



IHCA Bulletin

News for Iowa Health Care Association members

Dedicated to promoting quality long term care



State News

Week of reflection, celebration and mourning for lawmakers

Week 2 Legislative Update

By Susan Cameron, IHCA lobbyist and Jen Kingland, ICAL lobbyist

Due to the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday, the inauguration of President Barack Obama, and the funeral of former state senator Mary Lundby, little legislative activity occurred in week two of this legislative session.

However, IHCA ICAL staff continued work to advance your priorities by meeting with Rep. Lisa Heddens, House co-chair of the Health and Human Services Appropriations Subcommittee, on Tuesday. We discussed with her the overall state of the profession, including the losses under Medicaid, as well as, updated her on the Quality Assurance Fee proposal and policy proposals for both IHCA and ICAL. It was a good meeting, and we will continue to work with Rep. Heddens as budget work gets underway.

On Thursday of this week, Rep. Heddens chaired the first meeting of HHS Appropriations Subcommittee. Senator Jack Hatch, who is the Senate co-chair, was not present because he was testifying before Congress about Iowa's health insurance program for children. The rest of the HHS Approps committee, however, introduced themselves and discussed their priorities. A new legislator, Rep. Phyllis Thede, mentioned her concern about mental health and seniors, saying that her mother, who passed away in early December, had dementia. I spoke with Rep. Thede after the meeting to express our condolences and reached out on behalf of IHCA to work with her to discuss and address issues of interest to her. Overall concerns raised by most committee members included a variety of mental health issues, as well as, the problems at the state facilities. They announced work groups on both of those issues. They also commented on how difficult this session will be, due to expected cuts that may have to be made.

In Senate Human Resources Committee, which is the policy committee for health care matters chaired by Senator Amanda Ragan, DHS Medicaid Director Jennifer Vermeer gave a general

January 26, 2009

In This Issue

- ✦ [State News](#)
- ✦ [National News](#)
- ✦ [Quality & Compliance](#)
- ✦ [Education News](#)
- ✦ [Member news](#)
- ✦ [Resources](#)

Search Bulletin Archives

[Print This Issue](#)

[Contact IHCA•ICAL](#)

[IHCA•ICAL Website](#)

[Job Center](#)

[Event Calendar](#)



presentation about Medicaid. She reported that DHS estimates a \$47 million shortfall in Medicaid funding for FY 09 and a \$170 million shortfall for FY 2010. No questions specific to long term care were asked.

Also this week, Rep. John Whitaker introduced HF 57 on behalf of assisted living providers in his district and the state. It mirrors legislation passed several years ago that requires DHS to request a waiver to change the AL reimbursement system to allow for higher payments. The bill will likely be referred to Rep. Heddens in Appropriations to be considered as a part of all funding requests. Please be sure to thank Rep. Whitaker for introducing HF 57.

In the week ahead, we expect to receive Governor Culver's budget recommendations, that we are quite certain will include an across-the-board cut for most state programs, including Medicaid. The federal stimulus package, including an increase in FMAP funding to the state, will be crucial to avoid cuts to Medicaid providers.

For a complete updated summary of [Bills of Interest](#) to IHCA and ICAL members, click on the link or go to www.iowahealthcare.org, Members Only>Communications>Member Communications. If you have questions regarding a bill related to long term care, contact IHCA ICAL Director of Regulatory Affairs [Kelly Meyers](#) or IHCA Deputy Director [Cindy Baddeloo](#) at 800.422.3106....[Return To Top](#)

National News

AHCA meets with CMS to discuss rating system concerns

AHCA, along with two other long term care national organizations, met last week with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Service's Thomas Hamilton and others to detail members' significant concerns with the Five-Star rating system. The organizations' discussion points laid out specific concerns in each domain of the rating system and provided examples – in some cases facility examples – supporting and clarifying each concern.

In response to the presentation, CMS has agreed to set up four issue teams where they will work with representatives of AHCA, AAHSA and the Alliance on the topics of quality measures, staffing, survey data, and consumer satisfaction. Hamilton stated that the agency will communicate with the three organizations to provide the details of this plan which will include short-term efforts and long-term efforts.

At the same time, CMS will review specific facility experiences that reflect errors in the rating system calculations or methodology that CMS may be able to easily correct system-wide. IHCA members who can provide such examples are encouraged to contact [Lyn Bentley](#) at AHCA....[Return To Top](#)

AHCA this week



AHCA/NCAL Capitol Connection January 22, 2008. In this issue:

- Long Term Care Leaders Debate "5 Star" With CMS
- Economic Stimulus Package Update
- Specter Introduces Legislation to Repeal 3% Tax Withholding
- A 5-Star Counter Balance – Satisfaction Assessment!
- Learn How to Design and Implement a Compliance Program
- New Information Available On Veterans Affairs/Nursing Facility Agreement
- NCAL Encourages Providers To Complete National Assisted Living Survey Online
- Clint Maun to Highlight "Leadership in Leaner Times" At IO Conference
- HHS Issues Final ICD-10 Rule
- HHS Publishes Final Patient Safety Organization Rule
- Medical Care Access Protection Act of 2009
- Did you know that...
- All Pending Regulations to be Reviewed by Obama Administration
- Senate Republican Committee Make Assignments for New Congress

You can also find a link to [NCALconnections](#), [AHCA/NCAL Capitol Connection](#) and the [AHCA/NCAL Regulatory Update Blog](#) on our home page at www.iowahealthcare.org...[Return To Top](#)

New from CMS**Provider Specific Files (PSF) SAS data files**

The January 2009 quarterly [Provider Specific Files \(PSF\) SAS data files](#) have been revised and are now available on the CMS website in the Downloads section. If you use the Provider Specific SAS File data, please go to the page above and download the latest version of the PSF Files. Note: These are the quarterly data sets for the Provider Specific Data for Public Use in SAS Format.

Provider Specific Files (PSF) Text data files

The January 2009 quarterly [Provider Specific Files \(PSF\) Text data files](#) have been revised and are now available on the CMS website in the Downloads section. If you use the Provider Specific Text File data, please go to the page above and download the latest versions of the PSF Files. Note: These are the quarterly data sets for the Provider Specific Data for Public Use in text format....[Return To Top](#)

Quality & Compliance**Taking the Quality Awards challenge**

Thirteen IHCA ICAL members have let IHCA ICAL know that they intend to apply for the 2009 AHCA/NCAL National Quality Award. Congratulations to all our members who are accepting this important challenge!

Many resources are available on the [AHCA/NCAL Quality Award website](#) including instructions, application packet, and how-to webinars available for viewing at your convenience. Deadlines for the

Find a Facility

Search for IHCA/ICAL member facilities to meet your care needs



[Click here](#)

ahca
Advocacy Center

Advancing
Excellence
In America's Nursing Homes

award applications are February 27 for Step I and March 31 for Step II and III. For more information, please contact [Lisa Uhlenkamp](#)....[Return To Top](#)

Webinar on corporate compliance program offered tomorrow

If you missed the first two AHCA webinars on *Designing and Implementing a Corporate Compliance Program*, it's not too late to get on board. Catch up by reviewing the October and November webinars, *Understanding the Basics* and *Designating A Compliance Officer and Committee*. The third webinar in the series will be presented on Tuesday, January 27 from 1-2 p.m. Central time. This webinar covers the provider's responsibility to routinely check the Office of Inspector General (OIG) List of Excluded Individuals and Entities (LEIE) database which identifies individuals and entities excluded from participation in the Medicare and Medicaid programs. A provider who employs or contracts with an excluded individual or entity in violation of the federal law is subject to the imposition of a civil monetary penalty by the OIG. To register or view the past webinars, [click here](#)....[Return To Top](#)

Tops in Survey

Congratulations to our IHCA members who have received a deficiency-free survey.

Sibley Nursing and Rehab Center
Sibley
Jessica McDyer,
Administrator



Fonda Nursing and Rehab
Fonda
Wilma Frey, Administrator

To have your facility's deficiency-free survey recognized, e-mail [Claire Seely](#). Please provide facility name, city and administrator name.

To get all the latest in survey trends from the IHCA Survey Committee, go to www.iowahealthcare.org. Members Only>Regulatory>Survey....[Return To Top](#)

Education News

Professional Nursing Seminar: Gain expertise in incontinence care

LTC nurses will not want to miss the *IHCA ICAL Professional Nursing Seminar—Incontinence: Diagnosing, Interventions and*

Outcomes seminar. Presenter Dr. Janet Specht, RN, FAAN, Associate Professor, University of Iowa College of Nursing, is a leading authority in interventions and outcomes for older persons with urinary incontinence and dementia care. This seminar is a great opportunity for staff nurses to zero in on the topic of incontinence and bring what they learn back to the facility to share with other staff members.

The seminar is being held in three locations across the state starting tomorrow. CEUs are available for nurses and administrators. **ANCC credentialed nurses will receive 5.25 ANCC contact hours.** Register by clicking on the desired date/location below.

[January 28, Coralville](#)

[February 3, Carroll](#)

[February 4 Altoona](#)

[...Return To Top](#)

Don't jump the gun on MDS 3.0 training

CMS is warning nursing facilities to NOT attend any of the training currently being offered on the new MDS 3.0 because it is not accurate. CMS has asked IHCA and other state trade associates to assist in offering training on MDS 3.0, but want the training to wait until the information for MDS 3.0 is more complete and accurate. So don't be in a hurry for MDS 3.0 training. Wait to hear from IHCA on training opportunities as we will be coordinating our training with CMS sometime in summer 2009....[Return To Top](#)

Member news

New issue of Quality Care Quarterly

The winter edition of *Quality Care Quarterly*, IHCA ICAL's publication for lay people on current issues in long term care is now available to IHCA and ICAL members at www.iowahealthcare.org. Members Only>Communications> Member Communications...[Return To Top](#)

Retirement party at Ruthven Community Care Center

Ruthven Community Care Center is hosting an open house in honor of Dee Pyle, retiring administrator. The event is on Sunday, February 1 from 2 to 4 p.m. Everyone is invited to attend. The facility is located at 2701 Mitchell Street in Ruthven. Call Deb at 712.837.5329 if you have questions. IHCA ICAL wishes Dee all the best in her retirement!...[Return To Top](#)

Resources

Alzheimer's and dementia education tools

February 14-21 is Alzheimer's and Dementia Staff Education Week. The National Council of Certified Dementia Practitioners has a free tool kit for providing dementia training and in-service education to your staff. Check out the resources at <http://www.nccdp.org/...Return To Top>

Education Calendar

🔗 **Professional Nursing Seminar: Incontinence, Diagnosing, Interventions and Outcomes**

January 28, Coralville

🔗 **Professional Nursing Seminar: Incontinence, Diagnosing, Interventions and Outcomes**

February 3, Carroll

🔗 **Professional Nursing Seminar: Incontinence, Diagnosing, Interventions and Outcomes**

February 4, Altoona

🔗 **Southwest District Meeting and Education**

February 5, Atlantic

🔗 **Northwest District Meeting and Education**

February 10, Storm Lake

🔗 **Assisted Living Management Certification Program**

Part 1: February 10-12; Part 2: March 10-12, West Des Moines

🔗 **Northeast District Meeting and Education**

February 12, Cedar Falls

🔗 **Southeast District Meeting and Education**

February 17, West Liberty

🔗 **Life Safety/Fire Safety 2009**

February 23-24, Coralville

🔗 **Life Safety/Fire Safety 2009**

February 25-26, Carroll

🔗 **MDS 101-Basic MDS 2.0 Training**

March 3, West Des Moines

🔗 **MDS 201 - Advanced MDS 2.0 Training**

March 4, West Des Moines

🔗 **Assisted Living Nurses Conference**

March 5, Urbandale

🔗 Click on the event link to learn more about each educational offering and to register. If you have additional questions, contact [Georgene Olson](#) via e-mail or at 800.422.3106.

To ensure delivery, please add info@iowahealthcare.org to your email address book or Safe Sender List.

If you are still having problems receiving our communications, see our white-listing page for [more details](#).

IHCA•ICAL

6750 Westown Parkway
Suite 100
West Des Moines, IA 50266-7726
(800) 422-3106 toll free

To unsubscribe please [click here](#).

(515) 327-5020 local
www.iowahealthcare.org