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November 21, 2012

**Happy Thanksgiving  
from LeadingAge Oregon!**

**OF SPECIAL NOTE**

**Final draft of legislative concept to reduce nursing home capacity completed**

Department of Human Services has shared its final draft of [LC 376](#) to reduce the nursing facility (NF) capacity statewide by 1500 beds by December 31, 2015. LC 376 would allow DHS to permit an NF operator to purchase another NF if the NF to be purchased is **not** an essential NF, and the entire NF bed capacity is bought and licensed surrendered. A proposed additional rate of \$9.75 per Medicaid resident would be paid to the purchaser for a period of four years from the date of purchase. An essential community provider is defined as serving predominantly rural and frontier communities. LC 376 would also reauthorize the NF provider tax to July 1, 2020 and eliminate the current exemptions for CCRCs and high Medicaid census providers. LC 376 will be a focus of LeadingAge Oregon's legislative agenda for the upcoming session and we will keep members informed and involved in those efforts.

**LeadingAge Oregon partners with California, Washington to form AgeTech West**

LeadingAge Oregon has joined LeadingAge Washington and AgeTech California to form AgeTech West, a West Coast collaborative that will provide leadership to advance the delivery of tech-enabled aging and home care services for better, more efficient person-centered care. (AgeTech California is a partnership of Aging Services of California and the California Association for Health Services at Home). AgeTech West will provide education and state-level policy advocacy related to aging services technology and will work with business and provider members to advance knowledge and utilization of promising technology. We are excited about the opportunity to partner with our counterparts in Washington and California on this important effort!

**Healthcare Reform/Managed Care Readiness Toolkit a valuable new resource for members**

LeadingAge Oregon members looking for resources to help prepare for the future of health care reform and managed care will want to access the new LeadingAge toolkit, *"The Essentials for Aging Services Providers in the Reforming Healthcare Environment."* While the toolkit is focused on managed care, it is also valuable for aging services providers as they start preparing for changes that healthcare reform is bringing to the field. The toolkit includes tips, strategies and information about how LeadingAge members can:

- Prepare for coordination and greater integration with other healthcare providers
- Respond to the increased focus on outcomes and reducing health care costs
- Determine your organization's readiness for healthcare reform and managed care
- Demonstrate value to payors and other providers
- Measure outcomes to illustrate the effectiveness of your services.

LeadingAge Oregon Executive Director Ruth Gulyas served on the workgroup that developed the toolkit, as did staff from LeadingAge and other LeadingAge state associations, as well as LeadingAge Business Partner CliftonLarsonAllen. Please note that LeadingAge Oregon will be adding state-specific information to the toolkit to help providers prepare for coordinated care organizations/integrated care environments. [Access the toolkit.](#)

## STATE NEWS

### **Don't miss Nov. 28 and 29 webinars on new nursing facility hospice payment process**

Nursing facilities won't want to miss two webinars scheduled next week to review the new payment process for nursing facilities when residents are receiving hospice care. Per DHS, the Department has been out of compliance since 1995 with federal regulations that required state agencies to cease paying nursing facilities for care when a resident has elected hospice. Instead, payment must go directly to hospice providers. The first webinar, on **Nov. 28 from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m.**, is on the Payment Process for Room and Board; the second webinar, on **Nov. 29 from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m.**, will provide an Overview for Nursing Facilities and Hospice Organizations. [Register for Nov. 28.](#) [Register for Nov. 29.](#)

### **Updates from LeadingAge Oregon Housing Networking meeting**

- **OHCS Contract:** Rhonda Crawford from OHCS reported that they had not yet received a new PBCA (Project-based Contract Administration) contract from HUD but would need to receive one by the end of November for it to be in place by January 1, since the current contract expires Dec. 31. Crawford said she expects that once Management and Occupancy Reviews (MORs) are resumed, they will be risk-based, with properties with lower scores on previous MORs being reviewed more frequently (1-2 years) and properties with higher scores reviewed every three years. Crawford also said she won't be surprised if some contracts go into shortfall in the coming months, particularly if HUD programs are cut 8.2 percent under sequestration.
- **HUD staff training:** Jovanna Morales from HUD reported that HUD staff are undergoing extensive training under a "Sustain our Investment" program, and said that housing providers may see delays in response time from HUD staff into the month of December. The training aims to improve customer service, streamline processes, encourage consistency and mitigate risk as the agency adopts a more businesslike approach to managing HUD assets.

### **DHS updates background check request form, CRIMS manual**

The DHS Background Check Unit has updated the Background Check Request Form (301) to assist with data collection for entering a background check request into CRIMS. A CRIMS manual has also been posted. Access the [new form](#) and [CRIMS manual](#).

### **Lighting project designed to enhance memory care**

Energy Trust of Oregon is launching a Lighting Renovation Pilot project designed to help existing facilities planning to become Memory Care endorsed, or existing Memory Care communities that are planning to expand or renovate. The goal of the pilot is to demonstrate that care facilities can improve lighting to better meet the needs of memory care residents, while significantly reducing energy usage and costs. Three facilities in the Portland General Electric (PGE) service area will be selected for the pilot project. For more information, contact Eunice Noell-Waggoner, [eunice@centerofdesign.org](mailto:eunice@centerofdesign.org), 503.292.2912. [Read more about the project.](#)

### **Nursing Facility program updates**

- **Program analyst assignments:** The Oregon DHS Office of Licensing and Regulatory Oversight (OLRO) Nursing Facility Unit has added a second program analyst, Marcia Thompson, to join Renee Shearer. With the addition, the unit decided to assign the two analysts to specific nursing facilities for issues related to licensing and certification, rule and regulation interpretation, waivers and memory care endorsement. [Access the list](#) of Oregon nursing facilities with their assigned program analyst.
- **Medicaid provider enrollment:** Responsibilities for nursing facility Medicaid contract enrollment, renewal and provider information updates has transitioned from the licensing division to the Oregon Health Authority Division of Medical Assistance Programs (DMAP). DMAP has issued an alert outlining the new processes and required forms for each of those activities. [Read the alert.](#)

### **Free infection prevention seminars offered for nursing facilities**

The Oregon Patient Safety Commission is sponsoring infection prevention educational programs around the state that are free to nursing home staff and physicians. Presenters include Mary Post, the Commission's Infection Prevention Specialist, and consultant Pat Preston. Participants are encouraged to register early, as space is limited. Upcoming seminars include:

- November 30, Eugene
- February 20, Portland
- April 12, Medford
- May 17, Pendleton

[Click here for more information and registration.](#)

### Two upcoming conferences to focus on healthcare reform

Two conferences to be held in Oregon over the next few months will focus on healthcare policy and reform:

- The [State of Reform Health Policy Conference](#) on December 13 at the Oregon Convention Center is sponsored by a public affairs/communications firm based in Washington State.
- [Transforming Care 2013](#) will be held January 8-9 at the Oregon Convention Center, and is sponsored by CCO Oregon.



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## NATIONAL NEWS

### **CMS issues new surveyor guidance on feeding tubes, end of life**

CMS has issued new surveyor guidance on the use of feeding tubes and on end of life issues. [Read more about the guidance.](#) Please note that LeadingAge Oregon offered a webinar last year on the feeding tube guidance, which has not materially changed since that time; please contact [Margaret Cervenka](#) at the LeadingAge Oregon office if you are interested in purchasing a webinar recording. In addition, a webinar on the new end-of-life guidance has been scheduled for Dec. 12. [Read about the Dec. 12 webinar.](#) [Register for the webinar.](#)

### **Free Teepa Snow webinar offered Nov. 26**

The American Society on Aging is offering a free webinar by popular dementia speaker Teepa Snow on Monday, Nov. 26 at 11 a.m. Pacific time. The topic of the program is "Strategies to Help with Tough Issues: Driving, Bathing and Managing Medications." [Register for the free webinar.](#) Speaking of Teepa Snow: Watch for more information soon about in-person Teepa Snow programs in June 2013 sponsored by LeadingAge Oregon and Alzheimer's Network of Oregon!

### **Now is the time for nursing facilities to prepare for corporate compliance deadline**

Nursing facilities that participate in Medicare or Medicaid are required to have a compliance and ethics program in place by March 23, 2013. LeadingAge has provided [guidance](#) on what facilities should be doing to prepare for this requirement. In addition, watch for information on a LeadingAge webinar on this topic, scheduled **January 16.**

### **Medication errors, pharmacy services topic of CMS clarification for nursing facilities**

CMS has issued a memo clarifying issues related to medication errors, medication administration practices, and medication regimen reviews for stays under 30 days or changes in condition. [Read more.](#)

### **Researchers document changing attitudes, preferences of CCRC residents**

Marketing researchers who lived in a CCRC for a month found that residents are active, intellectually involved and don't want to be thought of as "old" in any sense, from the way they're greeted to the marketing messages they receive. They are also healthier, more educated and informed, and more engaged. And they are starting to exert their influence in healthcare, technology, wellness, food and services. They know what they want, when they want it, and they demand a voice in everything. (Does any of this sound familiar to any LeadingAge Oregon members?) If you are interested in reading more, you can [request the white paper](#) on the Project Looking Glass II project from Varsity Branding.

## **LEADINGAGE OREGON NEWS**

### **Speaker recommends free assessment tool for clutter/hoarding**

Senior living providers who deal with resident clutter or hoarding behaviors might want to check out a free assessment tool that was recommended by Paula Taliaferro, an expert on the issue who presented the first of two audioconferences on the topic last week. [Access the free tool](#). The second audioconference in the series is scheduled Dec. 13 and will cover Communication and Intervention Strategies. [Read more about the series](#). [Register for Dec. 13](#).

### **Welcome new Business Associates!**

A warm LeadingAge Oregon welcome to the following new Business Associate members. Be sure to keep them in mind when you are looking for products or services!

**The Walker Company** has 20 years experience helping organizations deal with the complexity and rapid change of today's environment. The company offers a broad range of services that can improve governance effectiveness, sharpen organizational intelligence, and enhance strategic competitiveness. Services include strategic planning and leadership. For further information contact Cindy Fineran at 503.534.9461 or [cf@walkercompany.com](mailto:cf@walkercompany.com).

**LaPorte & Associates, Inc.** has built a reputation as one of the most respected commercial insurance agencies in the Pacific Northwest. They provide innovative insurance and risk management programs for business, associations and individuals. They put all the pieces of the puzzle into a complete risk management and insurance program that fits your individual business needs. For further information contact Marv LaPorte or Rob Brown at 503.239.4116 or [mlaporte@laporte-insurance.com](mailto:mlaporte@laporte-insurance.com).

**SureCare Rx** is an independently owned and operated long term care pharmacy. They service adult family homes and assisted living facilities throughout Washington and Oregon. Their core values of exceptional service, uncompromising quality and innovative technology provide you with the highest standards of pharmacy service and care, 24/7. For further information contact Jeff Harrell at 360.244.5984 or [jeff.harrell@hotmail.com](mailto:jeff.harrell@hotmail.com).

**DLR Group, Inc.** is an integrated design firm providing architecture, engineering, planning and interior design from offices coast to coast. Their promise is to elevate the human experience through design. This promise inspires sustainable design for a diverse group of public and private sector clients; local communities and our planet. DLR Group fully supports the initiatives and goals of the 2030 Challenge and is an initial signatory to the AIA 2030 Commitment. For further information contact Joe Zody at 503.274.2675 or [jzody@dlrgroup.com](mailto:jzody@dlrgroup.com).

**Kathleen Elias RN, BSA, CWCN, NHA**, is a consultant who trains and develops personnel and facilities of long term care so they may succeed and excel in the care of their residents within the State of Oregon. For further information contact Kathleen Elias at 541.760.3896 or [Kathleen.elias@gmail.com](mailto:Kathleen.elias@gmail.com).