OHCA's News Currents brings you information on Important Dates, Deadlines, and Late Breaking Issues concerning long term care and association involvement. Announcements and updates are categorized into sections to help you navigate easily for information important to you.

Have you taken advantage of OHCA's Member Resource Section?

User: ohca

PW: convention2014

OHCA member log-in codes change periodically. Stay tuned to member communications to stay up to date, or contact OHCA at 503-726-5260.

View OHCA's archived member communications online.

**Assisted Living & Residential Care News**

**Effective July 1, 2014 3.0 Rate Increase for CBC's**

Effective July 1, 2014 Oregon assisted living and residential care providers received a Medicaid rate of 3.3%. The July 1, 2014 rate schedule is available through this [link](#).

This is the second Medicaid cost of living increase in the 2012-2014 biennium for assisted living and residential care communities.

[Full Details Found Here](#)

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**Office of Licensing Changes CBC News Hour Time**

The Community Based Care licensing team has received requests from providers to re-evaluate the date and time for the CBC News Hour.

Based on the results from the Survey Monkey we will be moving the Community Based Care News Hour to the forth Thursday each quarter from 9:00am-10:00am.

**The next CBC news hour will be Thursday, July 22th, 2014.**

New hours are always scheduled from 9:00 am to 10:00 am.
Future Dates include:

CBC Survey Citation Severity Ratings: What do the Numbers and/or Letters Mean

Severity Levels = level of outcome to the residents

1: No harm, potential for minimal harm

2: Minimal harm which does not significantly impact the resident; or potential for more than minimal harm

3: Harm which significantly impacts the resident; including harm to non-responsive residents

4: Imminent danger to resident health or safety

Codes on Survey Tags → A=1, D=2, G=3 and J=4

Here is an ALF/RCF 40 Hour Class refresher. A Survey Statement of Deficiencies will list a Tag # in the left hand column of the report. The "C" tag correlates with a specific Oregon Administrative Rule number. For example Ctag 270 denotes a citation related to Change of Condition OAR 411-054-0040. Under the Ctag notation on the survey report a numeral or letter will be listed i.e 2, 3, or D, F etc. These codes translate to the severity rating assigned to the deficiency.

The key to these survey tag codes is as follows:
A=1= C999, D=2, G=3 and J=4

Definitions of severity ratings.
1: No harm, potential for minimal harm. Now equates a C999 tag. Technically not a deficiency.
2: Minimal harm which does not significantly impact the resident; or potential for more than minimal harm
3: Harm which significantly impacts the resident; including harm to non-responsive residents
4: Imminent danger to resident health or safety

Technical Assistance ~ OHCA is here to Assist
Have a question about a regulation, standard, survey, best practice for your community. Call OHCA. Your membership benefits include "technical assistance" and we are here to help with any of the above or any other issue impacting your organization and the delivery of quality services
and care. Please email or call lindak@ohca.com or (503) 726-5228 or our general office number (503) 726-5260 and we will direct you to a staff member who can assist.

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You Asked and We Responded. OHCA Coming to Your Area!
This quarter OHCA will be on the road with Change of Condition Training in Eugene and Medford, August 6 and 7 respectively. Through our Pinnacle Quality Insights member surveys we have heard your request for more training in regions of the state.

Click here for the OHCA Education Calendar

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Nursing Home Inventory Shrank, Assisted Living Hit Highest-Ever Growth Rate, Quarterly Data Shows
McKnight's, Tim Mullaney, 07/14/14

Assisted living inventory growth reached a historic high in the second quarter of 2014, while nursing home inventory continued its slight downward trajectory, according to data released Friday by the National Investment Center for the Seniors Housing & Care Industry.

Seniors housing construction has been moderate, and this trend continued in the second quarter, noted Charles W. Harry Jr., NIC's managing director and director of research and analytics. The annual inventory growth rate for the quarter was 1.5%.

Full Story Here

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PERM Provider Education Webinar/Conference Calls
The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) will host four provider education webinar/conference calls about specific provider responsibilities during the 2014 Payment Error Rate Measurement (PERM) cycle. These sessions will feature presentations about:

- The PERM process and provider responsibilities during a PERM review
- Recent trends, frequent mistakes and, best practices
- The Electronic Submission of Medical Documentation, esMD program

July 16, 3 to 4 p.m. Eastern Standard Time
July 30, 3 to 4 p.m. Eastern Standard Time
Visit the SPD Administrator Alerts web page to download the item.

See General, Workforce and AHCA/NCAL for more of this issue’s Important Dates, Deadlines, Late Breaking Issues, and Technical Resources.
Long Term Care Community Nursing Provider Survey Results Available

Long Term Care Community Nursing Providers were asked to respond to a survey related to each county and population they are willing to serve under their contract, and the county and population they are willing to serve under their contract.

The results of this survey are available here: Website

Michigan Can't Bar All Home- Help Aides with Felonies

Associated Press

Michigan’s plan to conduct criminal background checks on 60,000 workers hired to help disabled Medicaid recipients live in their homes will not lead every ex-felon to be disqualified as an aide, top state officials said Monday. Gov. Rick Snyder’s administration said the U.S. government -- which helps fund the state-federal Medicaid program -- automatically excludes people from being independent-living workers only if they have been convicted of patient abuse or neglect, health care fraud, drug offenses or a Home Help Program-related crime (Eggert, 6/30).

Ready Full Story Here

DOL Issues Guidance on State Joint Employment Obligations Under New FLSA Regulation

In anticipation of new federal minimum wage and overtime protections for home care workers, DOL has released guidance to help states determine how to ensure workers are paid fairly.

Read Full Story Here

Minn. Home Health Care Workers File for Union Election

More than 26,000 are eligible to cast votes on whether to join the Service Employees International Union (SEIU), in one of the largest organizing drives in the state's history.

Complete Article Here

Home Health Care Workers to Hold Largest Union Vote in State History

Minnesota Public Radio

Home health care workers in Minnesota are moving ahead with a union election, even though the U.S. Supreme Court ruled last week that similar workers don't have to pay any union dues. Union
organizers presented a petition to state officials Tuesday in St. Paul, and said it will trigger the largest vote of its kind in state history. State legislation in 2013 passed a bill that allows a unionization vote by workers who provide care to elderly and disabled people in their homes. There are more than 26,000 workers who are eligible to vote, and the 9,000 cards delivered to the state Bureau of Mediation Services exceeded the 30 percent required to trigger an election (Pugmire, 7/8).

Full Story Here

SEIU, Minnesota Home Health Care Workers File for Union Election
The Star Tribune
Home health care workers took the first step in their push for higher wages and benefits Tuesday, seeking a union election for about 26,000 personal care attendants in Minnesota. Union officials said it could be one of the largest organizing drives in state history. Flanked by clients with disabilities, pro-union workers rallied in the parking lot of the Minnesota Bureau of Mediation Services in St. Paul to announce their intention to join Service Employees International Union (SEIU) Healthcare Minnesota (McGuire, 7/8).

Full Article Here

NY Times Editorial Says New DOL Rule Is "Indispensable" to Quality Home Care System
The New York Times editorial board has urged that basic federal labor protections be extended to home care workers under the Fair Labor Standards Act.

Ready Story Here

See General, Workforce and AHCA/NCAL for more of this issue's Important Dates, Deadlines, Late Breaking Issues, and Technical Resources.

Nursing Facility News

WPERM Provider Education Webinar/Conference Calls
The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) will host four provider education webinar/conference calls about specific provider responsibilities during the 2014 Payment Error Rate Measurement (PERM) cycle. These sessions will feature presentations about:

- The PERM process and provider responsibilities during a PERM review
Recent trends, frequent mistakes and, best practices
The Electronic Submission of Medical Documentation, esMD program

July 16, 3 to 4 p.m. Eastern Standard Time
July 30, 3 to 4 p.m. Eastern Standard Time
Visit the SPD Administrator Alerts web page to download the item.

Blog: Supreme Court Ignores More Important Case to Hear Hobby Lobby's
John O'Connor asked in the McKnight's Long-Term Care News (7/12, 921) "Daily Editors' Notes" blog why the US Supreme Court "dubiously opted to hear" the Hobby Lobby case, "while at the same time ignoring one that would have been a much more sensible choice." He talked about an Extendicare Homes Inc. petition that "asked the Supreme Court to resolve a conflict between a Pennsylvania appeals court's ruling and earlier rulings related to the Federal Arbitration Act." However, "for reasons that are hard to fathom, the court refused to rule on whether an agreement to arbitrate disputes arising out of a resident's nursing home care is binding on the resident's survivors in a wrongful death action."

July Nursing Facility Administrator Alerts from DHS OLRO
The following alerts have been issued for July from the DHS Office of Licensing & Regulatory Oversight.
Click here to access all 2014 NF Administrator Alerts (AA)

If you are not signed up you can also subscribe for AA's on this same site.
7/11/2014 Basic Introduction to MDS 3.0 Training 7.11.2014
7/11/2014 Summary of Emergency Plans
7/9/2014 Weather Alert Summer 2014
7/3/2014 Change in Medicare Contractor for Appeals and Other Case Review

See General, Workforce and AHCA/NCAL for more of this issue's Important Dates, Deadlines, Late Breaking Issues, and Technical Resources.

General News & Announcements
OHCA Annual Convention Award Nominations
Due Friday, July 18, 2014

The nominating process for the 2014 OHCA Awards program is underway! Do you know a co-worker, resident, leader or business partner who deserves to be recognized for all they do to make your facility or community run smoothly and promote quality of life? OHCA would like to invite you to nominate your colleagues and customers for the OHCA Annual Convention Awards. All staff working for an OHCA Member facility, agency or company are eligible to be the recipient of an award as long as they meet the awards criteria. Nominations take about 5-10 minutes to complete and can be submitted online!

Award Categories

- **Administrator of the Year**: This award recognizes the achievements and commitment of an Administrator or Executive Director whose contributions and leadership have improved the overall quality and operations at a facility.

- **Caregiver of the Year**: This award recognizes the achievements and commitment of a direct care staff member whose contributions have led to the improved quality of life for residents and creates a better working environment for co-workers.

- **Outstanding Business Partner of the Year**: This award recognizes the achievements and commitment of an OHCA Business Partner Member whose contributions have improved facility operations for an OHCA facility member or OHCA as an Association.

- **Volunteer of the Year**: This award recognizes volunteer(s) who have made contributions to the well-being of residents, family members and staff.

- **Above & Beyond Service**: This award recognizes the achievements and commitment of an employee from any department who performs above and beyond the call of duty.

- **Enrichment of Life - Employee/Employee Group**: This award recognizes employee(s) whose contributions have positively influenced the quality of life for residents.

- **Enrichment of Life - Resident/Resident Group**: This award recognizes resident(s) whose contributions have positively influenced the quality of life for residents.

- **Innovative Program & Improvement**: This award recognizes the efforts to satisfy the needs of residents, staff, family or other customers through an innovative program or interactions with the local community.

- **Leadership**: This award recognizes the achievements and commitment of an employee in an administrative, middle management or supervisory position.

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**New Oregon Program Allows Mediation for Medical Errors Instead of Suing**

The Oregonian

A mediation program spearheaded by Gov. John Kitzhaber went into effect Tuesday, giving patients and their families an option besides suing when medical errors happen. But questions remain over how
the mediation program will develop, including whether hospitals, doctors and other providers will take advantage of the program, or candidly discuss errors if they do. The result of a compromise between trial lawyers and the Oregon Medical Association approved in SB 483 last year, the Early Discussion and Resolution program is intended to cut down on lawsuits and boost the reporting of medical errors to help improve health care practices (Budnick, 7/1).

Full Story Here
Conference highlights include:

**Keynote speakers**

1. **Bill Marras, PhD, CPE**, Honda Professor Chair in the Department of Integrated Systems Engineering Ohio State University on Sept 9th who will discuss the current evidence base related to patient and materials handling and

2. **Casey Chosewood, MD, MPH**, Director, NIOSH Total Worker Health TM, National Institute for Occupational Safety & Health Center for Disease Control on Sept 10th who will discuss 'Unlocking the Potential of Total Worker Health TM'.

**General Sessions that focus on**

The link between patient and worker safety featuring panelists from the Joint Commission, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and the American Nurses Association and

Sustainable Safe Patient Handling and Mobility programs featuring Gail Powell-Cope, PhD, ARNP, FAAN from the James A. Haley VA Hospital Tampa, FL and Bob Williamson RN, BSN, MS, CHSP, CSPHP from Ascension Health.

**Workshops and concurrent sessions** offer practical information about current issues related to a broad range of health care ergonomics systems, and safe patient handling and wellness-related topics.

Join us for a special evening "Networking Reception" and River Cruise on September 9th

**Posters** will highlight health care ergonomics related case studies and will compete to win an award for the **Best Poster**.

The **Exhibitor Showcase** is open throughout the day on September 9th and 10th and will offer products and services that address a variety of needs for safe patient handling, health care ergonomics and workplace wellness programs.
We invite you to join your colleagues from around the country to learn about and share practical information and applications that you can take back to your facility or practice.

EVERYONE HAS A REASON TO END ALZHEIMER’S.

PORTLAND WALK TO END ALZHEIMER’S
SEPTEMBER 7, 2014 | 12 PM
PORTLAND INTERNATIONAL RACEWAY

800.272.3900
alz.org/walk
start a team.
join a team.
Workforce

Supreme Court: Partial Public Employees Can’t Be Required to Contribute to Unions
Written by: Dave Jamieson dave.jamieson@huffingtonpost.com
WASHINGTON -- In a setback for organized labor that could have been much worse, the Supreme Court ruled on Monday, June 30, 2014, that certain government-funded employees cannot be required to pay fees to the public sector unions that represent them, a decision that could hurt some unions financially.

The 5-4 ruling in Harris v. Quinn, written by Justice Samuel Alito for the majority, was not the worst-case scenario that unions had feared. But it does deliver a blow to major unions that have organized Medicaid-funded home care workers and other workers who aren't "full-fledged public employees" in the majority's eyes.

Such workers, the court ruled, cannot be compelled to pay "agency fees." Because unions have to represent all the employees in a particular bargaining unit, they commonly seek requirements in their contracts that all workers, whether union members or not, pay agency fees to help cover the administrative costs of bargaining. This avoids what unions commonly refer to as "freeloading" by non-union employees.

Demanding an agency fee of the Illinois home care workers who sued the state in Harris v. Quinn would run afoul of the First Amendment, Alito wrote.

Complete Article Here

Statement by US Secretary of Labor Thomas E. Perez on Harris v. Quinn Supreme Court Ruling
06/30/2014 03:00 PM EDT
U.S. Secretary of Labor Thomas E. Perez stated the following regarding the U.S. Supreme Court's Harris v. Quinn decision: "Today's Supreme Court decision will make it more difficult for home care workers to have a united voice and the support they need to best serve their clients. We can and will continue to work in partnership with home care workers, consumers, employers, unions and states to ensure both good jobs and quality home care."

Read Full Story Here

WorkSource Portland Metro Quarterly CNA-Caregiver Recruitment
WHERE: Portland Metro Workforce Training Center
5600 NE 42nd Portland, OR 97218
WHEN: Tuesday, September 9th, 2014
TIME: 10am to 12pm

THERE IS NO COST FOR THIS EVENT
Includes: table with 2 chairs access to job seekers
Space is limited! Priority will be given to registrations in the order we receive them.
Questions? Call your local account rep
Elvis Klijcanin-503-669-7112 ext. 240 (Gresham)
Ella Ussov-503-772-2333 (SE)
Jennie Portis-503-280-6036 (north)
EMAIL registration form to michelle.d.higgins@oregon.gov

View Form

Oregon Wage and Benefit Survey
The Oregon Department of Human Services (DHS) is conducting the Oregon Wage and Fringe Benefit Survey of Long-Term Care (LTC) Providers in order to comply with Legislative direction received through the Budget Report for HB5029.

DHS has contracted with RTI International, an independent non-profit research institute, to conduct the survey, analyze the results, and act on behalf of the Department. The results of this survey will be analyzed and presented to the Joint Committee on Ways and Means during the 2015 legislative session. For more information, click here: SPD Administrator Alerts.

The 5th Annual HealthCare Ergonomics Conference
September 8-11, 2014
Oregon Convention Center
777 NE Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.
Portland, Oregon
Sponsored by The American Association for Safe Patient Handling and Movement (AASPHM), the Oregon Coalition for HealthCare Ergonomics (OCHE), and Oregon OSHA

See attached registration form

See General and AHCA/NCAL for more of this issue's Important Dates, Deadlines, Late Breaking Issues, and Technical Resources.

AHCA/NCAL News
AHCA/NCAL Convention: Earn Up to 19 CEUs with 60+ Education Sessions to Choose From

Although some content is still under development, you can now preview the comprehensive listing of AHCA/NCAL Convention education sessions online and browse sessions by key tracks.

This year's education sessions are designed to reflect the issues that are front-of-mind for long term and post-acute care providers. We'll address these issues with best practices, expert opinions, case studies, new ideas, and inspiration.

New for 2014 are tracks designed to focus on the four Quality Initiative goals: FOCUS on Antipsychotic Reduction, Rehospitalization Reduction, Staff Stability, and Customer Satisfaction.

Attendees can boost their CEU count by attending one of several Constituency Education Programs* scheduled during the event. Learn more about these highly-targeted education programs and about how you can participate.

* Some programs require a separate ticket or may be invitation only.

When you register for AHCA/NCAL Convention & Expo, consider the Premium Full Meeting Package and get access to more education and sessions, plus great on-site features that will help you make the most of the sessions you attend:

- On-site access to handouts, with the ability to make notes using personal mobile devices (iPad, iPhone, Kindle Fire, Android Tablets, laptop, and smartphone)
- Access to recorded sessions with synched handouts (if provided by speaker)
- Ability to hear missed sessions
- Opportunity to earn more CEUs via post-convention webinars

Registration is NOW OPEN | Early Bird Deadline July 18

Welcome to our neighborhood! Washington, DC is a beautiful city full of history, tradition, and energy and is home to the AHCA/NCAL offices. We are excited that many of our members will converge on our home turf this October. The 65th AHCA/NCAL Annual Convention & Expo will offer you the opportunity to deepen your professional knowledge, network with colleagues from across the country, spend time in the Expo Hall discovering new business solutions, and even rock out a little. This is the must-attend event for long term and post-acute care professionals.

The Gaylord National Resort & Convention Center, and the National Harbor sit just across the river from Washington, DC. From the National Harbor you can see the Washington, DC skyline; the downtown attractions and National Mall are just a short drive away. Also a short drive away are Georgetown and Old Town Alexandria - both offering restaurants and shopping steeped in the
history of the Federal City.

Register today! And we look forward to welcoming you to our home town!

NOT INTERESTED IN RECEIVING EMAIL COMMUNICATIONS?  
CHANGES TO YOUR PROFILE?

If you are not interested in receiving further Email Communication or wish to change your email profile, simply email changerequest@ohca.com or call 503-726-5260. Thank you for your interest in OHCA communications.