

LEADINGAGE WYOMING NEWSLETTER



President's Message

The first Joint Labor, Health and Social Services Committee hearing is scheduled for the end of this month.

I've included a copy of the agenda and as you can see, they will be looking at a myriad of topics during their first meeting.

Of particular interest to our association is their look at assisted living/nursing home rules and regulations. I believe they will be forming a working group to look at rules and regulations that would change the scope of practice in ALFs. This came to the fore front during the legislative session when a husband and wife that were living together in an ALF were told they either needed to separate and the husband, because of declining health and dementia, would have to move to a nursing home with a lock down unit or the wife would have to move in to the nursing home. The wife was providing the bulk of the care and no additional staff was required but there is no waiver or provision for a situation like this. Ultimately, the children moved the parents in to their home and will be providing care.

The JLC wants to form a working group to see if ALFs should be able to broaden their scope and if changes should be made to the LT101 or if a waiver system should be created. I believe, from conversations I've had with Chairman Elaine Harvey, that they will be seeking representation from nursing

homes, ALFs, DOH and legislators to form a work group and see if we can come up with a solution to situations like this.

We will also be working with the Department of Health on construction plan reviews and the challenges we have all been facing. I strongly believe we have made some progress but there is still more we can do to improve the system. We have a strong commitment from the DOH to continue to work with us and make the process better. I am hopeful that with their assurance and our willingness to work with the DOH that the legislators will not get too involved and allow us to work it out ourselves.

I welcome your attendance at the JLC meetings and encourage you to get involved. I will rely on you to help with the work group and will get you more details and dates after the JLC makes decisions at their upcoming meeting.

The state is working on the state plan amendment so that we can roll out the new LTC Gap Payment Program and begin drawing down additional federal matching funds. Their intent is to have the plan amendment done as soon as possible and have the new bill go in to effect on July 1. I have been working closely with them, as well as our legal counsel, to make sure the plan is done correctly and that we don't hit any speed bumps as we roll out the plan.

Our spring meeting is right around the corner and we have put together what I believe is an excellent program. We will once again be entertained and educated by Clint Maun. For those that haven't attended a seminar with Clint, you're in for a treat. He is very entertaining but also very informative. Mary Reilly and Barbara Gay will be here representing LeadingAge. We will also have representatives from the DOH at the meeting and will be revisiting the new ombudsman program. If you haven't already done so, I would encourage you to get registered and come to Cody on May 17-18 and attend the LAW Spring Meeting.

With the weather turning good (I say that as snow starts to fall here in Cheyenne) I will be hitting the road and will be making site visits to every hospital in the state. Rose will be calling to set up appointments as I make my way around Wyoming. I look forward to meeting with you and seeing your facilities. I would also be ready, willing and able to attend your board meetings and give a report on the LAW activities if you are interested. Just let me know.



LeadingAge Survey

LeadingAge national has embarked on a yearlong survey initiative that will help it better understand your organization and track important trends that will affect your future success.

The survey initiative consists of 2 phases:

Phase 1: Key Contacts Survey. This survey is already in your inbox. It asks you to provide contact information for key staff members at your organization. All the information you provide will be kept confidential.

Phase 2: Provider Services Surveys. In late May, the key contacts you identified during Phase 1 will receive a more detailed survey about specific service lines at your organization.

What's in it for you? Plenty! The survey initiative will help LeadingAge know its members a lot better. That knowledge will help LeadingAge and its state affiliates advocate for you and provide you with tailored resources and tools to help you succeed.

To make this initiative a success, we need your help. Can you kindly:

Complete the Key Contacts Survey that you received by e-mail. This survey closes on April 25, so time is of the essence! (Watch for reminder e-mails from LeadingAge with a link to the survey.)

Raise awareness about the survey throughout your organization. That way, your key staff will be more likely to open – and complete – the Provider Services Survey when it arrives in May.

Upcoming Events

LAW Spring Meeting

May 17, 18, 2016

Cody, Wyoming

LeadingAge Member Benefits

What's Happening in 2016 – It's a good time to be a member!

IMPROVE QUALITY

LeadingAge Insights — An exclusive set of business intelligence tools to help members understand performance and market position. New in 2015—Home Health Metrics.

Care Crowd — Brought to you by educator **Clint Maun**, *Care Crowd* is an innovative, flexible and cost-effective training solution. The online video-based training platform provides care professionals with empowering tips, tools, and techniques needed to maximize daily care efforts. LeadingAge members receive a special discount.

WeCareConnect — LeadingAge has partnered with Aging Enriched Services (AES) to provide a new post-discharge, follow-up service that helps extend care for up to 90 days. Phone, mobile and web-based technologies are used to collect patient feedback, track patient progress and well-being to reduce re-hospitalizations and improve outcomes. LeadingAge members receive a special discounted rate.

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