Street Wednesday, June 4 - Thief River Falls 7:30 a.m.	Thief River Falls Chamber of Commerce 2017 Highway 59 SE Wednesday, June 4 - Bemidji Noon
North Central Door Co. LLC 900 Carr Lake Road Thursday, June 5 - Apple Valley 7:30 a.m.	Enjoy! Restaurant 15435 Founders Lane Monday, June 9 - Chaska 3:30 p.m.
Chaska Community Center 1661 Park Ridge Drive Friday, June 13 - Minneapolis 7:30 a.m.	Minneapolis Chamber of Commerce 81 South Ninth Street, Suite 200 Wednesday, June 18 - Plymouth 7:30 a.m.

TwinWest Chamber of Commerce 10700 Old CR 15, Suite 170  
Friday, June 20 - Mankato 7:30 a.m.

Eide Bailly LLP Tetonka Conference Room 1911 Premier  
Drive

### **MDH Hosts E-Health Summit**

Showcasing how national and Minnesota e-Health initiatives are working to empower consumers, inform and connect clinicians, and protect communities will be the theme of a Minnesota Department of Health e-Health Summit on Thursday, June 26.

The Summit is intended for anyone planning or implementing health information technology in clinics, hospitals, long-term care, managed care, public health or other health systems. It is intended to advance the effort to achieve interoperable electronic health records by 2015.

A Pre-Summit Workshop is also being held to give participants knowledge and skills relevant to planning for an interoperable EHR. For further information, go to <http://www.health.state.mn.us/e-health/summit/brochure2008.pdf>

### **Two distinct payment cuts threaten Skilled Nursing Facilities**

Let CMS and your legislators know that the frail elderly you serve and your staff who care for them deserve adequate resources to fund the care they need.

Specifically, we want them to oppose any reduction in the SNF market basket adjustment and the proposed recalibration of RUG weight and payments.

We must make it clear to both CMS and Congress that our field cannot afford to lose these resources, especially in view of the rapid acceleration in the cost of food, transportation, heating and cooling, and other necessities for our residents.

You can see how these cuts may affect you by using our 2009 payment calculator. And then you can use the sample comments and letter we have prepared for your use to contact CMS and Congress.

Just go to Contact Congress for more information on each of these items.

Congress will be finalizing the Medicare legislation by mid-June and the deadline for submitting comments to CMS is June 30.

For Further Information:

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

### **Providers Urged to Contact Senators Coleman and Klobuchar on Section 202 Reform Bill**

The American Association of Homes and Services for the Aging is calling on all providers to ask their U.S. senators to support the Section 202 Reform Bill, S. 2736. The House has already unanimously passed the companion bill, HR 2930, and AAHSA is pushing to get the bill enacted before Congress finishes its work for the year.

Providers are asked to urge Senators Coleman and Klobuchar to sign on as co-sponsors of S. 2736.

As shown by its unanimous support in the House, S. 2736 is not a controversial bill, but there are currently only four Senate co-sponsors for this bill, which was introduced by Senators Herb Kohl (D-WI) and Charles Schumer (D-NY). The current co-sponsors are: Sherrod Brown (D-OH), John Kerry (D-MA), Carl Levin (D-MI) and Debbie Stabenow (D-MI).

The bill's reforms to the Section 202 program would streamline and simplify the development and preservation of affordable senior housing and would allow for increased participation by not-for-profit developers, private lenders, investors and state and local funding agencies.

A sample letter and links to e-mails for Minnesota's senators is found at

<http://capwiz.com/aaahsa/issues/alert/?alertid=11118651>. AAHSA is also urging providers to call their senators (or their legislative aides handling housing issues) by calling the Capitol Switchboard at 202-224-3121 and ask for your Senator by name or by state. Next week your Senators will be at home next week, and that also will be a good time to call or visit with them in their home offices. Contact information on their home offices is available at [http://www.mhha.com/index/Become\\_Active](http://www.mhha.com/index/Become_Active).

For further information:

Contact Louise Maus at AAHSA at [lmaus@aaahsa.org](mailto:lmaus@aaahsa.org)

### **Information Now Available for Alzheimer's Disease Caregiving Legacy Grants**

Bestowed with a grant from The Rosalinde and Arthur Gilbert Foundation, Family Caregiver Alliance (FCA) is pleased to oversee the first annual Rosalinde Gilbert Innovations in Alzheimer's Disease Caregiving Legacy Awards program.

Three awards of \$20,000 each will be awarded to organizations that are initiating unique programs that address the needs of Alzheimer's caregivers.

One award will be granted in each of these categories:

1. Creative Expression: This award will go to programs or projects that use imaginative and creative approaches in supporting informal caregivers or persons with dementia. Some examples are programs or projects using art, music, theatre, journaling, multimedia (e.g. film, documentary, radio) or other types of creative expression.
2. Diverse/Multicultural Communities: This award will go to programs or projects that provide services, support or other types of outreach to informal caregivers in diverse ethnic, rural, low income and Lesbian/Gay/Bi-Sexual/Transgender or other communities.
3. Policy and Advocacy: This award will go to programs or projects that advocate for systems change for the benefit of informal caregivers or care recipients with Alzheimer's disease or related dementias. These efforts could focus on legislation, executive or administrative changes, advocacy campaigns, or any other action to strengthen the public or private sector's recognition and support of informal caregivers.

Information and details about the awards program is now available on the Family Caregiver Alliance website. To view the details, go to [http://www.caregiver.org/caregiver/jsp/content\\_node.jsp?nodeid=2188](http://www.caregiver.org/caregiver/jsp/content_node.jsp?nodeid=2188).

The information and materials currently posted online include:

- Award Background
- Award Details
- Award Timeline
- Eligibility and Submission Conditions
- Review Process

The application will be available June 16, 2008 on the FCA web site [www.caregiver.org](http://www.caregiver.org). The application deadline is August 15, 2008.

For Further Information:

Visit [www.caregiver.org](http://www.caregiver.org)

### **Providers Urged to Contact Senators Coleman and Klobuchar on Section 202 Reform Bill**

The Minnesota Department of Human Services has issued Bulletin #08-69-04, which includes the federal poverty guidelines for 2008. The bulletin also includes a suggested income eligibility and fee schedule for county social services. The bulletin is found at: [www.dhs.state.mn.us](http://www.dhs.state.mn.us).

### **DHS To Offer Videoconferences on LTC Choices and on EW and LTC Consultation**

The Minnesota Department of Human Services will offer a June 12 videoconference on "Linking Consumers to the Aging and Disability Network: Information About Long-term Care Choices and Expert Assistance in Navigating and Planning Services." It will be offered at 10 a.m. and again at 1:30 p.m. at various locations around the state.

Krista Boston, Director, Consumer Assistance Programs, Minnesota Board on Aging, and Elissa Schley, MN Aging and Disability Resource Centers Grant Coordinator, Consumers Choices Team, Minnesota Board on Aging, will present the program, which will focus on the MinnesotaHelp Network and the Aging and Disability Resource Centers (ADRC) system of activities that inform, educate and support the health and long-term care decisions of consumers and their access to benefits and services.

In this session attendees will learn about MinnesotaHelp network model and about current and future partnerships implemented and in development.

Session participants will learn more about network benefits, including minimizing consumer and family barriers in seeking long-term service support through a single coordinated system that explores choice and provides supportive decision-making.

On June 5, at 9 a.m. and again at 1:30 p.m., DHS will offer a videoconference on "Elderly Waiver, Family Caregiving Supports, and Long Term Care Consultation Basic Program Overviews."

This program will be presented by Jolene Kohn, Strategic Planner, DHS Aging and Adult Services Division, Libby Rossett-Brown, DHS Elderly Waiver Program Administrator, and Susan Wenberg, Alternative Care and Family Caregiving Support Programs Administrator.

The training sessions cover the policies and procedures for the Long Term Care Consultation (LTCC), Elderly Waiver (EW), and Caregiver Support programs. The training is targeted for lead agency staff with up to 12 months of program experience, but those with more experience are welcome to attend if they haven't previously understanding that the information presented will be focused on program basics. Others seeking a basic understanding of these programs are welcome to attend.

This training will focus on the role of Long Term Care Consultants in Minnesota's long term care system. Topics will include:

- Policy requirements, work processes, and tools used to implement the Long Term Care Consultation program.
- The role of LTCC in service eligibility determination for home and community-based services programs as well as preadmission screening for nursing facility admissions

- The Elderly Waiver program including service definitions, eligibility criteria, and service delivery systems.
- The importance of caregivers, Minnesota's caregiver support program, available services and supports, caregiver assessment, and tools and resources.

To participate in any DHS videoconference, you must pre-register by going to: <http://agingtraining.dhs.state.mn.us>. At this link, you will find the locations available for each time slot. Registration closes at 5:00 p.m. on the Monday prior to the session.

For Further Information:

Visit [www.dhs.state.mn.us](http://www.dhs.state.mn.us).

### **HUD Extends Service Coordinator and CHSP Contracts**

After significant delays, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) issued instructions to renew or extend expiring Service Coordinator (SC) and Congregate Housing Services Program (CHSP) grants.

Notice H-08-02 is found at <http://www.hud.gov/offices/adm/hudclips/notices/hsg/08-02HSGN.doc>.

This Notice provides guidance on the process for extending Service Coordinator (SC) and Congregate Housing Services Program (CHSP) grants whose funds will be expended and whose grant term will end on or before December 31, 2008.

The Department's policy is to provide extension funding, to the extent funds are available, to enable programs to continue operating for an additional 12-month period. An extension request should be based on the program's current cost rate. The extension funds should be used only to meet a critical need and in cases where no other funding source is available.

For Further Information:

Contact: Colleen Bloom at [cbloom@aahsa.org](mailto:cbloom@aahsa.org)

### **Applications Available for the Joan Anne McHugh Award for Leadership in Long-term Care Nursing**

Applications are now available for The Institute for the Future of Aging Services' (IFAS) Joan Anne McHugh Award for Leadership in Long-term Care Nursing. This award is given to a nurse who provides excellent clinical care while demonstrating leadership and a commitment to long-term care nursing. The award is open to nurses working in nursing homes, assisted living, adult day programs and home care.

Nomination forms are due by July 11 and are found at <http://www.futureofaging.org/>.

For Further Information:

Contact: Alisha Sanders at [asanders@aahsa.org](mailto:asanders@aahsa.org).

### **HUD Posts Updated Forms and Model Leases**

HUD reports that the following forms from Handbook 4350.3 REV-1, Occupancy Requirements of Subsidized Multifamily Housing Programs, have now been updated with assigned HUD form numbers, OMB approval and/or OMB expiration dates.

There are no changes to the language in any of the forms other than the addition of the public reporting burden paragraph. The forms are now posted on HUDCLIPS at <http://www.hud.gov/offices/adm/hudclips/>. Not all forms are currently available in a pdf fillable format at this time, but will be soon. The updated forms are:

- HUD-50059, Owners Certification of Compliance with HUD's Tenant Eligibility and Rent Procedures, which has a new OMB expiration date. HUD notes that until such time as the owner/agent's (O/A) computer software is updated to incorporate the new expiration date on the HUD-50059, after printing out the form HUD-50059 from their software, O/As must cross out the old expiration date and write in the new expiration date of 3/31/2011. The expiration date should be changed prior to obtaining tenant signatures. If for any reason the O/A does not use a computer generated form as the certified/signed HUD-50059, the O/A must use the form HUD-50059 posted on HUDCLIPS that includes the revised OMB expiration date of 3/31/2011.
- HUD Model Leases now have an assigned HUD form number, OMB approval number and OMB expiration date. These model leases are:

**HUD-90105a** - Exhibit 4-A, Model Lease for Subsidized Programs (Family Model Lease)

**HUD-90105b** - Exhibit 4-B, Model Lease for Section 202/8 or Section 202 PAC

**HUD-90105c** - Exhibit 4-C, Model Lease for Section 202 PRAC

**HUD-90105d** - Exhibit 4-D, Model Lease for Section 811 PRAC

HUD notes that these four HUD model leases are currently posted on HUDCLIPS under form HUD-90105-A and HUD is working on getting them separated into four separate documents.

Effective Date: O/As must begin using the new HUD Model Leases for all new admissions immediately and for existing tenants beginning with annual recertifications effective Jan.1, 2009, or later.

Because forms that have OMB approval and OMB expiration dates cannot be modified, O/As who have lease modifications will

need to develop lease addendums to incorporate the lease modifications. O/As who have had lease modifications approved by HUD or the Contract Administrator do not have to have the lease modifications included on the lease addendums approved again prior to implementation. Only if the O/A has obtained approval from HUD or the Contract Administrator to incorporate additional lease modifications must the O/A provide notice to the tenants in accordance with Chapter 6, Paragraph 6-12 D of Handbook 4350.3 REV-1.

- HUD-9887/HUD-9887-A, consent forms have been reposted. Inclusion of OMB Approval Number/Expiration date on the forms is not required because it is not considered an information collection. O/As must continue to use these forms for new admissions and at annual recertification.
- HUD-27061-H - Exhibit 4-3, Race & Ethnic Data Reporting Form has a new OMB expiration date. O/As must begin using this form immediately for new admissions and, when applicable, at the time of a tenant's interim or annual recertification.
- The following sample forms also now have an assigned HUD form number, OMB approval number and OMB expiration date:

**HUD-90100** - Exhibit 7-1 - Sample Initial Notice

**HUD-90101** - Exhibit 5-4 - Sample Certification for Qualified Long-Term Care Insurance Expenses

**HUD-90102** - Appendix 6-B - Sample Verification of Disability When Eligibility for Admission or Qualification for Certain Income Deductions is Based on

Disability - Section 202/8, Section 202 PAC, Section 202 PRAC and Section 811 PRAC

**HUD-90103** - Appendix 6-BÂ - Sample Verification of Disability When Eligibility for Admission or Qualification for Certain Income Deductions is Based on DisabilityÂ - For use with all programs Except Section 202/8, Section 202 PAC, Section 202 PRAC and Section 811 PRAC

**HUD-90104** - Exhibit 3-1 - Sample Request for Exception to Limitations on Admission of Families with Incomes Above 50% of the Area Median Income

**HUD-90106** - Appendix 5, Sample Move-in/Move-Out Inspection Form

O/As using the sample forms listed above without any changes or modifications must begin using the forms immediately. O/As not using the sample forms provided above and who have developed their own modified forms are not required to use the forms as posted on HUDCLIPS but may continue to use the forms they have developed.

The modified forms they have developed must not include the HUD form number, OMB approval number or OMB Expiration date or Public reporting burden language. O/As must follow the guidance in Appendix 6-A of Handbook 4350.3 REV-1 for development of individual consent forms.

### **Free Evidenced Based Health Promotion Program Workshops Offered on May 27 and June 4**

The Metropolitan Area Agency on Aging (MAAA) invites interested persons to attend a free - two part workshop series on providing evidence based health promotion programs in your communities.

The workshop is designed for senior service providers interested in learning more about Evidence Based Health Promotion (EBHP), especially those who are interested in applying for Title III-D Health Promotion/Disease Prevention & Medication Management funds through the MAAA. Title III-D funding policies require applicants to select programs from the approved list of evidence based programs on the NCOA Healthy Aging website, or those on the SAMSAH website.

Following are details on the two workshops:

#### **May 27, 2008 at 1 - 3:30 pm - what is EBHP?**

**MAAA Board Room, 2365 N. McKnight Rd., N. St. Paul, MN 55109**

- What is evidence - based health promotion?
- Why does it matter?
- Examples of EBHP programs and their benefits - to sponsoring organizations and older adult participants
- State resources for local providers

#### **June 4, 2008 at 1 - 3:30 pm - Implementing EBHP**

**MAAA Board Room, 2365 N. McKnight Rd., N. St. Paul, MN 55109**

- When is an organization ready to offer an EBHP program?
- What resources does an organization need to offer EBHP?
- How do you choose the right EBHP for your community?

To register, please call Gail Hernandez at 651-917-4600 or email at [gail@tcaging.org](mailto:gail@tcaging.org) by today. For more information or questions, please contact Kate Houston at [kate@tcaging.org](mailto:kate@tcaging.org) or Gaoly Yang at [gaoly@tcaging.org](mailto:gaoly@tcaging.org).

## "Know the Ten Signs" of Alzheimer's Campaign Begins June 2

The Alzheimer's Association Minnesota-North Dakota has announced that it will launch a campaign called "Know the Ten Signs" to increase awareness of the symptoms of Alzheimer's Disease.

The campaign is targeted to persons age 65+, who are at greatest risk for Alzheimer's disease. The campaign objective is to have individuals call the Alzheimer's Association if they are experiencing one or more of the 10 Warning Signs of Alzheimer's disease.

Two television commercials featuring a person with dementia demonstrating one of the ten signs will air between June 2 and July 28.

The commercial directs consumers to a dedicated website ([www.10signs.org](http://www.10signs.org)) and toll-free line (1-866-ALZ-4199) where they can receive more information. It is expected that the campaign will raise concerns about memory loss and expect that some individuals will seek information from their physicians or other trusted sources.

The campaign will promote the value and benefits of receiving an early diagnosis, which are highlighted on the form found at [www.mhha.com](http://www.mhha.com). The Alzheimer's Association encourages all medical professionals to assist people with their memory concerns and seek comprehensive assessment and diagnosis when appropriate.

The Alzheimer's Association has Physician Tool Kits for physicians and Memory Loss Kits for patients and families. Questions about the campaign, or requests for physician or family tool kits can be directed to Annette Peterson on the 24/7 information helpline at 800-272-3900.

For Further Information:

Contact Marsha Berry at [marsha.berry@alzmdak.org](mailto:marsha.berry@alzmdak.org).

## Association News

### A Friendly BENHA Reminder

MHHA care center administrators are reminded the Minnesota Board of Examiners for Nursing Home Administrators (BENHA) license renewal period runs through June 30. Each care center administrator of record in Minnesota needs to have a current license posted at their assigned care center.

"The Board recognizes administrators are very busy, so we've tried to make this process as easy as possible," says BENHA Executive Director, Randy Snyder. "Don't forget to take ten minutes before June 30 to renew." Currently, Minnesota administrators renew online at a rate of 84 percent - a leader among the various health licensing boards. Administrators have three easy options to renew:

1. Go online to [www.benha.state.mn.us](http://www.benha.state.mn.us) and renew using a credit card. There are no extra fees this year and the renewal process takes less than 10 minutes
2. Go online and download paper forms to mail in to BENHA with a check.
3. E-mail BENHA at [benha@state.mn.us](mailto:benha@state.mn.us) or call 651-201-2730 to request staff mail out paper forms.

More information on BENHA and the work of the board can be found online at [www.benha.state.mn.us](http://www.benha.state.mn.us) or by calling 651-201-2730.

## Education Solutions At-A-Glance

Click for more information or to register. [More Info](#)

### JUST ANNOUNCED:

2008 Public Policy Forum, June 10, St. Paul

[More Info](#)

**Preparing the New LTC DON for a Successful Future**, June 17-19, July 22-24, Aug. 26-28 [More Info](#) \*Sponsored by Alliance Purchasing and MSC

**Housing-with-Services Management Certificate Program**, June 4-5 (Minneapolis) [More Info](#) \*Sponsored by Upper Lakes Foods, Inc. **Successfully and Legally Operationalizing the EW and GRH Programs** \*Sponsored by Thrifty White Pharmacy Services May 22 - Alexandria [More Info](#)

June 11 - Mankato [More Info](#)

June 16 - North Oaks (Twin Cities) [More Info](#)

June 19 - Wadena [More Info](#)

**Long-Term Care Financing Solutions**, June 4 (Minneapolis) - NO CHARGE TO ATTEND! Co-Sponsored with AAHSA, AARP Minnesota, and the Center for the Study of Politics and Governance at the Hubert H. Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs.

[More Info](#)

**MDH Tools for Success: Class A Licensed Only Providers**, June 11 (Minneapolis) [More Info](#) Co-Sponsored with the Minnesota HomeCare Association

**Midsummer Senior Living Conference**, July 23 (St. Paul) \*Sponsored by Orbovich & Gartner Chartered and Professional Portable X-ray Inc.

**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)

**MHHA Annual Meeting & Leadership Forum**, Sept. 16-19 (Brainerd)

Marketing & Sales for Senior Living Communities Certificate Program, October 13, 14, 15 (St. Paul) \*Sponsored by Welsh Construction and Genesis Architecture

**Assisted Living Home Care Conference**, Oct. 22 (St. Paul) Co-Sponsored with the Minnesota HomeCare Association

**Financial Management for Home Care Providers**, Fall date to be announced (Twin Cities) Co-Sponsored with Minnesota HomeCare Association

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

### **Did You Mark Your Calendar for June District Meetings?**

Change in our field continues at an unprecedented rate - an average of 800 skilled beds come out of the system each year and communities around the state are seeing the housing crisis impact vacancy rates in senior housing.

At the same time, policy makers tell us even our current levels of funding are unsustainable and consumers are challenging us to lead and deliver in new ways. Join your Association staff and your community of colleagues this June for two powerful programs designed to position you for success in this changing marketplace.

Topics include the Care Centers of the Future project, discussions on redesigning the Elderly Waiver program and credentialing in senior housing. Take home cutting-edge information and crucial trends in a board ready format and have your voice heard in shaping how we move forward.

You really won't want to miss this meeting - so mark your calendar today and be sure your organization is counted at this important gathering next month as we map the future of aging services in Minnesota and your next steps.

**Members are encouraged to save the date today and join us for the most convenient meeting:**

#### **District A**

Wednesday, June 25  
9 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.  
Fireside Grill & Patio  
Highway 2 West  
Bagley, 56621

#### **District B**

Thursday, June 26  
9 a.m. - 3 p.m.  
North Shore Hospital & Care Center  
515 Fifth Avenue West  
Grand Marais, 55604

#### **District C**

Tuesday, June 24  
1 - 4 p.m.  
Lincoln Park Senior Apartments  
207 Park Street  
Detroit Lakes, 56501

#### **District D**

Tuesday, June 17  
9:30 a.m. - 12 p.m.  
Park View Care Center  
200 Park Lane  
Buffalo, 55313

#### **District E**

Wednesday, June 18  
9 a.m. - 12 p.m.  
Avera-Marshall Regional Medical Center  
300 South Bruce Street

Marshall, 56258

**District F**

Friday, June 20

8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Cedar River Country Club

14927 State Highway 56

Adams, 55909

507-582-3595

**District G**

Friday, June 27

9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Cerenity Care Center on Humboldt

512 Humboldt Avenue

St. Paul, 55107

651-227-8091

For Further Information:

Contact Adam Suomala at [asuomala@mhha.com](mailto:asuomala@mhha.com).

**MHHA's "Successfully and Legally Operationalizing the EW and GRH Programs" Workshop Draws Rave Reviews**

The live workshop that is the third of a of MHHA's popular three-part EW and GRH Boot Camp educational series is drawing rave reviews. According to participants of yesterday's May 22 session in Alexandria, the program got such feedback as:

- "This was a great follow up program in (MHHA's) Boot Camp Series."
- "This is one of the best programs I have been to lately. Very educational!"
- "Excellent info and speakers - I could listen again and again..."
- "Handouts - great!"

Interested members are encouraged to sign up for the remaining sessions scheduled for June 11 in Mankato and June 16 in North Oaks at their earliest convenience to ensure a spot. Registration can be done through the MHHA web site, via FAX or mail.

Members who were either already registered for or possibly interested in attending the June 19 location of MHHA's "EW and GRH Boot Camp" in Wadena will want to note that it is being cancelled due to a conflict with an upcoming DHS video conference scheduled on the same date (see article below). Plans have not been finalized for rescheduling, but will be made available to members in a future issue of Monday Mailing once they are known.

For Further Information:

Contact Heidi Simpson at [hsimpson@mhha](mailto:hsimpson@mhha)

**DHS Schedules Statewide Video Conference "Update on EW Customized Living: Next Steps of the Contracting Process" for June 19**

MHHA members wanting to 'round out' their intense training on operationalizing the EW program will want to add this upcoming DHS video conference to their organization's learning experience. It will be a great complement to the three programs in MHHA's EW and GRH Boot Camp Series. Darlene Schroeder, Program Administrator, Aging and Adult Services Division, DHS will be the presenter of this program.

For Further Information:

Contact Heidi Simpson at [hsimpson@mhha](mailto:hsimpson@mhha)

**ALFA News****ALFA Announces New Board of Directors**

Tiffany Tomasso, the COO of Sunrise Senior Living based in McLean, VA, has been elected chair of the Assisted Living Federation of America's Board of Directors. Tomasso succeeds Everett Benton, CEO of Newton, Massachusetts-based Five Star Quality Care, whose term as chairman expired April 30. "Tiffany Tomasso is an industry leader with extraordinary talent, passion, and commitment to senior living," Benton says. "It will be a privilege to pass the gavel to her as I know she'll bring those same great qualities to ALFA." Other top leaders elected to the ALFA Board of Directors include: Thilo Best, chairman and CEO of Horizon Bay Senior Communities; Deborah McAneny, COO of Benchmark Assisted Living; and Bruce Mackey, president and CEO of Five Star Quality Care.

**Alliance Purchasing News****MHHA Service Corporation wants to increase the value of your MHHA membership**

Through Alliance Purchasing you could be accessing competitive vendor contract pricing negotiated by MSC on your behalf.

Many of our contracts are with vendors that you currently use. Others are unique to our contract alone. Utilization of more than one GPO contract within an organization is permissible.

You pay no participation fee and we will not charge you to do a cost analysis of your existing pricing.

Participation is as easy as telling your sales representative that you are a MHHA member and you want your purchase to run through the Alliance Purchasing group purchasing program, or call Patti O'Brien at 651-659-1470 or 877-770-7317.

Are you missing this great opportunity? Don't let another budget cycle go by. You deserve to receive the most value for limited dollars.

Click on this [link](#) to view a list of our vendors.

### **Your MHHA.com**

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

MHHA's web site at 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 daily.

For Further Information,

Contact Jenny Mims at [jmims@mhha.com](mailto:jmims@mhha.com).

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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