
March 12, 2012

Have you made your room reservation?

Annual Conference

May 20-23, 2012

Eagle Crest Resort, Redmond

OF SPECIAL NOTE

Legislature prevents provider rate cuts through March 2013

Due to a tremendous amount of advocacy to prevent cuts to long term services and supports for seniors and people with disabilities, Oregon's legislature demonstrated its commitment to preserving our highly regarded system by adopting a budget plan that prevents cuts to existing provider rates through at least March 2013 and restores funding for Oregon Project Independence, medical adult day services and home-delivered meal programs. LeadingAge Oregon's [End-of-Session Legislative Brief](#) provides a full recap of the budget and the outcome of bills of interest or potential impact to LeadingAge Oregon members. Thank you for all you have done to make this a reality! LeadingAge Oregon will continue to work with the Legislature and the Department on ways to keep rates intact during the last quarter of the second biennium.

STATE NEWS

Oregon Health Authority moves forward to implement CCOs

Passage of SB 1580 gave legislative approval to Oregon Health Authority (OHA) to move forward in the transformation of Oregon's health care system through Coordinated Care Organizations (CCOs). On March 1, the Governor took the next needed step of requesting authority from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to [amend Oregon's 1115 Waiver](#) Demonstration Project.

Concurrent with submitting the waiver request to CMS, OHA is moving forward to put steps in place for potential CCOs to apply this spring. OHA's [timeline](#) has applications from CCO applicants due on April 30 and May 14 in order to have the first contracts effective August 1, 2012. OHA is taking comment through noon on March 13 on documents related to the implementation of CCOs, including the [draft Request for Applications, a draft CCO sample contract, and draft temporary administrative rules.](#)

CCOs will be responsible for providing Medicaid and Medicare services to dually eligible individuals as well as those eligible for Medicaid only. Oregon is proposing to participate in a CMS Financial Alignment Demonstration to include new, innovative three-way contracts among the state, CMS and CCOs for blended Medicare and Medicaid payments. The intent is to allow CCOs to provide comprehensive, coordinated care for dually eligible individuals in a more cost-effective way, integrating the benefits and aligning requirements for both programs to offer seamless care for dually eligible individuals. OHA is taking public comment on Oregon's [Draft Medicare-Medicaid Alignment Proposal](#) through April 4, 2012 prior to submission to CMS.

DHS denies petition to create a uniform transfer rule across care settings

On February 28, [DHS denied the petition](#) to revise the nursing and community based care rules to create a uniform transfer rule across licensed care settings. Their rationale for denial was similar to that [expressed by LeadingAge Oregon](#) in comments to DHS opposing the [proposed rule revisions](#). The Department will form workgroups for each licensed care setting to review the rules to ensure that adequate consumer protections are included within each license category. DHS [submitted all comments](#) received in response to the petition to the Department of Justice.

One more round of comments submitted on In-home Care Rules Revisions

Based on the last In-Home Care Agency Rule Advisory Committee (RAC), Health Care Licensure and Certification (HCLC) drafted additional revisions to the proposed rules that they wanted considered

by the RAC. LeadingAge Oregon submitted [comments](#) based on feedback obtained at a member networking meeting. All comments received by the HCLC and their [response](#) to the comments were compiled. The [proposed rules](#) have been made available for public comment and have been scheduled for a [hearing date of April 18](#).

SPD publication provides guidance on ALF/RCF resident transitions

SPD has posted a publication designed to provide guidance to ALF and RCF providers on resident transitions to and from assisted living and residential care communities. The guidance clarifies provider obligations and encourages creative problem-solving to minimize involuntary move-outs in cases where they can be avoided. [Read the guidance](#).

DHS releases first-ever Adult Protective Services Annual Report

Oregon's Department of Human Services (DHS) has issued its first-ever Adult Protective Services data report for the year 2010, designed to help the state better understand abuse trends so it can target abuse-prevention efforts. The 2011 report is expected to follow soon. Among the findings in the 2010 report:

- DHS received more than 27,000 reports of potential abuse
- 2,608 seniors and adults with physical disabilities were found to be victims of abuse or self-neglect
- Fewer than 2 percent of residents in licensed care facilities were found to have been victims of abuse
- 85 percent of founded abuse happened in the victims' own homes, while 15 percent happened in licensed care settings.

[Read the report](#).

Rule changes would modify nursing facility license renewal process

SPD has submitted proposed rule changes that would implement House Bill 2054, which modifies the timing of nursing facility license renewals from January 1 of each year to within a 12-month period, allowing the Department to balance the license renewal workload throughout the calendar year. The rule change would also require substantial survey compliance for license renewal, and would authorize delay in renewal until survey compliance is certified. [Read the proposed rule](#).

HUD/OHCS implement Automatic OCAF rent increase process

Oregon Housing and Community Services has issued a letter announcing that some affordable housing providers are now eligible to participate in a new, automated process for Operating Cost Adjustment Factor (OCAF) rent increases. The new process eliminates the requirement that providers calculate their own OCAF rent increase and submit an OCAF worksheet during an Amend Rents year. Providers will be notified in their 180-day letter whether or not they are eligible for the Auto OCAF process. [Read more about the Auto OCAF rent increase process](#).

DHS Background Check Unit rolling out CRIMS

The DHS Background Check Unit is in the process of rolling out CRIMS (Criminal Records Information Management System), a new electronic system for submitting, tracking and processing background checks. The roll-out is expected to be completed by early April. Users are receiving e-mails within a week of their access date with the CRIMS website address and temporary passwords. If you have not yet been notified of your access date, a searchable spreadsheet of roll-out dates, plus training materials and other information, are available on the [CRIMS website](#).

ALF/RCF surveyors to review training records at all surveys

ALF/RCF surveyors will now review caregiver training records at all surveys. Under prior practice, surveyors did not review training records unless their observations of resident care raised questions about the training. However, the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services (CMS) took issue with this approach during a recent review of surveyor practices. The new survey protocol will include review of five sample employee records as well as staff interviews. Read the [Administrator Alert](#) and view the new [surveyor tool](#).

Joan Morris to head SPD Community-based Care survey team

SPD has announced that Pat Shepherd, manager of the Community-based Care surveyor team, will be retiring in the next year. Pat has been working with Joan Morris to take over the position. Joan is an RN with a certification in gerontology who was one of the first CBC surveyors more than 15 years ago, and has continued with the CBC survey program since that time. Before her retirement, Pat will transition to the SPD central office to spearhead development of an expanded ventilator program for all facility types.

SPD schedules next Community-based Care News Hour March 21

SPD's next Community-based Care "News Hour" will be held from 9 to 10 a.m. on March 21. Topics include the food sanitation rule update; top ten citations; rule update and the new transitional guide. We will forward webinar/dial-in information when we receive it.

State Fire Marshal clarifies NF generator testing requirements

The State Fire Marshal has issued an Administrator Alert clarifying that nursing facilities that have generators as a back-up power source must comply with federal requirements for load bank testing. It is noted that nursing facilities are not required to have generators. [Read the Administrator Alert.](#)

Adaptive telephone equipment available at no cost

Oregon's Public Utility Commission loans adaptive telephone equipment at no cost and with no income restrictions to eligible Oregonians who have at least one of the following impairments: hearing; vision; speech; mobility; cognitive. Individuals must complete an application and have their impairment documented by one of a number of certified professionals (i.e., physician, vocational rehab counselor, etc). For more information, see the [Telecommunication Devices Access Program website.](#)

OHLA reviews changes to nursing home administrator rules

Oregon Health Licensing Agency (OHLA) reviewed the changes to the state nursing home administrator rules at a special program earlier this month. Among the changes discussed:

- Provisional licenses will be issued in emergency cases only
- There is no longer "inactive" or "limited" status licenses
- In May 2013 OHLA will roll out a plan for relicensing so approximately 1/12 of licenses renew each month, to balance out the OHLA workload
- The number of CEUs required per year has dropped from 30 to 20
- There is no requirement for "ethics" credits
- AIT program requirements have been changed; all nursing home preceptors must take a preceptor training by Dec. 31 to remain certified as a preceptor.

Please note that LeadingAge Oregon will plan to schedule a Preceptor Training this year for members who need to meet this requirement. [Read the OHLA PowerPoint presentation on the new rules.](#)

NATIONAL NEWS

Individualized OSCAR reports available to LeadingAge members

LeadingAge nursing facility members can now access individualized OSCAR reports that will allow them to compare their staffing levels, inspection results and other statistics to other providers in the state, region and country. The individualized OSCAR report, as well as quarterly OSCAR reports, are free to LeadingAge members. [Read more about this resource.](#)

CDC releases new information, report to combat c. diff infections

The Centers for Disease Control has published new data and information in an effort to combat Clostridium difficile (c. diff) infections, which are linked to 14,000 deaths in the United States each year. The report emphasizes the need to control the use of antibiotics (which raise the risk of c. diff infections) and for medical providers to communicate about suspected c. diff infections when residents/patients transfer from one setting to another. Read more on the [CDC website](#) and in the CDC [Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report](#) (MMWR).

Nursing homes must use new notice of Medicare non-coverage

CMS has issued a new combined notice of Notice of Medicare Non-Coverage that skilled nursing facilities must begin using as soon as possible but no later than May 1, 2012. The notice replaces CMS 10123 (Original Medicare notice) and 10095 (Medicare Advantage notice). The notice is designed to alert beneficiaries that Medicare covered items or services are ending, and to give them the opportunity to request an expedited determination from a QIO. [Access the new CMS forms.](#)

LeadingAge develops tool to assess housing residents' needs

LeadingAge Oregon housing members will want to check out a new tool designed by the national LeadingAge Center for Applied Research. The Resident Assessment Tool gives providers the information they need to design programs and services that can help residents remain healthy and independent longer. The tool collects information about health, functional status, social network and activity interests and includes a spreadsheet so providers can view in one place an overall

picture of their resident population. [Access the Resident Assessment Tool.](#)

HUD housing providers: Be sure to register for DUNS number and CCR system!

HUD is warning multifamily housing providers to be sure to comply with Notice H 2011-01 related to the DUNS number and CCR Registration for legal entities for federal assistance. Lack of compliance could mean withheld approval for Reserve for Replacement withdrawals. [Read more about the requirement.](#)

Article highlights challenges related to resident dining in retirement communities

LeadingAge Oregon members who have struggled with issues related to dining options for residents in different care settings might be interested in an article on the New York Times' New Old Age Blog entitled "[Tables Reserved for the Healthiest](#)" and a follow-up post, "[Now, Tables for \(Almost\) Everyone.](#)"

ALLIANCE NEWS

Make your plans now to join us at Eagle Crest in May!

We are excited to be in the thick of planning for the LeadingAge Oregon Annual Conference, to be held **May 20-23** at Eagle Crest Resort in Redmond! We have great speakers and events lined up for you - watch for your brochure within the next couple of weeks! In the meantime, it never hurts to make your room or condo reservation early: visit www.eagle-crest.com for contact information, and be sure to mention you are with LeadingAge Oregon (due to the recent name change, it won't hurt to mention Oregon Alliance of Senior and Health Services if there is any confusion on their end!)

Quick Wage Survey results distributed

Thank you to the LeadingAge Oregon members who participated in our Quick Wage Survey. We distributed the results to those who submitted their wage rates. If you did not receive it but would like a copy, please contact Karen Nichols, knichols@leadingageoregon.org.

Residents, dignitaries celebrate re-opening of Chaucer Court

Congratulations to Patrick O'Toole and his team at Union Labor Retirement Association (ULRA) and Manor Management Services on the Grand Re-opening of Chaucer Court, an affordable senior housing community located in downtown Portland. ULRA undertook major renovations to the historic building that involved relocation of residents to preserve Chaucer Court for low-income seniors. Residents, staff and representatives from HUD, the city of Portland and Oregon Housing and Community Services celebrated this impressive accomplishment at a special event last week.

Teepa Snow a hit at two sold-out programs

Our February programs featuring dementia trainer Teepa Snow were wildly successful, with both the events in Woodburn on Feb. 23 and in Medford on Feb. 24 sold out. Participants were very enthusiastic about the value of the training, so we will be working with Teepa to bring her back for a follow-up program in 2013.

There's still time to register for two of the 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, with two of the webinars still to come:

- April 2 - Reclaiming Elderhood
- June 18 - Creating Convivium

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

It's time to honor your resident volunteers!

This year's **LeadingAge Oregon 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. Any LeadingAge Oregon provider member can select a volunteer to recognize. Information for the program and luncheon RSVPs must be returned to the LeadingAge Oregon office by April 6. Contact [Karen Nichols](#) for more information.