



NewsLine

ADVOCACY ♦ EDUCATION ♦ FELLOWSHIP

December 2010

Welcome to the **NJAHSA NewsLine**, our newsletter for members!! Feel free to contact us at njahsa@njahsa.org whenever you have suggestions for news items relating to your community or if you would like to place an advertisement in future editions.

Governor's Chief of Staff to Speak at NJAHSA Membership Meeting and Holiday Luncheon: You will not want to miss this event being held tomorrow, **Wednesday December 8th**, at Meadow Lakes (East Windsor, NJ) featuring Rich Bagger, Chief of Staff to Governor Chris Christie. During the past year Governor Christie has tackled budget deficits, bargaining contracts and other sacred cows with a no-nonsense call 'em like I see 'em approach. Chief of Staff Bagger will review the challenges and successes of this past year and highlight what is hot on the agenda for 2011!



*The Honorable Richard H. Bagger
Chief of Staff – Office of Governor Chris Christie*

In addition, the meeting will also host an important Presentation on **"Electronic Health Records (EHR) Systems in the Long Term Care Setting"**. Doug Struyk and Jennifer Vitrano from NJAHSA member Christian Health Care Center will discuss the importance of assessing organizational readiness for EHR implementation, demonstrate the benefits an EHR system has on quality, efficiency and safety measures and walk you through the critical steps in planning for and acquiring a system that is right for your organization.

RSVP TODAY by contacting the **NJAHSA** office at **609-452-1161** or e-mailing **Darlene Arden** at arden@njahsa.org to confirm your attendance.

Recent State Legislative Activity: NJAHSA continuously keeps track of pending legislation and updates its BillTrak Report which contains information about various bills that have been introduced during the legislative session. The following measures we have been monitoring have had some recent activity in the legislative process:

S-1 - **Lesniak, Raymond (D-20); Bateman, Christopher (R-16)** *Reforms procedures concerning provision of affordable housing; abolishes*

Council on Affordable Housing. Related Bill: A-3447

Jan 19, 2010 - Introduced in Senate

Jan 19, 2010 - Referred: Senate Economic Growth

Mar 15, 2010 - Reported as a Senate committee substitute

Mar 15, 2010 - 2nd reading in Senate

Mar 22, 2010 - Senate amendment (23-2-0) (Lesniak)

Mar 22, 2010 - 2nd reading in Senate

May 20, 2010 - Recommitted: Senate Economic Growth

Jun 3, 2010 - Reported as a Senate committee substitute 2nd reading in Senate

Jun 10, 2010 - Passed by the Senate (28-3-0) Received by the Assembly Referred: Assembly Housing and Local Government

Jun 17, 2010 - Posted but held: Assembly Housing and Local

Nov 8, 2010 - Reported with Assembly committee amendments 2nd reading in Assembly

Dec 9, 2010 - Posted: Assembly Housing and Local Government

S-1028 - **Connors, Christopher (R-9)** *Increases personal needs allowance to \$50 for those persons*

currently residing in nursing facilities, State hospitals or State developmental centers. Related Bill: A-1968

Feb 1, 2010 - Proposed for Senate introduction

Feb 4, 2010 - Introduced in Senate

Feb 4, 2010 - Referred: Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens

Dec 6, 2010 - Reported by committee

Dec 6, 2010 - 2nd reading in Senate

Dec 6, 2010 - Referred: Senate Budget and Appropriations

S-2284 **Weinberg, Loretta (D-37); Van Drew, Jeff (D-1)** *Requires assisted living residence or comprehensive personal care home that surrenders its license and promised not to discharge Medicaid residents to*

escrow funds to pay for care in alternate facility. Related Bill: A-3405

Sep 20, 2010 - Proposed for Senate introduction

Sep 23, 2010 - Introduced in Senate

Sep 23, 2010 - Referred: Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens

Nov 8, 2010 - Reported with Senate committee amendments 2nd reading in Senate

NOTE: A complete listing of the bills NJAHS is actively monitoring can be accessed in the members only section on the NJAHS website at www.njahsa.org and additional information (including bill text) can be accessed at <http://www.njleg.state.nj.us/> or by contacting Frank Byrne at NJAHS (609-452-1161) or fbyrne@NJAHSA.org.

NJ Medicaid Long Term Care Advisory Council 2010 Annual Report: Pursuant to Public Law 2006, Chapter 23 (Independence, Dignity and Choice in Long Term Care Act), the Commissioner of Health and Senior Services presented Governor Christie and the 214th Legislature with the 2010 Annual Report of the Medicaid Long Term Care Funding Advisory Council. NJAHS is a member of the Council and a copy of the full report can be accessed at

the following link:

http://www.state.nj.us/health/senior/documents/ltc_mac_annualreport_2010.pdf .

NJAHSA Registered Emergency Contact Message System: Effective December 2010 a new method to identify messages transmitted via the APEX i-Info electronic communications system has been activated. The communications system allows messages to be delivered four ways: by email, telephone, cell phone and fax all at the same time. This increases the chances of the emergency contact receiving the message. In order to identify the importance of the message three message groups have been established. The first is EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS EDUCATION. This group includes notices of seminars, workshops, and conferences, Also included are guides specific to preparedness planning, recovery, and posters/flyers to be circulated to facility staff. The second is EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS WATCH. This contains notices about pending events or official State/Local warnings. The third group is EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS ALERT. It will contain the most recent information about an actual event/activity and include requests for response and assistance. If you are not registered in the system and want to learn more, contact Ed Peloquin, Emergency Preparedness Coordinator at epeloquin@njahsa.org.

AAHSA Recommends Principles for HUD Section 202 Reform: Recently AAHSA submitted formal comments to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) regarding the draft proposal to reform the Section 202 program. The comments suggested that any changes to the program should increase production and easily leverage other funding, focus on housing with services, serve very low-income seniors, be targeted to traditional not-for-profit sponsors and solve the growing problem of project-based rental assistance contract funding renewal. A synopsis and full copy of the comment letter can be accessed at the following link: [AAHSA Formal Comments on HUD Section 202 Reform](#) For additional information contact: [Alayna Waldrum](#) at (202) 508-9476.

US Senate Committee Hearing Highlights DEA Controlled Substance Issue: In a Senate Judiciary Committee confirmation hearing on the nomination of Michelle Leonhart to head the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), Senators Herb Kohl (D-Wisconsin) and Sheldon Whitehouse (D-Rhode Island) sharply criticized the DEA's response to problems nursing homes have experienced in meeting residents' needs for timely and effective pain medications. Senator Kohl stated that DEA is putting "paperwork before pain relief," and asked that Leonhart make "much more progress" on the issue before she is confirmed as the DEA administrator. AAHSA has worked extensively with Senator Kohl and his staff on this issue. For more information contact [Jennifer Hilliard](#) at 202-508-9444.

CMS Launches Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation: CMS officially launched the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation (CMMI), an entity created under the passage of healthcare reform that is tasked with working on payment and quality system reforms in both programs. CMMI will house most of the demonstrations that were included in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA). There are \$5 billion available for CMMI in startup funds and \$10 billion over 10 years for new demonstration projects and pilot programs that can be implemented without congressional approval. AAHSA's [Health Reform Hub](#) provides detailed information on the many demonstration and pilot programs that HCBS members could be interested in.

“NJAHSA Business Member Spotlight”



Ziegler Publishes Glossary of Senior Living Terms: Conversations and publications about senior living include many words and terms that some of us don't understand. Ziegler has published a free Glossary of Senior Living Finance Terms. It is divided into three sections: finance, interest rate management and derivatives, and senior living. Included are terms that reflect changes that have occurred recently in the financial markets. A helpful publication for staff, board members and residents. A copy of the glossary can be accessed at the following link:

<http://www.ziegler.com/uploadedFiles/FNIAL%202010%20Senior%20Living%20Glossary.pdf>

For additional information please contact: [Kathryn Brod](#) at Ziegler, (410) 884-8302.

CMS Skilled Nursing Facility Open Door Forum:

Thursday – December 9, 2010

The next skilled nursing facilities/long term care open door forum is scheduled for **Dec. 9, from 2 to 3 p.m. Eastern**. To participate, dial **(800) 837-1935** and enter the conference **ID 23015922**. The agenda is not yet posted. If you are unable to call at that time, you may access an encore audio by dialing (800) 642-1687 and entering the conference ID 23015922. This encore audio will be available beginning two hours after the open door forum ends and will expire after three business days. Contact: [Iara Woody](#), (202) 508-9429.

CMS Special Open Door Forum:

Monday – December 13, 2010

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) is holding a Special Open Door Forum (ODF) on **Dec. 13, from 1:30 to 3 p.m. Eastern** in order to solicit stakeholder input for the design and development of the Independence at Home Demonstration. This Special ODF will be a “listening session” in which CMS hopes to gather information from stakeholders about issues that will affect demonstration design and implementation. This demonstration was mandated by Section 3024 of the Affordable Care Act to test a payment incentive and service delivery model that utilizes physician and nurse practitioner directed home-based primary care teams designed to reduce expenditures and improve health outcomes in the provision of items and services to applicable beneficiaries. ***Capacity is limited so dial in early. You may begin dialing into this forum as early as 1:15 PM ET.***

Dial: 1-800-837-1935 Reference Conference **ID 30308336**. Note: TTY Communications Relay Services are available for the Hearing Impaired. For TTY services dial 7-1-1 or 1-800-855-2880. A Relay Communications Assistant will help. If you cannot participate during the live event, the encore feature will be available approximately 2 hours after the completion of this call and end 12-13-2010. To access encore, dial 1-800-642-1687, and use the Participant ID listed above.

Caring for the Frail Elderly: *Clinical Models for Behavioral Intervention:*

Tuesday – December 14, 2010

NJ Hospital Association/Conference Center

Whether in the acute or residential care setting, care providers of the older adult are often faced with managing difficult behaviors, whether disconnectivity, hostility, agitation or treatment compliance. A major determinant in the quality of life of the aging is their caregiver's ability to effectively intervene when addressing both the needs of the individual and engaging family members as partners in the process.

This conference offers insight into models that have demonstrated positive outcomes for the frail elderly and focuses on skills and relationships that create an environment of effective clinical intervention and support for the aging and families being cared for in both hospital-based and residential environments. Clinical interventions designed to engage and address behavioral intervention for vulnerable geriatric populations will be discussed by nationally recognized experts in the field. Presented by the New Jersey Hospital Association and

Co-Sponsored by NJAHSA

[click here for registration information](#)

MDS 3.0 & RUGS IV Implemented - Lessons Learned: *An Opportunity for Questions and Strategies:*

Tuesday-February 1, 2011 *or* Wednesday-February 2, 2011

The MDS 3.0 assessment was implemented federally as the assessment tool on October 1, 2010. Providers have attended educational sessions and listened to CMS instructions on webinars, however nothing is more informative than practical experience. Join NJAHSA and Sophie A. Campbell, MSN, RN, CRRN, RAC-CT, Director, Senior Living Services at ParenteBeard, LLC, for a review session to discuss various issues with implementation and what has changed. The RUG IV reimbursement system and its correlation to the MDS 3.0 will also be discussed. This session will also offer an opportunity for your individual questions to be answered...participants are asked to submit pertinent questions with their registrations so Sophie may address specific issues individuals are experiencing. (Location and registration information will be available shortly)

NJAHSA Roundtable Discussion Meetings:

Please confirm attendance at Roundtable Meetings with agreenbaum@njahsa.org or phone the NJAHSA office: 609-452-1161

Facilities Maintenance – Thursday/December 9th

10:00am

NJAHSA Office – 13 Roszel Road - Suite C200– Princeton, NJ 08540