

January 31, 2012

Mark your calendars for 2012 conferences!

Annual Conference

May 20-23, 2012

Eagle Crest Resort, Redmond

Fall Leadership Conference

October 10-12, 2012

Hood River Inn, Hood River

OF SPECIAL NOTE

Legislature to convene Wednesday for one month session

All eyes are on Salem this week as Oregon's legislators convene for a short, "off year" session that will focus on budget issues and big picture concepts including health care reform/coordinated care organizations and education reform. The revenue forecast due next week will help determine whether the state will be able to avoid major cuts to the 2011-2013 budget. LeadingAge Oregon will be participating with other aging services stakeholders involved in the Campaign for Seniors and People with Disabilities (COSPD) in a **Legislative Advocacy Day Thursday, Feb. 2** at the State Capitol. Our message: that balancing the budget on the backs of seniors and people with disabilities is not an option. If you would like to attend but have not yet registered, please do so [here](#). [Read more details about Legislative Advocacy Day.](#)

Few bills expected to survive short legislative process

With a tight timeline and large, global issues to address, the Oregon Legislature is not expected to pass many bills when it meets in February. LeadingAge Oregon Executive Director Ruth Gulyas plans to spend much of her time this coming month in Salem meeting with legislators and monitoring progress on the budget and any bills that may impact LeadingAge Oregon members. Bills introduced so far include one creating the crime of third-degree assault for intentionally causing physical injury to an elderly person (a result of the Elder Abuse Task Force), and another that requires health care workers to provide their employers with evidence of having received a flu vaccination.

STATE NEWS

SPD to use complaint, CBC surveyors for nursing home survey "blitz"

Oregon's Seniors and People with Disabilities leaders have decided to use complaint and community-based care (CBC) surveyors to help the nursing facility survey team reduce its survey interval so it complies with CMS requirements. Oregon has fallen out of compliance with CMS standards due to implementation of the Quality Indicator Survey (QIS) and a state hiring freeze that prevents SPD from filling surveyor positions. SPD will embark on a nursing facility survey "blitz" beginning in mid-February and possibly lasting until mid-June. For some facilities, this will mean a return to the traditional survey process, since complaint and CBC surveyors have not been trained in QIS.

This move comes as CMS seeks efficiencies in surveys in anticipation of funding cuts at both the state and national level this coming year. See separate item under "National News."

SPD releases top survey citations report

Seniors and People with Disabilities is once again compiling survey citation data. While the average number of citations per regular survey has held steady or trended slightly downward for nursing facilities (3.9 citations per survey last quarter), the nursing facility life safety code tags (9 citations per survey) and ALF/RCF survey tags (8 citations per survey) have risen. Areas most commonly cited include:

- Nursing Facilities: F-tag 309 (highest practicable well-being) and F-tag 323 (accident hazards) and K-tag 147 (electrical wiring and equipment) and K-62 (automatic sprinklers maintained).
- ALFs/RCFs: Most commonly cited are 260 (service plans), 999 (technical assistance - not counted as a citation), 270 (change of condition and monitoring), 280 (resident health services) and 303 (med treatment orders).
- Memory Care: Most commonly cited last quarter were 142 (administrative compliance), 162 (compliance with rules health care) and 164 (activities).

[Read the top survey citations report.](#)

OHLA to hold informational meeting March 1 on new nursing home administrator rules

Oregon's Nursing Home Administrators Board and the Oregon Health Licensing Agency (OHLA) is planning an information meeting on **March 1** to explain newly adopted administrative rules for nursing home administrators, which became effective Jan. 1. The meeting will be held at 9 a.m. in the first floor auditorium of the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs Building, 700 Summer St. NE, Salem. Attendees will earn CEUs. If you would like to attend, e-mail Sinnamon Harris at sinnamon.m.harris@state.or.us.

Other notes about the new rules:

- Due to changes in the AIT program requirements, all current nursing home preceptors must take a Preceptor Training before Dec. 31, 2012. [LeadingAge Oregon will be scheduling a Preceptor Training once the new AIT materials are available](#), so please watch for more information.
- According to OHLA Policy Analyst Randy Harnisch, it appears that under the new rules separate ethics credits will not be required, although ethics-related programs may be approved for continuing education. We will ask for clarification of this issue at the March 1 informational meeting.

As noted in the last News in Brief, the new rules institute a new one-year license and renewal process and decrease the number of CEUs required from 30 to 20 per year. Read the rules.

ALF/RCF Rule Advisory Committee nearly done with proposed rule changes

The ALF/RCF Rule Advisory Committee has nearly completed its work on proposed changes to the ALF/RCF rules, which were re-opened due to a determination that language related to facility ownership needed to be amended. Areas under revision include resident notification and other requirements related to temporary closures for remodeling or emergency closures; physical plant requirements; survey postings; sexual abuse policies and gifts from residents. [Read the draft rules](#). If you have any comments or concerns about the draft rules, please contact Margaret Cervenka, mcervenka@leadingageoregon.org.

Pilot funding available for aging and technology projects

The Oregon Center for Aging and Technology (ORCATECH) offers annual pilot funding opportunities to improve technology and translate that technology into useful tools to improve health and maintain independence in the aging population. ORCATECH focuses on two key reasons for loss of independence among the elderly: decline in cognitive function and decline in mobility. Several areas of related focus are encouraged for this request, but applications are not limited. Two projects will be funded at up to \$50,000 in direct costs. Deadline is **March 16**. [View the request for applications](#).

Better Nursing Home Care Fund grant applications due Feb. 7

The Oregon Community Foundation is seeking proposals for innovative projects to improve the quality of life, health and overall well-being of nursing home residents. Approximately \$25,000 is available through one or more grants that are awarded yearly. This year's application is due Feb. 7. Applicants must be private, nonprofit organizations with tax-exempt status or public agencies within the state of Oregon. Learn more and access the application on the [OCF website](#).

Feb. 7 MOVE program features popular author Wendy Lustbader

Making Oregon Vital for Elders (MOVE), Oregon's culture change coalition, is sponsoring a special program next month featuring **Wendy Lustbader**, MSW, the author of several books that have earned her a national reputation in the field of aging. Lustbader will lead a program on "Busting the Bias: Elders as Individuals" on **Feb. 7 from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.** at the Monarch Hotel & Conference

Center in Clackamas. [Register for the event.](#)

NATIONAL NEWS

CMS seeks nursing home survey efficiencies in anticipation of funding reductions

CMS has issued a survey and certification letter outlining a variety of ways to increase efficiency and effectiveness in anticipation of funding reductions for nursing home survey activities in Fiscal Year 2012. CMS plans to place a high priority on statutorily required surveys and will explore steps to increase the focus on certain high priority areas and achieve efficiencies in other areas. Among the steps being considered:

- Potential reduction in required onsite surveyor time by Life Safety Code surveyors through increased documentation and attestation by nursing homes to provide evidence of regular maintenance checks, fire drills, etc.
- Potential reduction in required survey time for five-star facilities, with the exception that serious complaints or findings could trigger the longer survey.
- A heightened focus on poorly performing nursing homes through expansion of the Special Focus Facilities initiative
- Development of a new program to reduce inappropriate use of medications
- A new measure and effort to reduce avoidable falls

CMS is inviting suggestions regarding potential methods to increase survey efficiency and effectiveness. Send comments and suggestions to bettercare@cms.hhs.gov. If you send comments, please cc Margaret Cervenka at LeadingAge Oregon (mcervenka@leadingageoregon.org). [Read the CMS survey and cert letter.](#)

CMS issues Q&A on reporting reasonable suspicion of a crime in a nursing home

CMS has updated its Survey and Certification letter on provisions of the Elder Justice Act that require staff of long-term care facilities to report "reasonable suspicion" of a crime to state survey agency and law enforcement. In the new Q&A section of the letter, CMS indicates that:

- Reporting requirements are based on real (clock) time, not business hours
- Reporting may be done by telephone, e-mail, fax or other means
- Covered individuals may report their suspicions to the facility administrator, who must then coordinate and document timely reporting to the survey agency and law enforcement

[Read the updated letter.](#)

HUD to launch new online training program about REAC inspections

HUD is in the testing phase of a new online training intensive that incorporates the full content of the popular 3-day REAC inspection training program for housing providers. The training is relevant to all HUD subsidized housing providers as well as nursing home or assisted living facilities financed using HUD Section 232 mortgage insurance. Watch for more information about how to access the program online when it becomes available.

Dementia residents more resistant to care when talked to like children

A recent study by the University of Kansas School of Nursing indicates that how nursing home staff communicate with residents with dementia can actually increase care challenges. According to the study, the use of "elderspeak" increased the probability of subsequent behaviors that disrupt care. Elderspeak is characterized as using an overly caring but controlling tone of voice, shortened sentences, use of inappropriately intimate terms of endearment (sweetie, dear) and using infantile communication, similar to "baby talk." Read more in the [Oregon Patient Safety Commission January newsletter](#).

LGBT training offered to long-term care providers

The National Resource Center on LGBT Aging offers free training and a train-the-trainer curriculum for long-term care providers and aging organizations to help in creating inclusive and welcoming environments for elders who are LGBT, and to provide best practices and knowledge of LGBT elder issues. [Learn more about the training resources.](#)

Social accountability messaging, mobile media topics of upcoming webinars

LeadingAge has partnered with their premier sponsors to offer the following complimentary webinars. Click on the titles to register.

- **Feb. 15**, 9 to 10 a.m. Pacific time: [Mobile for Senior Living Communities](#). By 2014, mobile will be the most common way of accessing the internet. Hear trend data and learn what to consider when developing mobile websites and apps.
- **Feb. 20**, 10 to 11 a.m. Pacific time: [Social Accountability - Internal and External Messaging](#). This fourth webinar in a series focusing on Social Accountability will discuss developing a social accountability annual report and communicating the results to stakeholders.

ALLIANCE NEWS

Teepa Snow program in Woodburn nearly full

We only have about 30 spots left for the Teepa Snow program planned **Feb. 23** at the **Woodburn Health Center** (Wellspring) in Woodburn, so please register as soon as possible if you have not already done so! Registration is also open for the **Feb. 24** program at **Rogue Valley Manor in Medford**. Teepa Snow is a nationally-known dementia trainer who is in high demand across the country for her interactive and engaging programs. To learn more about her, visit her website at www.teepasnow.com.

[View the Feb. 23 Teepa Snow Woodburn flier.](#)
[Register for Woodburn online.](#)

[View the Feb. 24 Teepa Snow Medford flier.](#)
[Register for Medford online.](#)

Don't miss Feb. 8 webinar on CCRC applicant screening and Fair Housing

According to a presenter at the LeadingAge Annual Meeting in October, CCRC applicant screening is a "growing area of litigation and claims." We have scheduled a webinar from **2:00 to 3:00 p.m on Feb. 8** exclusively for LeadingAge Oregon members to discuss the latest thoughts and practices related to applicant screening in CCRCs. Presenters include Cory Kallheim, LeadingAge Director of Legal Affairs, and Dee Sellner, President & CEO of Terwilliger Plaza. [View the flier.](#) [Register online.](#)

LeadingAge Oregon partners with Eden Alternative for Bill Thomas webinars

LeadingAge Oregon and other LeadingAge state associations have partnered with the Eden Alternative on a three-part webinar series featuring Dr. Bill and Jude Thomas, co-founders of The Eden Alternative. This is an affordable way to bring high quality culture change programming to your staff! The webinars are \$99 apiece, or you can register for all three for a package price of \$240. The webinars and dates are (all webinars are noon to 1 p.m. Pacific time):

- Feb. 13 - Enging Ageism
- April 2 - Reclaiming Elderhood
- June 18 - Creating Convivium

[Access the flier and registration links.](#)

Resident Programs to honor writers, volunteers

The LeadingAge Oregon Resident Programs are in full swing with the **Creative Writing Contest** completed and the celebratory luncheon scheduled **February 21** at Friendsview Retirement Community in Newberg. There is still time to RSVP and attend the luncheon. Please complete and return the [RSVP form](#) by Feb. 3.

The **Volunteer Recognition Program** will be held **April 25** at Lane County Community College in Eugene. The Volunteer of the Year Luncheon is a recognition program to honor member residents who volunteer both in their senior living community and in their community at large. The luncheon attracts the largest resident program crowd, with attendance well over 150 volunteers, seniors and staff. Further information about this program will be posted to the LeadingAge Oregon website soon.