



Posted: 10-19-2009

### MDH Plans Statewide Hotline for Flu Questions

The Minnesota Department of Health will establish a statewide nurse hotline for people with questions about seasonal or H1N1 influenza.

The intent is to relieve hospitals and clinics of the burden of screening thousands of flu patients. The hotline will also provide faster access to antiviral medicine for people most likely to develop life-threatening illnesses.

MDH has not yet announced the details of the hotline or when it will be available to the public. Aging Services will pass along additional information when it becomes available.

The MDH nurse hotline will be similar to the nurse hotlines used by insurers and large clinics, and it will be funded by federal emergency funds. MDH plans to hire a vendor to staff the hotline.

Last Friday, the CDC reported two disturbing facts that will make the MDH hotline even more valuable. First, the CDC reported that 86 children have died from H1N1 since its outbreak last spring, compared to 40 to 50 deaths from seasonal influenza in most years. The H1N1 deaths have occurred among teenagers in unexpected numbers--it is not simply infants and very young children who are at risk.

Second, the CDC reported that because of manufacturing delays, only 28 million to 30 million doses will be available in the country by the end of October. The original expectation was in the range of 40 million.

The reduced supply could mean that more people will get H1N1. Fast access to the antivirals is important because their efficacy depends on the individual receiving them within 48 hours of the appearance of the first symptoms. The MDH hotline's nurses will have the legal authority to prescribe medicines, which may make the medicines available to individuals more quickly. The hotline will also benefit people without health insurance or whose insurance coverage requires large copays or coinsurance of physician visits and drugs.

#### ***For Further Information:***

Contact Darrell Shreve at [dshreve@agingservicesmn.org](mailto:dshreve@agingservicesmn.org).

### MDH Merges Seasonal and H1N1 Websites

The Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) has combined its information on both seasonal influenza and novel H1N1 influenza on one Web site.

According to officials, the merger makes sense because the symptoms are so similar. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has merged some of their Web sites, too.

Members can view the newly redesigned site at [www.mdhflu.com](http://www.mdhflu.com)

In addition, MDH posted the following new items on the site:

- "Novel H1N1 Flu: Protecting Yourself and Your Community" at <http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/idepc/diseases/flu/basics/keymsgs.html> -- A new fact sheet that will be updated

weekly and translated into several languages.

- "Can I get my H1N1 flu shot yet?" at [http://www.health.state.mn.us/cgi-bin/idepc/h1n1\\_fluschedule/fluclinic\\_search.cgi](http://www.health.state.mn.us/cgi-bin/idepc/h1n1_fluschedule/fluclinic_search.cgi) -- Regularly updated messages about the H1N1 vaccine in Minnesota, including a tool to help users find a place to get a shot, once they become available.
- "How Long Should a Person with Influenza-Like Illness Stay Home?" at <http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/idepc/diseases/flu/hcp/exclusion.html> -- A chart to help users determine how long they or their child should stay away from school or work after being sick with influenza this year.

#### **For Further Information:**

Contact Darrell Shreve at [dshreve@agingervicesmn.org](mailto:dshreve@agingervicesmn.org).

### **DHS Will Repeat Videoconference on Developing the Individual EW CL Plan**

The Department of Human Services (DHS) has scheduled a Thursday, Oct. 29, videoconference on developing the individual Elderly Waiver (EW) Customized Living (CL) Plan using the new CL tool.

The videoconference will be offered at 9 a.m. and again at 1:30 p.m. This is a repeat of the videoconference offered Thursday, Oct. 8, which could not accommodate all interested persons.

This training will focus on the workbook forms that lead agency case managers and care coordinators will complete in consultation with their clients. These forms include the screening input document, individual customized living plan and authorized EW services. The trainers will also discuss using the print CL plan and Print CSP. The sessions will be presented by Jolene Kohn, Strategic Planner, Aging and Adult Services Division, and Darlene Schroeder, Agency policy Specialist, Aging and Adult Services Division, Department of Human Services, will present the study.

On Wednesday, Oct. 28, DHS is scheduling a "train the trainer" session for lead agency staff. Based on comments from DHS staff, Aging Services expects that by that date, the tool may have the final rates for meal preparation, socialization and group transportation.

#### **For Further Information:**

Visit <http://agingtraining.dhs.state.mn.us> or Mary Youle at [myoule@agingervicesmn.org](mailto:myoule@agingervicesmn.org).

### **Brochure Available This Week on Upcoming Customized Living Tool Webinar**

If all goes as planned, the Minnesota Department of Human Services (DHS) will release its revised Customized Living Tool information by the end of October.

To assist member organizations improve how they manage their Elderly Waiver Customized Living program, Aging Services has scheduled a webinar *"Practical and Operational Approaches to Minnesota's Customized Living Tool"* for Monday, Nov. 23, from 1:30 - 3:00 p.m. Conveniently scheduled in a webinar format, members can train as many staff as they want for one low cost of \$99 per connection. Registration brochures will be sent to members this week.

Topics to be discussed include an update on the latest information available on the revised Customized Living Tool, and practical information to improve your operations in working with the Elderly Waiver program -- plus ideas from other HWS/AL providers you might be able to put to use. Featured faculty includes Mary Youle, Aging Services of Minnesota's Vice President of Housing and Community Services plus perennial speaking favorite Barb Blumer of Barb Blumer Law, PA.

#### **For Further Information:**

Contact Heidi Simpson [hsimpson@agingervicesmn.org](mailto:hsimpson@agingervicesmn.org) or Kellie Carlson [kcarlson@agingervicesmn.org](mailto:kcarlson@agingervicesmn.org).

### **Enhanced Opportunity to Focus on Reducing Falls Available to Members Oct. 27**

The Aging Services Clinical Practice Committee has developed a Falls Reduction and Prevention Tool Kit which will be made available to all members next week.

Working over the past year, the Clinical Practice Committee has taken a comprehensive look at falls in the older population, and at programs aimed at preventing them. The result is a tool kit that will be available on the Aging Services Web site Tuesday, Oct. 27.

The tool kit has been created to not only provide members of care centers, assisted living facilities or home care with quick access to on-line informational resources and best practices for embedding outcome based practices into day-to-day operation but will also serve as a network for "falls prevention champions" to share and learn from one another and topic experts.

Data shows that Minnesota has the third highest unintentional fall death rate in the country among older adults. While falls are the leading cause for hospitalization and emergency room-treated injuries among the older adults it can also dramatically reduce their quality of life. Of course not all of these falls occur amongst clients receiving home care, living in assisted living or care centers but the data from CMS and CDC reveal upward trends in care centers partially due to the changing nature of care delivery, particularly restraint reduction and the increasingly frail senior population being served.

Literature reviews conducted by the Clinical Practice Committee of numerous fall prevention programs revealed many similarities, but several factors were identified by which existing programs might be enhanced.

Aging Services Clinical Practice Committee is chaired by **Denise Juday Barnett**, the administrator of **St. Therese Home, Inc.** in New Hope and comprised of directors of nursing and other key members of the multi disciplinary team.

***For Further Information:***

Contact Liz Sether [esether@agingservicesmn.org](mailto:esether@agingservicesmn.org).

### **Nov. 5 Videoconference on LTCC, AC and Caregiver Support Basic Program Set**

The Department of Human Services (DHS) will offer a Thursday, Nov. 5, videoconference on Long-Term Care Consultation (LTCC) from 9 a.m. to 12 noon.

The videoconference on Alternative Care (AC) and the Caregiver Support Basic Program will be offered that same day from 1-4 p.m. DHS presenters will be Gail Carlson, Research Analyst, Aging and Adult Services Division; Jolene Kohn, Strategic Planner, Aging and Adult Services Division; Libby Rossett-Brown, Administrator, Elderly Waiver/Alternative Care Programs; and Susan Wenberg, Administrator, Family Caregiver Support/Alternative Care Program.

More details on the learning objectives for the program are found at <http://www.agingservicesmn.org/inc/data/Nov5videoconferenceannouncement.pdf>.

(You must register separately for the morning and the afternoon programs. Registration closes at 5 p.m. on the Monday prior to the session.)

***For Further Information:***

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

### **Second Annual Long-Term Care Financing Forum Will Be Held Nov. 17**

The Second Annual Long-Term Care Financing Solutions Forum on Tuesday, Nov. 17, will feature long-term care financing expert speakers and panelists, along with a legislative panel of influential officials who have been working to solve this problem at the state and federal level.

The forum, scheduled for 12:30 - 4:30 p.m., will again be held at the Hubert H. Humphrey Institute for Public Affairs and is free to the public. The forum will focus on progress made over the past year toward solving our

long-term care financing crisis.

The forum is sponsored by Aging Services, along with the Humphrey Institute, AARP, and AAHSA.

Attendees will also be eligible for CEUs. Register online at

[http://eservices.agingservicesmn.org/imispublic\\_as/Core/Events/Registrant.aspx](http://eservices.agingservicesmn.org/imispublic_as/Core/Events/Registrant.aspx).

***For Further Information:***

Contact Kari Thurlow at [kthurlow@agingservicesmn.org](mailto:kthurlow@agingservicesmn.org) or Jen McNertney at [jmcnertney@agingservicesmn.org](mailto:jmcnertney@agingservicesmn.org).

## **Important Change in Heparin Manufacturing Decreases Its Potency**

To ensure the quality of heparin and to guard against potential contamination, the United States Pharmacopeia (USP), a nonprofits standards-setting organization, adopted new manufacturing controls for heparin effective at the beginning of this month. These changes include a modification of the reference standard for the drug's unit dose.

Manufacturers in the United States and Canada label the amount of heparin included in their products based on USP standards. The changes adopted by the USP for the heparin unit dose match the World Health Organization's International Standard (IS) unit dose definition that has been in use in Europe for many years. The revised USP reference standard and unit definition for heparin is about 10 percent less potent than the former USP unit.

A unit is the measure of a drug's activity in the body. For heparin, a unit dose is the measure of the drug's ability to block the blood's natural clotting ability (anticoagulation). Heparin's potency is determined by the dose of the drug required to produce a specific level of anticoagulation.

Manufacturers for the U.S. market have begun to make heparin using the new USP standard. The FDA asked that they not ship this new product to customers until Oct. 8 or later. The delay would give health care providers and facilities time to learn about the changes and to make adjustments to their pharmacy procedures and dosing practices, according to John Jenkins, M.D. director of the Office of New Drugs in the FDA's Center for Drug Evaluation and Research.

"Although the FDA-approved labeling for heparin has not changed, including the recommended doses, it is essential that health care professionals be aware of the potential difference in potency between the old and new vials of heparin when administering the drug," said Jenkins.

Four companies market heparin in the United States. APP, the largest manufacturer, markets heparin in vials; Hospira markets heparin in intravenous bags, vials, and syringes; Baxter markets heparin in intravenous bags, and B. Braun markets heparin in intravenous bags. The FDA has asked that all manufacturers identify their new products to help pharmacies and health care professionals differentiate it from the former product.

By federal law, prescription and over-the-counter medicines available in the United States must meet USP's public standards, when such standards exist. The revised standards for heparin are contained in a new USP monograph.

The monograph was revised, in part, in response to a 2007-2008 incident of heparin contamination involving a manufacturing step in China. The contaminated heparin was associated with deaths and other adverse events in the United States. The monograph was changed to include a test for the contaminant.

***For Further Information:***

Visit

<http://www.fda.gov/Drugs/DrugSafety/PostmarketDrugSafetyInformationforPatientsandProviders/ucm184502.htm>.

## **Key Dates List Updated**

Aging Services would like to remind members about its "Key Dates" Web feature that includes lists of important state and federal changes that impact providers of aging services.

Subjects such as new legislative mandates, rule changes, deadlines for annual activities, and more are included on this list. The purpose of the list is to help members quickly become aware of upcoming changes and plan accordingly.

Members can access an updated version of the Aging Services Key Dates List at [www.agingervicesmn.org](http://www.agingervicesmn.org) (log in and look under Featured Topics in the right side bar). You can access the list directly by clicking on <http://www.agingervicesmn.org/inc/data/AgingServicesKeyDates101609.doc>.

The list is in chronological order but can be sorted by provider type as well. Recent "Key Dates" updates include:

**Advancing Excellence:** The Advancing Excellence in America's Nursing Homes campaign launches its second phase on Thursday, Oct. 22. Member care centers are encouraged to go to [www.nhqualitycampaign.org](http://www.nhqualitycampaign.org) on or after that date and sign up to work on goals for improving resident quality of care and quality of life.

**Nursing Facility Cost Reports:** Forms for completing the nursing facility cost and data reports for the year ended Sept. 30 are now available on the DHS nursing facility portal at

<https://nfportal.dhs.state.mn.us/PortalLogin.aspx?ReturnUrl=%2fDefault.aspx>. Reports are required by statute to be submitted to DHS by Jan. 15.

***For Further Information:***

Or with suggestions of other key dates to include:

Contact Lori Meyer at [lmeyer@agingervicesmn.org](mailto:lmeyer@agingervicesmn.org) or Jeff Bostic at [jbostic@agingervicesmn.org](mailto:jbostic@agingervicesmn.org).

### **HUD Seeks Feedback on PBCA Performance Standards by Nov. 13**

HUD is seeking comments on proposed PBCA framework Standards no later than Friday, Nov. 13.

HUD is preparing to rebid all Performance-based Contract Administration (PBCA) contracts nationwide very shortly, with implementation of the new contracts and standards by January 2011. To provide feedback, visit [PBCA\\_ACC\\_Revisions@hud.gov](mailto:PBCA_ACC_Revisions@hud.gov).

Last week, Deborah Lear, Director of HUD's Office of Housing Assistance Contract Administration Oversight, conducted a conference call on the revised contract (known as the ACC) and new "Acceptable Quality Level" (AQL) framework for performance standards which will be used in the new PBCA contracts when they go out to bid in just a few months.

Colleen Bloom has made available the Power Point presentation sent to the conference call participants with HUD's suggestions to change the PBCA process, and it is now posted at

<http://www.agingervicesmn.org/inc/data/HUD-PBCAPowerPoint.ppt>.

The American Association of Homes and Services for the Aging (AAHSA) and its New York state affiliate previously submitted recommendations to HUD on changes for the PBCA process. Some of suggestions are reflected in the draft changes, including moving toward a "functional model that moves away from task specific activity and creates functional categories for PBCA activity and oversight," and detailing particular subsidy payment expectations and communication timeframes.

According to Bloom, there are unresolved issues such as what constitutes a completed rent adjustment request or contract submission, and nothing addresses the problematic issue of timelines and communications with owners when a PBCA must refer an issue to HUD for further review.

AAHSA members wishing to provide comments for a joint submission through AAHSA should provide feedback to [cbloom@aahsa.org](mailto:cbloom@aahsa.org) no later than Sunday, Nov. 1.

***For Further Information:***

Contact Colleen Bloom at 202-508-9483.

### **Comments On Rules Proposes HUD Amendments Are Due Nov. 16**

Comments to the proposed HUD amendments on "Refinement of Income and Rent Determination Requirements in Public and Assisted Housing Programs: Implementation of Enterprise Income Verification" are due Monday, Nov. 16.

The proposed amendments which will become effective Jan. 31, 2010 can be found at

<http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2009/pdf/E9-24809.pdf>.

HUD believes the proposed amendments will address the issues and concerns raised by the public comments on the Jan. 27, 2009 final rules. HUD indicates that other issues found in the Final Rule have been deferred to subsequent rulemaking.

The Federal Register notice says that "HUD welcomes public comment on all aspects of the proposed rule; however given the privacy concerns surrounding the disclosure of social security numbers (SSNs), the Department specifically requests comments on those proposed regulatory requirements pertaining to SSN disclosure." Public comments can be submitted by mail or electronically through the Federal eRulemaking Portal at [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov).

***For Further Information:***

Contact Mary Youle at [myoule@agingservicesmn.org](mailto:myoule@agingservicesmn.org).

## **Two Aging Services Webinars Planned for this Week**

There's still time to sign up for two Aging Services webinars this week.

In response to the widespread outbreak of the H1N1 flu in Minnesota, a special webinar has been scheduled for Tuesday, Oct. 20, from 9:30 - 11 a.m.

On Friday, Oct. 23, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., Aging Services will continue its "Labor Law School" webinar series with "Conducting Lawful Background Checks in a High Tech World. Get up to date on what you need to be in compliance with current laws when conducting applicant background checks.

***View full details here:*** [http://eservices.agingservicesmn.org/imispublic\\_as/Core/Events/eventdetails.aspx?iKey=844900&TemplateType=A](http://eservices.agingservicesmn.org/imispublic_as/Core/Events/eventdetails.aspx?iKey=844900&TemplateType=A).

***For Further Information:***

Contact Kellie Carlson at [kcarlson@agingservicesmn.org](mailto:kcarlson@agingservicesmn.org).

## **Sponsors Sought for Aging Services Minnesota Night in Chicago**

The deadline for sponsorship commitment for Aging Services Minnesota's AAHSA Night is Friday, Oct. 23.

This event will be a casual reception with heavy hors d'oeuvres, food stations and dessert at The Chopping Block on Sunday, Nov. 8, starting at 6 p.m. By becoming a sponsor of this event, you will have the chance to visit personally with over 100 corporate officers, administrators, housing managers and trustees. Sponsorship information was e-mailed last week to Business Partners.

***Please join us in extending thanks to the Business Partner Sponsors (as of 10-15-09) of this year's Minnesota Night:***

- Alliance Purchasing/Aging Services Group
- CMA, an Ideacom Partner
- Community Living Solutions, LLC
- Dougherty & Company LLC
- Dynamic Medical Systems Inc.
- Encompass Textiles and Interiors

- Fredrickson & Byron, P.A.
- Kraus-Anderson Construction Company
- LarsonAllen LLP
- Merwin LTC Pharmacy
- Northland Securities Inc.
- Omnicare Minnesota
- Piper Jaffray & Company
- PointClickCare
- Professional Portable X-ray Inc.
- RehabCare
- Voigt, Klegon & Rode, LLC
- Weis Builders Inc.
- Ziegler Capital Markets Group

**PointClickCare is the exclusive sponsor of the beer and wine for this event.**

***For Further Information:***

Contact Jenny Prosser at [jprosser@agingservicesmn.org](mailto:jprosser@agingservicesmn.org).

### **Minnesota Night at AAHSA Planned**

The registration deadline to participate in Minnesota Night at AAHSA is Friday, Oct. 23.

If you are attending AAHSA's Annual Meeting in Chicago, you don't want to miss the opportunity to join your colleagues for Minnesota Night.

The scheduled event will be a reception and dinner beginning at 6 p.m. at The Chopping Block at the Merchandise Mart. The Chopping Block is Chicago's largest recreational cooking school. Advance reservations are required. The provider member charge is \$25/person.

Click here <http://www.agingservicesmn.org/inc/data/MnNightRegistration.pdf> for a link to the 2009 Minnesota Night Provider Member Registration Form.

***For Further Information:***

Contact Nancy Garrett at [ngarrett@agingservicesmn.org](mailto:ngarrett@agingservicesmn.org).

### **2010 Dues Estimates Now Available Online**

In mid-November the invoices for 2010 membership dues will be mailed to members.

To assist with budgeting, members can check the estimated 2010 membership dues online at <http://apps.agingservicesmn.org/dues/login.asp>. In order to access the information the member login and password are required (the ones you use for member surveys). If 2008 revenue has not been reported members will be redirected and asked to submit revenue data.

***For Further Information:***

Contact Sarah LaRose-Holland at 651-645-4545 or [slarose-holland@agingservicesmn.org](mailto:slarose-holland@agingservicesmn.org).

### **Scholarship Awarded at MNDONA Conference**

The 26th Annual MN-DONA Fall Conference "Long Term Care - The Future Is Us" was held on Oct. 7-9 at Breezy

Point Resort in Breezy Point.

In addition to exhibiting at the MN-Dona conference, as a Bronze Sponsor the MN-DONA Scholarship/ Education Committee allowed us the opportunity to award a \$500 scholarship to a student pursuing a nursing degree which benefits long term care.

The recipient of the 2009 scholarship is Angela Graber who is pursuing her nursing degree at Southwest Technical College. Her MN-DONA sponsor is **Gretchen Murr** from the **Northfield Hospital & Long-Term Care Center**.

An Aging Services representative was invited to present this scholarship at the award ceremony honoring Minnesota's Director's of Nursing. Although Angela was not able to attend, Wendy Wilson graciously accepted the award in her honor. MN-DONA awarded a record number of scholarships to Minnesota students throughout the state this year.

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

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

#### **H1N1 Flu Virus: What Aging Services Providers Need to Know and Prepare For - Webinar Tuesday, October 20, 9:30 - 11 a.m.**

Click <http://www.agingservicesmn.org/inc/data/H1N1.pdf>

#### **Aging Services/MHCA Assisted Living Home Care Conference**

Like no other event in Minnesota - bringing together top faculty, vital topics and outstanding networking opportunities.

**Oct. 21 (St. Paul)**

*Co-Sponsored with Minnesota HomeCare Association*

*Sponsored by Alliance Purchasing/Aging Services Group*

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

Member Types: Home Care, Housing

Audience: Housing Managers, Administrators, Nursing, Social Services

Training Mode: Live Training - Conference

CEUs: Administrator, Nursing

#### **Maintaining the Financial Health of Your Medicare Certified Home HealthCare Agency October 22, 2009**

*Co-Sponsored by the Minnesota HomeCare Association*

Registration is being handled through MHCA at <http://www.mnhomecare.org/cde.cfm?event=270319>

#### **Labor Law School Webinar Series**

##### **Conducting Lawful Background Checks in a High Tech World**

**Friday, October 23, 2009**

*Sponsored by Pathway Health Services*

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

#### **Labor Law School Webinar Series**

##### **Immigration Compliance in the Workplace**

**Friday, October 30, 2009**

*Sponsored by Pathway Health Services*

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

#### **Long-Term Care Financing Forum**

**Tuesday, November 17, 2009**

*Sponsored by Aging Services, Humphrey Institute, AARP and AAHSA*

Click [http://eservices.agingservicesmn.org/imispublic\\_as/Core/Events/Registrant.aspx](http://eservices.agingservicesmn.org/imispublic_as/Core/Events/Registrant.aspx)

## **Plan Ahead**

### **2010 Institute**

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

#### **Feb. 10-12, 2010 (Minneapolis)**

Member Types: All

Audience: All

Training Mode: Live Training - Conference & Expo

CEUs: All

**Questions or Comments?** Contact us at [education@agingservicesmn.org](mailto:education@agingservicesmn.org).

## **District Meetings**

### **District C Meeting**

Tuesday, October 20

1 - 4

Pioneer Pointe

411 Everett Avenue East

Fergus Falls, MN 56537

### **District A Meeting**

Wednesday, October 21

9 - 12

Fireside Grill & Patio

Highway 2

Bagley, MN 56621

### **District B Meeting**

Thursday, October 22

9 - 12

SMDC Medical Center

502 E 2nd Street

Duluth, MN 55805

### **District G Meeting**

Tuesday, October 27

9 - 12

Summit Place Senior Campus

8501 Flying Cloud Drive

Eden Prairie, MN 55344

### **District E Meeting**

Wednesday, October 28

9 - 12

Redwood Area Hospital

100 Fallwood Road

Redwood Falls, MN 56283

### **District F Meeting**

Thursday, October 29

9 - 12

Cabela's

3900 Cabela Drive

Owatonna, MN 55060

**District D Meeting**

Friday, October 30

9 - 12

St. Benedict Senior Community

1810 Minnesota Boulevard SE

Saint Cloud, MN 56304

**Aging Services of Minnesota**

2550 University Avenue West, Suite 350S, St. Paul, MN 55114-1900

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