

September 19, 2012

Be sure to reserve your room by September 19!

[LeadingAge Oregon Fall Leadership Conference](#)

October 10-12, 2012
Hood River Inn, Hood River

MESSAGE FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR RUTH GULYAS

As the 2013 regular Legislative Session approaches, we want to provide you a brief [Legislative Update](#) as well as to invite LeadingAge Oregon provider members to become a member of LeadingAge Oregon's Legislative Committee. The next meeting is scheduled for this Thursday, **September 20 from 8:00-9:30 am** at the LeadingAge Oregon conference room. Please let me know (rgulyas@leadingageoregon.org) if you are interested in serving on the committee.

Members are also invited to attend a [presentation](#) and discussion on Department of Human Services' plan to reform and modernize Oregon's publicly funded long term care system. Bob Weir, Advocacy and Development Manager with APD will provide the briefing at the LeadingAge Office on Friday, September 28 from 8:00 to 10:30. Please RSVP to dwetzel@leadingageoregon.org.

AND, please plan on joining us at our [Fall Leadership Conference](#) where we cover this and many more issues of great relevance to LeadingAge Oregon members and those they serve. It's a great opportunity to connect with other members, develop strategies for our collective future, and enjoy some fellowship together. Be sure to encourage your organization's board members to join us at our special Board Governance Track!

"Best Friends of Oregon's Elders" awardees selected

In 2006, LeadingAge Oregon initiated the "Best Friends of Oregon's Elders" award to salute leaders who have demonstrated exemplary leadership on behalf of older Oregonians. This year's awardees, who have been invited to join us at our "Best Friends of Oregon's Elders" Luncheon at our Fall Leadership Conference in Hood River on Thursday, October 11, follow:

- **Sen. Laurie Monnes Anderson (D)** – District 25, Gresham; Joint W&M Subcommittee on Human Services and Chair, Senate Health Care, Human Services & Rural Health Policy
- **Sen. Jackie Winters (R)** – District 10, Salem; Joint W&M; Joint W&M Subcommittee on Human Services, member of Elder Abuse Workgroup
- **Rep. Vic Gilliam (R)** - District 18, Molalla, Silverton; Co-Chair Human Services; Co-Chair Elder Abuse Work Group
- **Rep. Val Hoyle (D)** – District 14, West Eugene, Junction City, Cheshire and Alvadore; Co-Vice Chair Health Care; Co-Vice Chair Joint W&M Subcommittee on Human Services; Co-Chair Elder Abuse Work Group

STATE NEWS

DHS proposes to stop paying nursing facilities for hospice residents

Per DHS, the Department has been out of compliance since 1995 with federal regulations that required state agencies to cease paying nursing facilities when a resident has elected hospice. CMS requires that payment go to hospice providers who have responsibility for the delivery and coordination of care. See [DHS letter dated September 12](#) to the Medicaid Long Term Care Quality and Reimbursement Advisory Council (on which David Fuks was just appointed) for more information.

LeadingAge Oregon is asking member nursing facilities to let Ruth (rgulyas@leadingageoregon.org) know how this will impact their relationship with hospice providers.

Webinar scheduled to review revised ALF/RCF rules

Debbie Concidine from the DHS Office of Licensing and Regulatory Oversight will join us for a [webinar](#) from 3:00 to 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday **Sept. 26** to walk through changes to the ALF/RCF rules that were effective Sept. 1. (There is no charge for LeadingAge Oregon members for this webinar, but you must webinar to receive the webinar links). We have posted the [final rules with changes](#), as well as [hearing comments](#). Debbie said that DHS will not move forward with the changes that were originally proposed for building requirements in 411-054-0200 and 0300 at this time, but will be convening a workgroup to review these sections of the rules. The adopted rule changes include:

- Revised requirements related to resident relocations/displacement due to a remodel or emergency closure
- A new requirement for a sexual assault policy
- A new requirement for a policy on facility employees not receiving gifts/money from residents

In-Home Care rule and survey clarifications requested

LeadingAge Oregon staff Ruth Gulyas and Margaret Cervenka, and members **Amy Brown** of Mary's Woods and **Mary Scott** of Mennonite Village, recently met with Dana Selover of Oregon Health Care Regulations and Quality Improvement to discuss issues, questions and concerns related to the new In-Home Care Agency rules as well as a survey issue regarding centralized storage of home care client medications on a CCRC or multi-level campus. Selover requested a summary of the issues and questions so her agency can issue a formal response. [Read the summary](#). We will advise members when we receive the response.

New "preventable conditions" rule to affect NF complex medical add-on payments

Oregon DHS has filed temporary rules effective Sept. 1 that will prohibit the state from paying a nursing facility for complex medical add-on if the need for the add-on was caused by a "provider preventable condition," such as a Stage III or IV pressure ulcer, a fall, or a catheter-associated urinary tract infection. The rule implements payment changes about preventable conditions that are mandated by the Affordable Care Act. According to Jane-Ellen Weidanz, DHS Medicaid Long-term Care System Manager, the state expects that the nursing facility will make the determination if it was at fault for the preventable condition or not. DHS will be convening a Rule Advisory Committee on the rule change this fall, with a permanent rule expected to go into effect in March. The revised sections of the rule include definitions (411-070-0005) and Complex Medical Add-on Services (411-070-0091), which can be found in the [full temporary rule](#).

HUD owners and managers receive request for residual receipt balances

HUD housing owners and managers are being asked to provide HUD and Oregon Housing and Community Services (OHCS) with their current residual receipt escrow balances in order to comply with Housing Notice 2012-14, which requires HUD to use funds in the residual receipt accounts to reduce assistance payments. The practice is being adopted to slow the growth in federal expenditures for Section 8 Project Based Rental Assistance. Covered projects, which include Section 202/8 "new reg" projects but not PRACs, will be permitted to retain the equivalent of \$250 per unit plus, if approved, funds needed to pay for a service coordinator. Read more about this issue from [LeadingAge](#).

OHCS contract with HUD extended through December

According to LeadingAge, the General Accounting Office has ruled against HUD in its decision regarding protests of HUD's rebid of 42 state Project-based Contract Administrator (PBCA) contracts, including Oregon's. It is expected that HUD will need to rebid them all again. In the meantime, Colleen Bloom from LeadingAge has received word from HUD that the current contracts, including the contract with Oregon Housing and Community Services, will be extended through December, with more information to come about what will happen after that date. Through December, the contract extensions will remain as is, with no MORs being performed.

Patient Safety Commission releases 2011 Nursing Home Annual Summary

The Oregon Patient Safety Commission has published the [2011 Nursing Home Annual Summary](#) of adverse events in Oregon nursing homes. Nursing homes submitted fewer reports in 2011 compared to previous years, not because fewer adverse events are occurring, but because fewer events are

being reported. The Commission has taken several steps to facilitate and encourage reporting, including the development of a Quick Guide to Nursing Home Reporting, a recognition program for nursing homes that report adverse events, and the development of an online reporting tool scheduled for release sometime this fall. The purpose of the reporting program is to use the data to share information about how to reduce the risk of serious adverse events and encourage a culture of patient safety.

Oregon receives grant to expand ADRCs statewide

According to a grant announcement by the federal Department of Health and Human Services earlier this month, Oregon is one of eight states to receive three-year funding to expand Aging and Disability Resources Connections (ADRC) Options Counseling Services statewide. ADRC funding supports counselors who help individuals and their caregivers identify and access long-term services and supports, regardless of income or financial assets.

DHS makes changes to legal document mailings

DHS has issued a notice that it will no longer mail legal documents by both regular and certified mail. Effective immediately, documents will be mailed by certified mail only. The department notes that certified mail qualifies as notification under Oregon law, and failure to accept or obtain certified mail does not absolve providers from the information in the mailing.

Fall Medicare Update trainings offered at no charge

The Oregon Senior Health Insurance Benefits Assistance (SHIBA) office and the CMS Regional Office are sponsoring two fall Medicare Update trainings at no cost for those who work with people who receive Medicare benefits. The trainings will be held on Sept. 28 in Springfield and October 2 in Portland. [Register for the Springfield training.](#) [Register for the Portland training.](#)

Wellness professionals invited to Touchmark event

Wellness professionals are invited to attend a life enrichment/wellness event on October 9 sponsored by Touchmark. Speakers will include Colin Milner, CEO of the International Council on Active Aging, and a panel of older adults who will share their passions and the choices they have made to live a full life. Cost is \$30 if registered by Sept. 28; call Judy at 503.646.5186 to RSVP.

Trainings to target nursing home infections

The Oregon Patient Safety Commission is sponsoring trainings around the state that will focus on preventing, measuring and reducing infections in nursing homes. Participants will hear strategies for reducing healthcare-acquired infections in nursing home residents, increasing resident and staff vaccination rates, and implementing an effective Quality Assurance Performance Improvement (QAPI) plan using infection prevention goals. The trainings will be offered on the following dates:

October 4 - Bend
November 30 - Eugene
February 20 - Portland
April 12 - Medford
May 17 - Pendleton

[Read more or register for the trainings.](#)

Nov. 1 MOVE program to feature "how-to's" of staff self-scheduling, consistent assignment

Strategies for implementing staff self-scheduling and consistent assignment in senior care communities will be the focus of a November 1 educational program sponsored by MOVE (Making Oregon Vital for Elders), Oregon's culture change coalition. The event will be held from 1 to 4 p.m. at the Monarch Hotel and Conference Center. [Access the program flier.](#)

TB transmission topic of November 14 webinar

Oregon Patient Safety Commission has scheduled a webinar at 1:00 p.m. on November 14 on Preventing TB Transmission in Nursing Homes. Participants will learn how to perform an OSHA compliant annual TB risk assessment, develop a written TB infection control plan and implement a TB screening program for residents and staff. [Register for the webinar.](#)



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NATIONAL NEWS

Nursing facility cost comparison data available

Nursing facility providers can benchmark their financial ratio and cost data using CliftonLarsonAllen's 28th [Licensed Nursing Facility Cost Comparison](#). The publication is based on information reported in 2011 and represents approximately 450 not-for-profit and for-profit nursing home providers nationwide.

CCRCs advised to consult with auditing firms on refundable entrance fee accounting

Continuing care retirement communities are being advised to reach out to their auditing firms for guidance on the accounting treatment of refundable entrance fees. Under new guidance issued by the Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB), refundable entrance fees can be reported as deferred revenue only under specific circumstances; otherwise, the fees must be reported as a liability. [Read more about the FASB guidance.](#)

CDC releases nursing home tracking tool for healthcare-acquired infections

The Centers for Disease Control has released a tracking tool that allows long-term care facilities to long onto a website where they can report cases of infections such as C difficile, urinary tract infections, MRSA and others. The goal is to help nursing homes better identify problems, implement prevention measures and monitor progress toward stopping infections. State and local health officials also can use the tracking tool to monitor regional prevention efforts and take action. [Enroll in the CDC tracking program.](#)

Failed deficit negotiations in Congress could cut \$11 billion from provider Medicare payments

An analysis by the Office of Management and Budget predicts that if Congress fails to agree on a deficit reduction strategy, Medicare payments to providers could be cut by \$11 billion. Under the terms of the Budget Control Act of 2011, if Congress can't agree on a plan to reduce government spending by \$1 trillion, a set of "triggered" or "sequestered" cuts will be enacted on Jan. 1. The Obama Administration favors a 2 percent reduction in payments to Medicare providers, rather than cutting beneficiary benefits. Another reason to keep the pressure on our Congressional representatives to work out a deficit-reduction deal!

Nursing homes take steps to cut hospital readmissions

Forbes recently published an article about how some nursing home providers around the country are taking proactive steps to cut their hospital readmissions as they prepare for accountable/coordinated care. [Read the article.](#)

Top 100 nonprofit senior living providers report growth in memory care, fewer nursing home beds

Many of the top 100 nonprofit senior living providers are expanding by adding units dedicated to memory care, according to the 2012 LeadingAge Ziegler 100, a listing of the national's top not-for-profit senior living organizations. Despite the growth, however, the number of organizations reporting a net reduction in the number of units during 2011 increased from 25 to 30 percent, often due to nursing home closures or sales. Access the [LeadingAge Ziegler 100](#) report and a [fact sheet of key findings.](#)

TRACS 202D final implementation pushed back until around March 2014

According to Colleen Bloom from LeadingAge, the planned implementation date for TRACS 202D is September 2013. With a six-month transition period, that would make a final implementation deadline

around March 2014. With some HUD consultants starting to offer training, HUD providers may want to consider the timeline before signing up too soon.

Join the LeadingAge dementia services listserv

LeadingAge has added a dementia services listserv for those who would like to connect with memory care providers across the country who are implementing innovative programs and are facing similar challenges. To join this or any LeadingAge listserv, log into [My.LeadinAge](#) and click on My Subscriptions.

LeadingAge updates skilled nursing facility Medicare rate calculation tool

LeadingAge has updated its popular skilled nursing facility Medicare rate calculation tool to reflect the new wage indices and the new rates that will be effective on October 1, 2012. [Access the tool.](#)

LEADINGAGE OREGON NEWS

Register for our Fall Leadership Conference by Sept. 28 to receive early bird rates!

If you have not already done so, please be sure to register for the LeadingAge Oregon Fall Leadership Conference by Sept. 28 to receive our early bird rates! Join us as we examine issues facing not-for-profit and other mission-directed senior care and living providers in Oregon and around the country, and explore strategies for facing the future together. [View the conference brochure.](#) [Register online.](#)

Hats off to Mennonite Home for deficiency-free survey

Administrator **Rob Hays** reports that Mennonite Home, a nursing facility on the Mennonite Village campus in Albany, just completed a deficiency-free survey. Congratulations to Rob and all of the Mennonite Home staff!

Watch for your LeadingAge Oregon E-list welcome e-mail!

LeadingAge Oregon provider members should be receiving welcome e-mails from one of our new E-lists. The E-lists, also known as listservs, will give staff at LeadingAge Oregon member organizations the ability to communicate directly with other members via e-mail. At the direction of the LeadingAge Oregon board, we are signing up each LeadingAge Oregon member for one E-list, but you can join as many of our 18 E-lists as you like. [Read more about our new E-lists.](#)

LeadingAge Oregon members receive discounted rate for AgeTech conference

LeadingAge Oregon is now a supporting organization of AgeTech California, which means that our members can receive discounted rates for the upcoming [AgeTech California Technology Conference and Exhibition](#) on November 15 in Pasadena, CA. The conference will address many of the organizational cultural barriers to adopting new technologies that inhibit senior living and home care providers, and will offer guidance for the sometimes daunting investment decisions and implementation processes. Special discounted rates are \$225 if you register by 10/14, \$250 by 11/8 and \$295 on or after 11/9. Use the promotional code ATC12 to receive the supporting organization discount.

Join us for West Coast State Night at LeadingAge Annual Meeting in Denver

If you are attending the LeadingAge Annual Meeting in Denver, please make plans to join us for West Coast State Night, where you can connect with your friends and colleagues from Oregon, Washington and California! The event is scheduled on Monday, October 22 from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. at the Hyatt Regency Centennial Ballroom and will feature complimentary appetizers and a no-host bar. RSVP to Cassi at 253.964.8870, or cmeritt@leadingagewa.org.

Mark your calendars for upcoming educational programs!

See the [Education Page](#) on the LeadingAge Oregon website for fliers for the following educational workshops and webinars:

Sept. 20: Required Preceptor Training Update for Current Nursing Home Preceptors

Sept. 21: Medication Administration: Best Practices for Caregivers and Medication Aides in ALFs, RCFs and other Community Settings

Sept. 27: Infectious Diseases: Prevention and Management (*featuring Pat Preston*)

Oct. 3: Pain and Dementia: Best Practices in Assessment and Management (*featuring Keela Herr, Ph.D., RN, College of Nursing, University of Iowa*)

Nov. 15/Dec. 13: The Challenges of Cleanliness, Clutter and Hoarding with Older Adults and their Families (webinars - registration to come)

Ageless Art Exhibit opens at State Capitol

Selected entries in our 2012 Ageless Art Contest are on display at the Oregon State Capitol Galleria from now through **October 1**. Building hours are 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Don't miss the opportunity to view and admire a variety of resident art!