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Association News May 2009

Posted on: April 29, 2009

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NCAL Unveils Assisted Living Week Symbol

The National Center for Assisted Living recently unveiled the "Traditions of the Heart" logo as the symbol of the 2009 National Assisted Living Week,® which will be held Sept. 13-19.

As the founder of NALW, NCAL produces and distributes a NALW planning guide and product catalog to help administrators/directors, activity directors and residents plan a fun-filled week focused on the theme. The planning guide, scheduled to be available in June, will contain suggestions and resources to create resident-focused activities and the products catalog will offer products featuring the 2009 logo.

The logo is available for communities to use. To obtain a copy, contact Shane Osborne at sosborne@ncal.org or (202) 898-2843; or Lisa Gelhaus at lgelhaus@ncal.org or (202) 898-2825.

AHCA/NCAL, Alliance Praise New CMS Pilot Program

Leaders of the American Health Care Association, the National Center for Assisted Living and the Alliance for Quality Nursing Home Care praised the announcement from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services that it has initiated a "Care Transitions Project" designed to improve health care processes so patients, caregivers and their entire team of providers can help to minimize re-hospitalizations, and promote a more seamless transition across the spectrum of care.

AHCA, NCAL and the Alliance embrace testing policy ideas through pilots as a first step toward promoting value, improving access, maximizing consumer choice and enhancing quality.

AHSA Applauds Senate Finance Committee's Hearing on Long-Term Care in Health Reform, CLASS Act Reintroduction

The American Association of Homes & Services for the Aging released the following statement from its President and CEO **Larry Minnix**:

"Firstly, we commend the Senate Finance Committee for examining the role of long-term services and supports in health care reform. Long-term services and supports are often ignored, despite their central role in America's health care crisis. The needs are great. The costs are high. Insurance coverage is nearly non-existent. The structure of our current system makes caring for seniors and adults with disabilities fragmented, expensive and difficult. Every segment of our population is affected: individuals, families, employers, government programs, the medical profession and the economy. It is simply unaffordable to care.

"Secondly, we also applaud Sen. Edward M. Kennedy (D-Mass.) and Reps. Frank Pallone (D-N.J.) and John Dingell (D-Mich.) for introducing the Community Living Assistance Services and Supports (CLASS) Act of 2009. The CLASS Act calls for the creation of a publicly-driven financing plan with premiums that provide cash benefits to pay for long-term services. It is a plan built on principles that support America's families and have the potential for significant Medicaid savings. These principles have been adopted by the Leadership Council of Aging Organizations and the Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities, which includes more than 150 organizations representing over 100 million seniors, people with disabilities, and providers of health, housing and supportive services. Their members include organizations like AARP, SEIU and Easter Seals."

For more information, visit www.aahsa.org.

NCCDP Announces Award Winners

The National Council of Certified Dementia Practitioners, Sparta, N.J., selected Geraldine V. Blom, RN, clinical educator from Christian Health Care Center, Wyckoff, N.J. and Ann Altman, RN, staff development coordinator from Palm Garden of Vero Beach, Fla., to receive its 2009 Nurse Educator of the Year awards.

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The award was developed for nurse educators who have implemented educational and mentoring programs to enhance resident quality of life and decrease staff turnover.

The NCCDP received hundreds of nominations from around the country from assisted living facilities, nursing homes, CCRCs, adult day care centers and hospitals.

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