



Capitol Focus

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Politics Online: Fast & Updated Information

How to Contact Your Legislator:

- .. Go to www.cahsa.org.
- .. Click on "Contact your Legislator" in the left-side menu.
- .. Click on "My Elected Officials."
- .. Enter your address.
- .. Click on the link for your legislator. Their contact information will be displayed.

Capitol Focus is a weekly activities summary of the Colorado Legislature for CAHSA members, provided by staff of the Colorado Association of Homes and Services for the Aging. Contact Laura Landwirth, executive director, at cahsa@cahsa.org.



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*What's new at the Capitol?
What is the Governor up to?
Who are my legislators?*

The 2010 Legislative Session gets underway next week on January 13th. It's not too late to notify us if you are interested in being considered for our **2010 Legislative Task Force**. The purpose of the task force is to review legislation introduced in the session, as well as budget proposals. We ask members with specific areas of expertise to read bills and provide feedback regarding how they interpret the bill will impact them and/or their clients. This year we are going to have a conference call each week to discuss pending legislation with the task force. The call is scheduled for Tuesdays from 8 to 9am. Our first call will be on January 19th and they will continue at least through the month of February. If you are interested but find that is too much time to commit, we retain a list of members who can't participate regularly but are willing to review bills in their specific area of expertise and/or testify on bills related to their area of knowledge. Please email me at laura@cahsa.org if you are interested in serving in either capacity.

Before we shift gears to our legislative focus I want to share with you a couple of items of interest we recently received. The National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) within the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is conducting a new study of assisted living and residential care communities. The National Survey of Residential Care Facilities (NSRCF) is a first-ever survey of residential care facilities that is designed to provide national estimates of these places and their residents. In-person interviews will collect the following information about the characteristics of assisted living and residential care communities and the people who live there:

- Assisted living and residential care community characteristics, such as size, ownership, staffing, certification status, and services provided.
- Resident demographics, such as age, sex, race, and marital status.
- Resident health and functional status, such as primary and other diagnoses, activity limitations.
- Resident services, such as services used and sources of payment.

NSRFC will use a national probability sample, selected in two stages. Assisted living and residential care communities will be randomly selected first, followed by the random selection of a certain number of residents based on the size of the selected place. In-person interviews will be conducted with directors and/or a caregiver/staff (not residents). The national data collection will begin in April 2010, when 2,250 facilities will be selected to answer questions about their communities.

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has launched the fifth annual health care provider satisfaction survey of the Medicare fee-for-service (FFS) contractors that process and pay more than \$370 billion in Medicare claims each year. The Medicare Contractor Provider Satisfaction Survey (MCPSS) offers Medicare FFS providers an opportunity to give CMS feedback on their satisfaction, attitudes, perceptions, and opinions about the services provided by their respective contractor. Survey questions focus on seven key business functions of the provider-contractor relationship: Provider Inquiries, Provider Outreach & Education, Claims Processing, Appeals, Provider Enrollment, Medical Review, and Provider Audit & Reimbursement. CMS is sending the 2010 survey to approximately 30,000 randomly selected providers, including physicians and other health care practitioners, suppliers, and institutional facilities that serve Medicare beneficiaries across the country. Those health care providers selected to participate in this year's survey will be notified starting in January 2010. CMS will analyze the 2010 MCPSS data and release a summary report on the CMS website in the summer of 2010. For more information about the MCPSS, please visit www.cms.hhs.gov/MCPSS on the CMS website.