

MONDAY

ONLINE

MAILING

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Top Stories

Jim Thalberg, Administrator of Adams Health Care Center, Dies of Heart Attack

We received sad news over the weekend that Jim Thalberg, the administrator of the Adams Health Care Center has passed away. Jim died suddenly of an apparent heart attack Saturday at Austin Medical Center.

Jim, a well-known sports enthusiast who especially enjoyed golf, had been the administrator of Adams Health Care Center for the past 30 years. He was an active and involved member of MHHA and a leader in District F. In fact, he was to host the District F meeting and golf tournament this week.

"It's hard to imagine District F or an MHHA event without Jim's presence and active participation - usually from the back row of the room with a provocative question that led to a better outcome," said Gayle Kvenvold, the president and chief executive officer of MHHA. "Indeed, we are a better association for his involvement and support through the years. We lost a true friend and an asset to the long-term care community in Minnesota. Our prayers go out to his wife, his sons and all of his family."

Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m., Wednesday, June 18, at Little Cedar Lutheran Church with The Reverend Shari Mason officiating. Interment will be in the Little Cedar Lutheran Cemetery in Adams with Adams Post #146 American Legion in charge of military rites. Visitation will be at Adams Funeral Home on Tuesday from 4 to 8 p.m. and at Little Cedar Lutheran Church for one hour before the service on Wednesday.

He was born September 18, 1947 in Montevideo, Minnesota to Lester and Judith (Michaelson) Thalberg. Jim graduated from the Dassel High School and from St Cloud State University and received his master's degree from St. Mary's University. He served in the US Army and was married to Nancy L. Gabrielson on June 22, 1968 at Dassel, MN.

James is survived by his Wife: Nancy Louise Thalberg, Adams, MN; Sons: Jon Thalberg, Adams, MN, Jeffrey Thalberg, Farmington, MN; Brother: Michael (Twila) Thalberg, Spicer, MN; Twin sister: Susan (Doug) Rising, Andover, MN; Sister: Mary Thalberg, Willmar, MN; brother-in-law: Richard (Deb) Gabrielson, Darwin, MN; sister-in-law: JoAnne Gabrielson, Litchfield, MN; Aunts, Nieces, Nephews and Cousins.

District F Meeting Postponed

Because of the sudden death of Adam Health Care Center Administrator Jim Thalberg, the District F Meeting in Adams has been postponed.

MHHA will provide an update on the meeting when details are available.

Lahammer Offers Views On Session

May Lahammer praised the Minnesota Health and Housing Alliance for an outstanding legislative session that raised the state's awareness of long-term care to a new level.

Lahammer, the host of TPT's *Almanac* delivered the keynote address entitled "One Journalist's Perspective" at last week's public policy forum in St. Paul. A packed room of nursing home administrators and housing providers listened to Lahammer deliver inside information on behind-the-scene happenings during the legislative session.

She said a widely-covered long-term care press conference in March started to raise eyebrows. The turning point came nearly a month later when 500 people crowded into the capitol rotunda with the rallying cry of "Keep the Promise to Our Parents." While the public has been cynical of rallies in the capitol with every group saying their cause needs state funding, the long-term care rally on April 16 at the capitol set a new standard for rallies. "People stood up and took notice of what you were doing," said Lahammer. "That was the turning point."

Lahammer praised Speaker of the House Margaret Anderson Kelliher for her steadying influence on her fellow legislators. "Perhaps the biggest ray of hope is the speaker of the house. It's been said that the speaker of the house is much like the older sister dealing with the unruly siblings in the room. She wouldn't leave the room until a deal was done."

There were several examples of her leadership that Lahammer cited. When Anderson Keillher stood before the microphones after Gov. Pawlenty's proposed budget cut to long-term care and said the legislature wasn't going to axe grandma out of the

nursing home with cuts, the press took notice. "She was the difference. She was the deal-maker."

On the national front, Lahammer offered her perspective on the possibility of Gov. Tim Pawlenty joining Republican presidential candidate John McCain's ticket as the vice presidential candidate. With the two politicians very close and enjoying a friendship of over 30 years, Lahammer said, in her view, there is a very good likelihood of this happening. As for what this might mean to nursing home and long-term care funding in the future, it's too soon to tell.

If Lt. Gov Carol Molnau steps into the governor's role, she will be a tough governor. After all, Lahammer pointed out, this is a person who once arm wrestled then Gov. Jesse Ventura and competed in a keg-throwing contest.

For Further Information,

Contact Bill Floyd at bfloyd@mhha.com.

Legislative Resources Available

For members who were unable to attend the capacity crowd at last week's MHHA Public Policy Forum, please note that a number of resources relating to the 2008 Legislative Session will soon be available.

2008 Legislative Report: This comprehensive and timely review of the 2008 Legislative Session includes summaries of all the bills that passed into law this session that may affect aging services providers. One of the special features of this year's report is a biennial voter's guide that shows how legislators voted on key aging services issues over the past two years. There is no cost to members for this report--it is a benefit of MHHA membership. The report is currently being duplicated and will be mailed to members later this week.

2008 Legislative Session PowerPoint: MHHA has developed a PowerPoint presentation that members can use with their own boards, staff or community groups to share the key outcomes of the 2008 Legislative Session. This presentation is available now to all members and is located on the MHHA website. Click on Advocacy and look for "2008 Legislative Session PowerPoint Presentation" under Featured Links in the sidebar.

2008 On-Line Legislative Report: Our popular on-line report is back this year, filled with all of the interactive links that makes this your one-stop-shop for legislative information. This resource includes all of the summary information of the hardcopy report, but it also contains value-added links to the information you need to implement this year's changes. Direct links to bill language, agency bulletins, applications, FAQ sheets and more are included in the summaries so you don't need to go searching. This report is coming soon to the MHHA website and will be updated frequently as additional information and resources become available.

For Further Information:

Contact Lori Meyer at lmeyer@mhha.com.

Tomatoes, Salmonella, and the Elderly -- What Healthcare Facilities Need to Know

The Food and Drug Administration has alerted consumers nationwide that the current salmonellosis outbreak appears to be linked to consumption of certain types of raw red tomatoes and products containing raw red tomatoes.

Presently Minnesota has not had any confirmed cases and suppliers may not be sourcing tomatoes from any of the affected states but communicating with your supplier is the only way to be sure.

Since the elderly are one group that is especially vulnerable to salmonella, healthcare or senior housing facilities need to be especially cautious with food handling and follow the guidelines the FDA has recommended, according to Colleen Zenk, a Healthcare Supervisor and ServSafe Program Coordinator for SYSCO Minnesota.

Facilities serving high-risk populations need to work with food suppliers to identify whether or not tomatoes received are part of the advisory, and not use them if this is the case.

Most persons infected with Salmonella (bacteria) develop diarrhea, fever, and abdominal cramps 12 to 72 hours after infection. The illness usually lasts 4 to 7 days, and most persons recover without treatment. However, in some persons, the diarrhea may be so severe that the patient needs to be hospitalized.

The biggest risk with salmonella infections is dehydration so it is important to try and keep patients hydrated. Most people usually recover completely, although it may be several months before their bowel habits are entirely normal.

How do you minimize the risk of Salmonella infections in your facility? Since it is a food borne illness, it is imperative to have your staff trained in proper food safety procedures. Salmonella has historically been seen in foods that come from animals and guidelines have urged high-risk populations to not eat raw or undercooked eggs, poultry, or meat. This is the major reason that the FDA Model Food Code recommends the use of pasteurized eggs in all applications when serving susceptible populations.

However we are now seeing this bacteria in foods from plant sources (tomatoes now and cantaloupe a few months ago) so washing produce thoroughly before cutting it is necessary and prudent. Produce that is purchased in a pre-cut form (diced fresh tomatoes or cantaloupe chunks) should be received refrigerated and stored at 41° F. or below.

Cross-contamination of foods should be avoided. Uncooked meats should be kept separate from produce, cooked foods, and ready-to-eat foods. Hands, cutting boards, counters, knives, and other utensils should be washed thoroughly after touching uncooked foods. Hands should be washed before handling food, and between handling different food items.

People who have salmonellosis should not prepare food or pour water for others until their diarrhea has resolved. Many health departments require that restaurant workers with Salmonella infection have a stool test showing that they are no longer carrying the Salmonella bacterium before they return to work.

For Further Information, Visit:

MN Dept. of Health www.state.health.mn.us
Food & Drug Administration at www.fda.gov
Center for Disease Control www.cdc.gov.

News Briefs

ECRA Stakeholders' Survey Available to Members

The stakeholders' group formed by the Elder Care Rights Alliance to work on reform of the Vulnerable Adults Act has developed a survey and invited MHHA and other stakeholders to distribute it to members.

The survey contains questions developed by the six workgroups that report to the larger stakeholders' group. Each question affords the responder an opportunity to comment in writing in addition to giving a specific answer.

MHHA encourages members to complete the online survey to help provide information and feedback to ECRA's stakeholders' group. Simply click on this link and follow the directions:

<http://survey.constantcontact.com/survey/a07e2b85jutf47i5h/start>.

For Further Information:

Contact Darrell Shreve at dshreve@mhha.com.

CMS Using NPI as a Stick

Last week, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services announced a new initiative to ensure that the data submitted to the National Plan and Provider Enumeration System (NPPES) for organization health care providers is accurate.

CMS initiated an NPPES - Internal Revenue Service (IRS) data match to ensure that the legal business name (LBN) and employer identification number (EIN) in NPPES are consistent with IRS data.

CMS will mail out letters to organization health care providers that have an EIN/LBN combination in NPPES that is different from the information maintained by the IRS.

These letters request that the health care providers review and update their LBN and/or EIN in NPPES. If health care providers cannot furnish data that are consistent with the IRS, CMS will deactivate the National Provider Identifier in NPPES.

The deactivation will mean that neither Medicare nor Medicaid will process claims. MHHA alerts members to watch for this letter from CMS and to respond to it immediately if you receive it.

For Further Information:

Contact Darrell Shreve at dshreve@mhha.com.

Metro Emergency Preparedness Meeting Scheduled

Long term care is the newest group to be added to the emergency preparedness program, and members of the Metro Hospital Compact would like to begin working with nursing homes.

Within the metro, all 29 hospitals within the 7-county metropolitan area have collaborated to develop the Metro Hospital Compact in order to conduct disaster planning as a region.

The group invites administrators and representatives of long-term care facilities to a "meet and greet" meeting on Thursday, July 10, from 9 to 11:30 a.m. The meeting will be held in the Mississippi Room of the Snelling Office Park, located at the intersection of Snelling Avenue and Energy Park Drive in Saint Paul.

The meeting will include an overview of preparedness planning in the Twin Cities area to date, findings of a needs assessment survey, and the formation of a long-term care work group.

The agenda will also include an opportunity to network with the emergency management planners of area hospitals--a valuable opportunity to establish the relationships that are essential for good regional planning.

The group will make the needs assessment survey available shortly, and MHHA will distribute it to members as a link within a story in *Monday Mailing*.

MHHA encourages members to send a representative to the meeting.

Please RSVP by July to:

Katy Williams at Katherine.Mcandrews-Williams@hcmcd.org or Penny Mills at penny.mills@hcmcd.org or 612-873-3360. For further information, contact Williams or Mills.

SE Minnesota Emergency Preparedness Survey

The SE Regional Healthcare Systems Preparedness Program is asking long-term care facilities in the region to complete a needs assessment survey.

The purpose of the survey is to identify needs for emergency preparedness and ways in which grants from the program can help facilities meet those needs.

The survey contains a useful list of possible requirements or needs for various types of emergencies. MHHA encourages members to download the survey by clicking on [Jenny, insert link to SE LTC Needs Assessment survey here], and then complete and return it to Joseph Immermann. His email and mail addresses are on the survey form.

Members are also invited to the regular meetings of the group on the third Tuesday of each month from 1 to 3 p.m. at the Red Cross headquarters in Rochester (310 14th Street SE).

The counties involved are the eleven counties including and to the south and east of Freeborn, Steele, Rice, Goodhue, and Wabasha counties.

For further information, contact Immermann at immermann.joseph@mayo.edu or (507) 319-7978.

For Further Information,

Contact Darrell Shreve at dshreve@mhha.com.

DHS Issues Bulletin on Nursing Facility Preadmission Screening

DHS recently issued bulletin #08-25-03, "Preadmission Screening: Required Activity for Nursing Facility Admission and Medical Assistance Payment." This bulletin does not contain any new information, but it does provide a complete summary of preadmission screening policies and requirements.

Members can download the bulletin at <http://tinyurl.com/3fzayt>. Nursing facilities may want to review the contents of the bulletin and use it to ensure that their admissions and business office staff are following all the applicable preadmission screening requirements.

For further information:

Contact Jeff Bostic at jbostic@mhha.com.
or Darrell Shreve at dshreve@mhha.com.

DHS Issues Bulletin on Increase for Maintenance Needs Allowance and EW Conversion Rates

The Department of Human Services has issued bulletin #08-25-04, Annual Increase for Maintenance Needs Allowance and Elderly Waiver Conversion Rates.

For clients who are eligible for the Elderly Waiver Special Income Standard (SIS-EW), the Maintenance Needs Allowance (MNA) increases effective July 1 to \$860.

The bulletin also includes the EW conversion rate request form and explains the process for determining if an EW-eligible person, who has been a resident of a certified nursing facility for 30 consecutive days or more, would qualify for a conversion rate when returning to a community setting.

The bulletin directs lead agencies to determine whether the person's EW services would exceed the average EW monthly service cap. If implementation of the community support plan would cost less than the assigned EW case mix cap, the client does not require a conversion rate. If the community support plan cost exceeds this figure, the person may access a higher monthly service cap equal to no more than the cost to Medical Assistance for services in the nursing home where the person currently resides.

The bulletin is found at <http://tinyurl.com/436vdr>.

HUD To Offer 2-Day Webcast on EIV System (8.1)

HUD will offer a webcast on the Enterprise Income Verification (EIV) System (8.1) for multifamily housing programs on July 8 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. (CST) and on July 9 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. One-hour lunch breaks are included in the agenda.

The first day of the program will cover gaining/continuing access to the EIV system, security measures and EIV modules. Day two will cover EIV Income Information Reports. The last part of day two is designed for Contract Administrators (CAs) and HUD Staff only and will focus on monitoring. Time is allowed both days for questions.

Information on accessing the webcast is found at: <http://www.hud.gov/webcasts/index.cfm>. The EIV Training and Outreach for Multifamily Housing Programs Web Page for Materials is found at <http://www.hud.gov/offices/hsg/mfh/rhiip/eiv/eivtraining.cfm>.

Florida Providers Act to Counter the Negative Impact of the Slow Housing Market

MHHA members have been voicing concerns about vacancies related to the downturn in the housing market and this same phenomenon is being felt around the country--but some Florida providers are taking proactive steps to address this problem.

Laura Kinsler in the June 9 McClatchy Tribune Business News reports that continuing care retirement communities with

entrance fees are using the following solutions:

- Allowing new residents to defer half of their entrance fee for up to six months to give them time to sell their homes, or accepting promissory notes giving people six months before they have to pay their entrance fee
- Paying the interest on a home equity loan for up to a year when a resident uses the loan to pay the entrance fee
- Reimbursing residents up to \$1,200 per month for up to a year to cover housing expenses, such as the mortgage on their unsold home.
- Helping residents stage their homes for sale.

For further information:

Contact reporter Laura Kinsler at lkinsler@tampatrib.com.

\$740,000 in Broadband grants Available In Rural southwest Minnesota

Organizations in rural southwest Minnesota are eligible to apply for \$740,000 in grants to help them connect with others using ultra high-speed Internet capabilities.

Grand Rapids-based Blandin Foundation will disburse the funds via its second annual Light Speed Grant Program, the organization said this week. The matching funds support new broadband applications. Applications that reach home users are given priority.

Tele-health care initiatives, for example, may qualify.

Pre-application workshops are June 17 in Mankato, June 18 in Litchfield and in Appleton, and June 27 in Slayton.

Funds are available for the following counties: Blue Earth, Brown, Chippewa, Cottonwood, Faribault, Freeborn, Jackson, Kandiyohi, Lac Qui Parle, Le Sueur, Lincoln, Lyon, McLeod, Martin, Meeker, Murray, Nicollet, Nobles, Pipestone, Redwood, Renville, Rice, Rock, Sibley, Steele, Waseca, Watonwan and Yellow Medicine.

One past winning application, for instance, used fiber optics to connect group homes in Winona. Details are at www.blandinfoundation.org/html/public_bb_ls_oafs.cfm.

Member News

Member News

In this week's Member News, http://www.mhha.com/index/Member_News read about Gwen Wellner receiving national honor. Send your news to Bill Floyd at bfloyd@mhha.com.

Association News

Excellence in Practice Deadline is July 11

The call for entries for this year's Excellence in Practice Awards is **Friday, July 11**. For 15 years, MHHA has recognized members for their outstanding efforts through this program. The program was developed to provide MHHA members with an opportunity to showcase their accomplishments.

This year's winners will be announced at our annual Institute Feb. 11-13, 2009, at the Hyatt Regency in Minneapolis. To view this year's brochure, visit

<http://www.mhha.com/inc/data/2009EIPCallforEntries.pdf>

For Further Information:

Contact Bill Floyd at bfloyd@mhha.com.

Only 10 Booth Spaces Left: Sign Up Today to Exhibit at the 2009 MHHA Institute

Minneapolis. February. The dead of winter. Are we crazy?

It might be freezing outside, but things are sizzling inside the MHHA Institute for Older Adult Services Expo. This is the must-attend event for any company that markets to older adult service providers.

Reserve your 2009 Institute booth today while prime booths are still available. To date, 157 booths have already been sold and 10 booths are remaining. MHHA's 2009 expo, scheduled Feb. 11 and 12, offers your organization the opportunity to showcase your company's product or service and the chance to interact with more than 3,500 of Minnesota's older adult services providers.

Get a jumpstart into 2009 and don't miss this invitation to lock in your booth location today! View the exhibitor prospectus and floor diagram posted on MHHA's web site at <http://www.mhha.com/index/institute>.

For Further Information:

Contact Jenny Prosser at jprosser@mhha.com.

MHHA Members Want to Learn from YOU at the 2009 Institute

Submit an application today to present at MHHA's 2009 Institute for Older Adult Services which is attended by over 3,500 older adult services professionals each year. Submission deadline is **Friday, June 27**.

Planning for next year's Institute for Older Adult Services is in full swing, and we invite your participation. Share your expertise in the field of aging services by presenting an educational session at the 2009 MHHA Institute. All entries selected from this call will become a concurrent educational session during the Institute, which will be held Feb. 11-13, 2009 at the Hyatt Regency Minneapolis.

We seek creative, highly interactive presentations that engage participants in the learning process and encourage peer connections. This year's Institute will be built around the theme "Changing Lives" and MHHA's strategic initiatives - transforming the continuum of care to better meet consumer needs, demands and expectations; developing and retaining a skilled workforce; best practices in resident care models; quality improvement and accountability; and new technologies for older adult service delivery. We encourage you to thread the theme and initiatives into your presentation to provide MHHA members with the essential skills, knowledge and information needed to provide quality service to older adults.

Share this information with your staff and submit a session idea or two. Posted on MHHA's web site, just click on <http://www.mhha.com/index/institute> and look for the Call for Presentations Form and Instructions link. Again, the deadline for making an online submission to the CFP is Friday, June 27, 2008.

For Further Information:

Contact Heidi Simpson at hsimpson@mhha.com.

June District Meeting Educational Programs Approved For CEUS

Summer has finally arrived and the June district swing is about to begin.

As an extra incentive for coming to the meetings, the Minnesota Board of Examiners for Nursing Home Administrators has approved both the care center educational program and the housing program for one clock hour each.

As always, there is nursing contact hours included and all who attend and ask will receive a general certificate of attendance for their CE records. Both educational programs are included in the district meeting as a benefit of membership and are offered at no charge.

For Further Information:

Contact Heidi Simpson at hsimpson@mhha.com.

Education Solutions At-A-Glance

Click for more information or to register. <http://tinyurl.com/2egar8>

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

<http://tinyurl.com/5nwumw>

*Sponsored by Alliance Purchasing and MSC

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: Beyond Expectations, 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)

MHHA Education On Demand

Any time, any place! Download these Video Casts from the 2008 Institute.

Click to Order: <http://eseries.mhha.com/source/Orders/index.cfm>

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 Care: The Challenge and Solution (session 222)

Your MHHA.com

Why Log in to MHHA.com?

Logging in identifies your member status and provides you access to information available only to MHHA members, such as:

- Continually updated information on legislation
- Regulatory information and links
- Data you can use
- Up-to-date directories
- Online communities
- *Monday Mailing* and *HWS Outlook* newsletters in a news format
- member pricing on educational events and products
- plus a whole lot more!

You also have the option to customize your home page with "hot topic" information. Click <http://www.mhha.com/inc/data/2007WebGuide.pdf> for further information.

Log in and take full advantage of MHHA.com. If you need assistance with setting up your user name and password, contact Alecia Crumpler at acrumpler@mhha.com.

If you need assistance with navigating the web site or have suggestions for content, contact Jenny Mims at jmims@mhha.com.

Three Online Communities Now Available

Connect with your colleagues - MHHA now has three online communities members can participate in:

1. **Culture Change Connection** - This online community is designed to advance person-directed living in Minnesota. Share promising practices, connect with a community of supportive colleagues and access the information needed to succeed at every step in the culture change journey.
2. **(ALNET) Assisted Living Nurse Network** - This online community is designed to enable nurses to network with their colleagues on a variety of topics in one central place.
3. **Housing With Services** - This online community is designed to provide housing-with-services providers with up-to-date information and to enable them to share issues, questions, tips and resources with their peers.

For a reference guide on using MHHA's online communities, click on <http://www.mhha.com/inc/data/OnlineCommunitiesRefguide.pdf>.

For Further Information,

Contact Jenny Mims at 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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