



Posted:11-17-2008

DHS Releases RFP for Community Consortium Grant Program

DHS has announced they will be releasing the RFP for the Community Consortiums grant program today (Monday, Nov. 17).

Responses to the RFP are due by May 14, which will allow groups that want to respond considerable time to develop the structures necessary to begin working as a consortium. DHS has created a section of its web site at www.dhs.state.mn.us/consortium where they are posting information related to the grant program, including a link to the RFP and information about video conferences for responders.

The grant program is a Long-Term Care Imperative initiative that the Legislature approved earlier this year.

The grant program allows for the establishment of up to three community consortium demonstration projects that promote coordinated community-based care for older adults. Community Consortiums will be able to receive grants of up to \$2.4 million for three years, with the goal of filling gaps in their local continuum of care and eliminating duplication of effort within their service areas.

For Further Information:

Contact Jeff Bostic at jbostic@agingservicesmn.org or Kari Thurlow at kthurlow@agingservicesmn.org

Field For 2010 Governor's Race Starting to Take Shape

As the field for the 2010 governor's race takes shape, it's time to emphasize again that one of our long-term goals is to ensure that the future of aging services is a top issue for debate amongst all of the candidates running for this office.

We believe that 2010 is an important year to have a statewide debate on this issue that is on par with education, transportation and other issues that have received statewide attention. As candidates enter the field, we will be in contact with them on our issues.

On Monday, State Rep. Paul Thissen, a DFLer who represents Minneapolis and Richfield, filed papers for a 2010 gubernatorial run. Thissen joins what is already becoming a crowded field of DFL candidates, including State Senator Tom Bakk, and Ramsey County Attorney Susan Gaertner.

There are other potential DFL candidates that are also often mentioned, but are not officially in the race including, Assistant Majority Leader and St. Cloud Senator Tarryl Clark, House Speaker Margaret Kelliher, Minneapolis Mayor R.T. Rybak, Congressman Tim Walz, former House Minority Leader Matt Entenza and former U.S. Senator Mark Dayton.

Thissen is the current chair of the House Health and Human Services policy committee and was one of the organizers of the legislature's 2020 Caucus (now known as the 2020 Conference), a bipartisan, bicameral effort to enact legislation addressing the state's major demographic shifts.

On the Republican side of this race, it is still early and Governor Pawlenty has not announced whether he will seek a third term. Many insiders predict that he will not run and risk a statewide loss two years before the next presidential race. If Pawlenty decides not to make another run, there are many potential candidates in the waiting in the wings, including Rep. Laura Brod (R-New Prague), former State Auditor Pat Anderson, Brian Sullivan, and Minnesota Chamber President David Olson.

For Further Information:

Contact Kari Thurlow at [Kari Thurlow at kthurlow@agingservicesmn.org](mailto:kthurlow@agingservicesmn.org).

C. Difficile Growing in Care Centers

A recent study by the Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology found that *Clostridium difficile* is up to six times more common in hospitals than previously thought. There is evidence that the frequency is on the rise in care centers.

The study suggests that about 13 per 1,000 hospital patients have the germ. According to some researchers, *C. difficile* outstrips the better-known MRSA as a hospital-acquired infection.

The bacteria of *C. difficile* are found in the colon and can cause diarrhea and a more serious intestinal condition known as colitis. It can be deadly, particularly to the elderly. *C. difficile* can cause extensive damage to the intestine wall (called pseudomembranous colitis), often after antibiotic use eradicates normal intestinal flora.

Treatment includes stopping antibiotics and starting specific anticlostridial antibiotics. The most dangerous form is spread by spores in feces, and the

spores are difficult to kill with most conventional household cleaners or antibacterial soap.

The current requirements of participation for nursing homes make virtually no mention of *C. difficile*, but the draft survey guidance for infection control gives the bacteria quite a bit of attention. The draft guidance from the CMS notes that *Clostridium difficile* can live on inanimate surfaces for up to six months. The infection control group recommends that hospitals and nursing homes beef up cleaning efforts, such as using bleach, and that medical staff quickly isolate patients who have the infection.

The antibiotics usually involved in treatment are metronidazole, a generic antibiotic, and Vancocin, a branded oral version of the antibiotic vancomycin. Although they clear up the infection in about 90 percent of the cases, about 25 percent of those treated with these drugs have relapses within four weeks, often requiring hospitalization.

The *New York Times* reported last week, however, that a new antibiotic being developed by a small company in San Diego fared well in a Phase 3 trial, achieving a higher long-term cure rate and a smaller relapse rate--both about ten percentage points better than Vancocin's. The company's drug will undergo another Phase 3 trial late next year prior to coming to market.

If a resident develops *C. difficile* diarrhea, placement on transmission-based precautions will prevent other residents from exposure. This will usually require a single room until the transmission risk no longer exists. It is appropriate to put on and remove gloves and gowns/aprons while caring for this resident or when exiting the isolation room. In addition these practices may reduce the risk of cross-transmission.

Thorough hand washing with soap and water (not alcohol-based hand rubs) before tending to another resident may also reduce the risk of cross-transmission. The resident should also be given their own toilet facilities that will not be shared by other residents.

For Further Information:

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

Comment Period Changes to the CADI, DD and TBI Waivers Ends Dec. 10

The Department of Human Services (DHS) has announced a 30-day public comment period, effective from Nov. 10 to Dec. 10, regarding proposed changes and clarifications of the Community Alternatives for Disabled Individuals (CADI), Developmental Disabilities (DD) and Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) federal waiver plans.

According to DHS, two of these proposed changes are in response to legislation requiring submission of waiver amendments for federal approval. There will be a second set of waiver amendments that will be sent out in a separate public comment notice after DHS' internal routing is complete.

Following are the proposed changes now available for comment:

- **Environmental Modifications and Adaptations** - It is proposed to add language to the CADI, DD and TBI waivers to allow modifications that add square footage to a home for a bathroom remodel in specific situations. This language is proposed to come into compliance with legislation passed during the 2008 session.
- **Supportive Living Services** - Language is proposed for the DD Waiver that establishes an alternative to foster care licensure to allow individual providers to provide Supportive Living Services to their family members. This language is an effort to come into compliance with legislation that was passed during the 2007 session.
- **Tribal administration of the CADI and TBI waivers** - Language is being proposed to allow tribal entities to administer the CADI and TBI waivers, and to function as a lead agency. Existing state statute allows DHS to enter into contracts with tribal entities to operate any programs under the supervision of DHS.

To view the federal waiver plan amendment language, go to

http://www.dhs.state.mn.us/main/groups/disabilities/documents/pub/dhs16_143249.pdf or call DSD at 651-431-2400 to request a copy.

Comments should be submitted to DSD.PublicComments@state.mn.us no later than Wednesday, Dec. 10.

Full Implementation of Customized Living Tool to be Sometime in 2009

The Department of Human Services (DHS) staff continues to say that the Elderly Waiver Customized Living (CL) tool will be launched in January, but they are now more vague about when in 2009 implementation will be complete.

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services apparently has mandated that the tool must be fully implemented by the end of the 2009. In discussing the timing for in-depth provider training on the tool, DHS staff agreed that March-April, 2009, might be a realistic goal.

The current CL tool consists of eight Excel interactive worksheets plus instruction contained in a Word document. Based on the comments and questions during last week's meeting between DHS, provider representatives, county staff and health plans, DHS staff said that the tool will undergo more corrections and clarifications. Aging Services of Minnesota expects to receive these revisions no later than today and will post them on the web site for providers to review.

DHS is asking providers to try out the forms by plugging in data and would like to receive provider feedback in the next couple of weeks. We expect that DHS may then make additional revisions before the Dec. 11 videoconference on the tool. Additional information may be available in a bulletin that DHS plans to issue before the end of the year if possible.

We are interested in setting up a meeting of interested providers to work through the worksheets as a group to identify issues or concerns before Thanksgiving. We would then compile the comments and feedback for DHS.

In the meantime, we will continue to talk with DHS about how to get the necessary training to providers. DHS has already said that they expect Aging Services of Minnesota and the other provider associations to be primarily responsible for training their own members, while DHS would be responsible for training lead agency staff and might develop a "train the trainer" program for the provider groups. We'll provide more updates on training as details are known.

More details on the contents of the current tool will be provided in next week's issue of Housing and Services Advantage.

For Further Information:

Contact Mary Youle at myoule@agingervicesmn.org.

DHS to Offer Dec. 4 Videoconference on Consumer Directed Community Supports

The Minnesota Department of Human Services will offer a Thursday, Dec. 4 videoconference on Consumer Directed Community Supports (CDCS) and cover recent updates on enrollment trends, significant policy changes, and common operational questions.

Presenters will include staff from the DHS disability services division and Jane Vujovich, Strategic Planner, DHS Aging and Adult Services Division, along with a case manager for Minnesota Disability Health Options and a consumer representative.

The videoconference will be available at 10 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. at various locations around the state. Locations are listed when you access the registration web site below.

Guest presenters will discuss their experiences with CDCS including effective ways to interest consumers in the model, overcome barriers, and facilitate self-directed community-living.

Discussion will include use of CDCS for persons on a home and community-based waiver and Alternative Care Program services whether under fee-for-service or managed care.

Pre-registration is required and is available at <http://agingtraining.dhs.state.mn.us>. Registration closes at 5 p.m. on the Monday prior to the session.

New Federal Standards for Swimming Pool Drains Effective Dec. 19

With new federal standards for swimming pool drains going into effect Friday, Dec. 19, providers with pools and spas are urged to review the requirements of the Abigail Taylor Pool Safety Act, passed by the 2008 Minnesota legislature.

The Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Safety Act is named for the granddaughter of former Secretary of State James Baker who became entrapped under water and drowned. It is intended to reduce deaths and injuries associated with suction entrapment. From 1997-2007, there were 74 reported incidents associated with suction entrapment, including 9 deaths and 63 injuries.

The Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) advises that pool operators must show they are at least making good faith efforts to comply with the requirements by that date, even if needed pool modifications are not yet complete. CPSC says drain covers meeting the new standards are now available.

CPSC has prepared a document that spells out the technical requirements of Section 1404 of the Act, along with CPSC response to certain enforcement and legal issues. This document is found at <http://www.agingervicesmn.org/inc/data/PoolandSpaSafetyAct.pdf>. In addition, CPSC says that your pool maintenance or service company is likely to be the best source of advice on what specific modifications your pool may need.

This state law can be viewed at <https://www.revisor.leg.state.mn.us/laws/?year=2008&type=0&doctype=Chapter&id=328>.

For Further Information:

Contact CPSC at infor@cpsc.gov or Barbara Gay at bgay@aaahsa.org.

Preventing Sexual Violence Topic of Dec. 16 Videoconference

Patricia Wetterling, Sexual Violence Prevention Director, Minnesota Department of Health, will introduce the Preventing Sexual Violence in Minnesota Project, a five-year plan to prevent sexual violence and exploitation in Minnesota during a Tuesday, Dec. 16 videoconference from 1:30 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Melanie Fry, Disability Services Policy Consultant, Minnesota Department of Human Services will review the current research about sexual violence against people with disabilities.

The registration deadline is Tuesday, Dec. 9. Participants must have a Unique Key to register for training. New participants must visit www.dhs.state.mn.us/TrainLink and select Unique Key Request to obtain a Unique Key. Detailed instructions are located at www.dhs.state.mn.us/dhs16_139596.pdf.

Then to register, visit www.dhs.state.mn.us/TrainLink and select the Disability Services Learning Center. Select "Sign On" in the upper right hand corner and enter your Unique Key. Select Class Schedules/Registration and select the class. Select "Enroll" and follow the registration instructions.

Should your schedule change, please visit www.dhs.state.mn.us/TrainLink to cancel from the class so another student may attend. Call 651-431-2400 before Tuesday, Dec. 9, to request accommodations.

For Further Information:

Contact dhs.dsd.learn@state.mn.us.

CMS Places RACs Are On Hold

Earlier this month, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services announced that all four recovery audit contractors are on the sidelines, pending the outcomes of challenges initiated by two unsuccessful bidders for the RAC program.

The challenges stop work for all four RACs until the Government Accountability Office (GAO) renders its decision, which has a deadline of 100 days.

For Further Information:

Contact Darrell Shreve at dshreve@agingservicesmn.org.

Additional Shelter-Needy Allowance Addressed in Bulletin

The Department of Human Services has issued bulletin #08-48-01 on the Minnesota Supplemental Aid special need provision (called the Options Initiative), which allows individuals under 65 years of age who are relocating into the community from an institution, mental health rehabilitative treatment program, or those eligible for state plan services or home and community-based waiver, to receive an additional shelter-needy allowance in order to access housing.

This bulletin outlines procedures for the Minnesota Supplemental Aid (MSA) Shelter-needy special need allowance. This bulletin replaces bulletin # 07-48-03 and can be found at http://www.dhs.state.mn.us/dhs16_143299.pdf.

Do Not Use A Walklite Or Rollite As A Wheelchair Or Transport Device

Minnesota Department of Health Staff have notified Aging Services of Minnesota that some staff members in care centers has been observed using the wheel/bench walkers inappropriately.

The manufacturer's instructions for Walklite or Rollite say it is not to be used as a wheelchair or transport device. If a resident sits down and is pushed by a staff member, the equipment can break.

While this is just one example of not following manufacturers instruction regarding equipment or devices and only two of many manufacturers of this type of equipment, Liz Sether nurse consultant, says any organization that acquires new or new editions of equipment that will be used by staff or clients should review the instructions for any changes in order to train personnel on how to use the equipment correctly to prevent accidents.

A practice or system involving review by the safety team and staff development personnel is advised for promoting the safety of clients and staff.

For assembly, operating and installation, instructions, click http://www.agingservicesmn.org/inc/data/BenchWalke_Instru.pdf.

For Further Information:

Contact Liz Sether at lsether@agingservicesmn.org.

Accepting 2009 Sponsorship Contributions: Options are Selling Fast

Business Partners are urged to submit a 2009 sponsorship commitment by **Friday, Nov. 21**, to ensure their company's name is highlighted as an Annual Sponsor in the 2009 Institute registration brochure.

With Aging Services' 2009 Annual Sponsorship, you can set your sponsorship budget for the year and customize the benefits to suit your marketing goals. This is a tool designed to customize your organization's marketing needs.

We offer a number of opportunities in the areas of education, networking, and print and web advertising that can help you increase your exposure and access to Aging Services of Minnesota provider members.

For Further Information:

Contact Jenny Prosser at jprosser@agingservicesmn.org.

BONUS FOR ACTING FAST:

Special thanks to the following 2009 Annual Sponsors (as of Nov. 11):

DIAMOND

Alliance Purchasing/MSC

GOLD

Merwin Long Term Care Pharmacy

Piper Jaffray & Company

Professional Portable X-ray Inc.

SILVER

Dougherty & Company LLC

LarsonAllen LLP

Omnicare Minnesota

RehabCare

Thrifty White Pharmacy Services

Welsh Construction/Genesis Architecture

Wipfli LLP

BRONZE

Health Dimensions Group
Martin Brothers Distributing Company Inc.
McKesson Medical Surgical
Nelson Building & Development Inc.
SCA Personal Care
Weis Builders Inc.
Ziegler Capital Markets Group

Reminder to Share Your Photos for 2009 Institute Brochure

Aging Services of Minnesota is looking for some great pictures to use in the printed materials for the 2009 Institute for Older Adults, but we need to hear from you by **Friday, Nov. 21**.

This year's Institute theme is Changing Lives. And changing lives is what you do every day. We would love to feature photographs of you and your residents that reflect this theme on the cover and throughout the registration brochure. If you have an inspiring photo that features your staff and/or your residents, won't you please submit it for consideration?

If you are interested, submit your color photo in jpg format to Jenny Mims at jmims@agingservicesmn.org.

Also, identify who's in the photo and a few words about what the photo captures. In order to keep us out of legal trouble, we'll also need a signed photo release from all persons appearing in the photo. Click <http://www.agingservicesmn.org/inc/data/PhotoReleaseForm.pdf> for a photo release form.

Completing Short Survey Helps Recruit Ad Revenue for 2009 Directory

Preparations are already underway for the 2009 Aging Services of Minnesota's Membership Directory & Buyers' Guide with distribution planned for March 2009.

The printing costs for this resource are paid for by advertising revenue. To assist us in recruiting advertisers, we need your help by sharing information about the type of goods or services you anticipate purchasing in 2009 and the amount you expect to spend.

Please take a couple of minutes to complete this short survey--just click on this link:

<http://survey.minnesotacca.com/TakeSurvey.aspx?SurveyID=92MK387>. **Deadline for submission: November 25.**

For Further Information:

Contact Jenny Mims at jmims@agingservicesmn.org.

Aging Services thanks 2008 Annual Sponsor **PharMerica** and our other sponsors for their support and partnership.

Aging Services of Minnesota

2550 University Avenue West, Suite 350S, St. Paul, MN 55114-1900
Phone: 651.645.4545 Toll Free: 800.462.5368 Fax: 651.645.0002

[Privacy Policy](#) [Site Map](#) [Contact Us](#) [Help](#)

Copyright 2008 Aging Services of Minnesota