

March 28, 2012

Registration is now open!

"Inspire. Serve. Advocate."

2012 Annual Conference

May 20-23, 2012

Eagle Crest Resort, Redmond

OF SPECIAL NOTE

CCO picture to become a bit clearer in the next weeks

With the state of Oregon now accepting applications for Coordinated Care Organizations (CCOs) to serve Medicaid clients, we will begin to gain a clearer picture of what groups are interested in acting in this capacity. Letters of intent to form a CCO are due April 2, and the state plans to post the letters online the following week. In addition, every CCO applicant will be required to hold a public meeting sometime between early April and mid-May. CCOs are local health entities that will deliver health care and coverage for Medicaid clients, replacing a fragmented system of physical, behavioral and other types of care. Although long-term care is not included in the CCO reimbursement system, CCOs will be required to coordinate care with long-term care providers.

CMS to allow nursing home waivers for Life Safety Code culture change provisions

CMS has announced that it will permit nursing homes to immediately take advantage of four provisions of the 2012 Life Safety Code that were recommended by culture change proponents. Interested nursing homes must request a waiver of the currently-adopted code in order to implement the changes. The changes include:

- Increasing the amount of wall space that may be covered by combustible decorations
- Permitting gas fireplaces in common areas
- Permitting permanent seating groupings of furniture in corridors
- Allowing kitchens serving less than 30 residents to be open to corridors as long as they are contained within smoke compartments.

Due to the complex nature of some of the requirements related to these provisions, each waiver request will be evaluated separately by CMS and the state survey agency, with final approval by the CMS Regional Office. The state and CMS are working on developing the process under which waiver requests will be considered. We will keep you posted as more information becomes available.

Have you checked out our new website?

If you haven't already done so, please check out our [new website](#), tell us what you think of it, and let us know any resources or information you'd like to see added as it continues to evolve!

STATE NEWS

New Food Sanitation Rules effective July 1

Oregon is updating its Food Sanitation Rules to align with the 2009 FDA Food Code (current rules are based on the 1999 FDA Food Code). Among the changes:

- Cut tomatoes and leafy greens will be considered a potentially hazardous food and once cut, (i.e., in salsas, salads, etc.) must be temperature controlled;
- Bare hand contact will be prohibited with ready-to-eat food. In addition to gloves, servers can use tongs, wax paper, other utensils, etc. to avoid bare hand contact.
- The temperature for hot holding will drop from 140 to 135 degrees.

[Read more about the new sanitation rules.](#) In addition, we have requested state staff to present a webinar for LeadingAge Oregon members on the new rules; stay tuned for more information.

Kitchen-related citations increasing in ALFs and RCFs

During this month's Community-based Care (CBC) News Hour, it was noted that citations related to kitchen operations were increasing in ALFs and RCFs. Many facilities are being cited because staff are unable to answer questions about how they are making sure that dishwashers are operating properly, and at the temperatures specified in manufacturer's guidelines. Regular, documented temperature checks were recommended. Other common areas cited are:

- Food temperatures - be sure temperatures are being taken and documented
- General kitchen cleaning - be sure you have a plan for daily cleaning, deep cleaning, etc., and that the plan is being followed.

Oregon Housing agency gets second chance at HUD contract

Oregon Housing and Community Services (OHCS) gets a second chance at HUD's Project Based Contract Administration (PBCA) contract in Oregon with the re-opening this month of the bidding process. HUD is re-bidding the contracts after Oregon and 41 other states protested the previous bidding process, when a Bremerton, Washington-based agency was awarded the contract for Oregon. Among the significant changes in the newly-released Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA):

- In-state applicants will have a distinct advantage over potential out-of-state applicants
- Management reviews will no longer be required annually
- Reduction in the cap on allowable administrative fees to 2 percent, with more points scored for applicants who will do the work for less

Contract announcements are expected August 31, with the effective date of new contracts Dec. 1. OHCS is currently acting as HUD's contract administrator in Oregon under a modified contract that was recently renewed. [Read more about the rebid process.](#)

Dave Allm returns as Nursing Facility Licensing Program Manager

Dave Allm has resumed his previously-held position of Nursing Facility Licensing Program Manager, effective March 5. Dave had been serving in a temporary position with the DHS Modernization Team. Contact information: david.c.allm@state.or.us; 503.945.7782.

State puts spotlight on Memory Care residents without dementia diagnosis

Residential Care Facilities that are endorsed as Memory Care Communities must request a standard Medicaid contract if they have spouses living in the community who do not have a diagnosis of progressive dementia. The state's Community-based Care team issued a recent Administrator Alert on this topic when it became aware of residents, primarily spouses of other residents, living in Memory Care Communities without a dementia diagnosis. In cases where the spouse is a Medicaid client, facilities were being paid the supplemented memory care rate for that individual.

Effective immediately, CBC policy analysts will review exception requests more thoroughly. In cases where the spouse is on Medicaid and does not have a dementia diagnosis, the community will be able to accept the spouse only if they have a standard RCF contract. Exception requests are still required for spouses that do not have a dementia diagnosis, regardless of payment source. [Read the Alert.](#)

30-day Move-out Notice timeline for ALFs and RCFs clarified

Assisted living and residential care providers continue to err when counting days for 30-day Move-out Notices, according to the Community-based Care program team. Program Analyst Becky Mapes

clarified on the recent CBC News Hour that providers must begin counting the 30 days the day after a Move-out Notice is issued. She also noted that prior to issuing a less-than-30-day Move-out Notice, providers need to contact their assigned policy analyst to discuss strategies and alternatives.

Portland Mayoral Forum to focus on "building an age-friendly Portland"

AARP Oregon and Elders in Action are sponsoring a special Portland Mayoral Forum on **April 7** during which the city's mayoral candidates will discuss their plans and visions on helping create a Portland that is friendly to those of all ages and abilities. The event will be held from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the DoubleTree Hotel, 1000 NE Multnomah St., Portland. [Reserve your seat](#). [Submit online questions for the candidates](#).

NATIONAL NEWS

Antipsychotic use in nursing homes focus of new initiative

Surveyors will be scrutinizing the use of antipsychotic drugs in nursing homes under a new initiative launched by CMS this week. The agency is holding a one-hour online video broadcast Thursday, March 29 at 10:00 a.m. Pacific time to review the initiative, identify resources for technical assistance, and describe CMS plans for future educational offerings. [Access the handouts and link to the broadcast](#). Please note that the broadcast is being recorded and will be available for viewing for up to a year.

LeadingAge checklist on antipsychotic use a valuable tool for providers

In light of the CMS initiative discussed above, LeadingAge Senior Vice President for Advocacy Cheryl Phillips has developed a checklist of questions that providers can ask to help determine whether an antipsychotic drug is or is not appropriate in particular circumstances. [Access the checklist](#).

Oregon Senators fight for HUD elderly housing funding

Oregon Senators Ron Wyden and Jeff Merkley were two of the 21 Senators who sent a letter to the leaders of a key Senate funding committee asking that the Section 202 and Section 811 programs be funded at least at the level President Obama requested in his February budget proposal. Thank you to those of you who encouraged their support, and when you have the opportunity, be sure to express your appreciation! [Read the letter](#).

LeadingAge lands grant to study affordable housing

The LeadingAge Center for Applied Research has received a \$698,000 grant from the MacArthur Foundation to assess the effectiveness of affordable housing settings for meeting the long-term care needs of low-income older adults. With the grant, the Center will study the role that publicly-assisted, service-enriched housing for older adults can play in helping residents "age in place." The researchers will also assess whether linking services with congregate housing settings makes a difference in residents' use of health services. This is highly relevant research in a time when states and the nation are searching for ways to control health care costs. Kudos to Robyn Stone and her research team on this great news!

Senior Housing Survey response deadline extended to April 16

Providers have until April 16 to complete the 2012 State of Senior Housing Survey, which is co-sponsored by LeadingAge. The data, which is handled with complete confidentiality, will be used to gain representative financial performance data on senior housing communities. Participation is important; let's make sure Oregon is represented! [Access the survey](#).

Hospitalization can speed cognitive decline in elderly

One more reason to avoid unnecessary hospitalizations of older adults: a recent study indicates that hospitalization of older people might place them at greater risk for accelerated cognitive decline. [Read more about it in USA Today](#).

ALLIANCE NEWS

Don't miss out on this year's Annual Conference: Register today!

Registration is now open for the LeadingAge Oregon Annual Conference, to be held **May 20-23** at Eagle Crest Resort in Redmond! We have great program lined up for you, with a wide variety of

sessions range from repositioning your organization to what's up with CCOs, how to write a successful grant application, trends in dining services, effective communication, health care reform, surviving a REAC inspection, managing challenging behaviors and much more!

Our location, **Eagle Crest Resort**, also is a fabulous venue for connecting with your staff teams and your colleagues from around Oregon. Don't forget to make your room or condo reservation as soon as possible, as our **room block deadline is April 19**. Visit www.eagle-crest.com for contact information. Read more about conference sessions, speakers, recreation and special events on our [conference web page](#).

Help us celebrate aging services staff: Send in an award nomination!

We hope that each LeadingAge Oregon provider member organization will take the time to send in at least one award nomination this year! Our Annual awards for **Caring Spirit, Unsung Hero** and **Innovative Program** give us all the opportunity to celebrate the incredible work that goes on every day in LeadingAge Oregon member organizations, and provide truly special moments for those communities whose staff and projects are highlighted. In addition to selecting our three award winners, this year we plan to honor all nominees in our Annual Meeting slide show, so everyone receives recognition for their contributions. Please [read more about our Annual Awards](#) and make plans to send in your nomination(s) **by April 18**. Don't forget to send in the names of your 25-plus year employees as well, so they can receive their **Silver Stars!**

LeadingAge Oregon Member News

Congratulations to the following LeadingAge Oregon members for their recent appointment and promotions!

- **Vassar Byrd**, Rose Villa CEO, has been appointed by LeadingAge to serve on the LeadingAge Public Policy Congress, which serves to deliberate and recommend public policy objectives to the LeadingAge Board of Directors. Vassar joins fellow LeadingAge Oregon representatives David Fuks, David Parrett, Bob Johnson and Greg Franks.
- **Pacific Retirement Services** has promoted three employees to the following key positions: **Mike Morris**, Chief Operating Officer; **Debbie Rayburn**, Chief Health Care Officer; and **Mary Schoeggl**, Chief Financial Officer.

Learn how to implement continuous quality improvement in ALFs/RCFs

Assisted living and residential care providers looking to "raise the bar" on quality will want to check out our **April 19** program, "Raising the Bar: Continuous Quality Improvement in Assisted Living and Residential Care." A well-executed quality improvement program can improve quality of care, survey outcomes, resident satisfaction and your attractiveness to future coordinated care organizations! [Read the flier](#). [Register online](#).

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 a piece, 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.

A warm LeadingAge Oregon welcome to our new Business Associate members

We are delighted to welcome the following businesses as members of LeadingAge Oregon. Be sure to keep them in mind when you are looking for products and services!

- **Hanson Bridgett LLP** is a multi-disciplinary law firm that has served senior care and housing providers for over 50 years. Specialties include regulatory, licensing, nonprofit corporate and tax, real estate, litigation, insurance, and intellectual property law. For further information contact Pamela Kaufmann at 415.995.5043 or pkaufmann@hansonbridgett.com.
- **Keen** is a national manufacturer, distributor dealer and retailer of medical equipment and supplies. They have the utmost passion to assist in helping the elderly, injured and disabled contribute fully to society. For more information contact Vall or Beth Horton at 503.285.9090 or vhorton@keenhealthcare.com.
- **Sprague Pest Solutions'** exclusive BrandSmart Pest Prevention program was developed to fit within the goals of assisted living and health care organizations. It is a multi-level strategy developed to ensure residents receive a pest-free experience in buildings and to direct long term savings to providers. For further information contact Pat Johansen at 503.230.0236 or pjohansen@spraguepest.com.
- **Brighton Rehabilitation** delivers rehabilitation services to skilled nursing facilities, out patient clinics, hospitals, and home health agencies, providing a continuum of care throughout the U.S. For more information contact Ryan Ring at 801.456.8409 or ryanr@brightonrehab.com.
- **West-Com & T.V., Inc.** WestCall manufactures, sells and installs patient/staff communications systems with cutting-edge technology, design, functionality, ease of use, rugged durability and competitive pricing for health care providers. For further information contact Jonathan Peters at 707.428.5902 or jpeters@westcall.com.

Care Innovations. Intel-GE Care Innovations creates technology-based solutions that give people confidence to live independently, wherever they are. For more information contact Bryce Porter at 949.303.3082, Bryce.porter@careinnovations.com or Kathy Herrfeldt at kathryn.herrfeldt@careinnovations.com.