



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?

With the legislative session winding down in the next week and the Long Bill signed by the Governor's desk we are confident that we can share with some certainty the final budget decisions that have been made for FY 2009-2010 and FY 2010-2011.

As reported to you in late March, the JBC recommended removing the one-week payment delay in statute for Medicaid fee for service providers for FY 2009-2010. With respect to our membership this includes nursing homes as well as the programs funded under the home- and community-based waiver (alternative care facilities, adult day, homemaker, personal care). Subsequently, HB 1382 was introduced and passed to implement the JBC recommendation for fee for service providers and it also removed the one-week payment delay for PACE providers and managed care providers.

With respect to fiscal year 2010-2011, an additional provider rate reduction of 1% for fee for service providers will take effect July 1, 2010. For all providers excluding nursing homes this will mean a cumulative 5.5% reduction in rates taking into consideration all budget actions in 2009. The additional 1% rate reduction for July 1st will also apply to nursing homes and a separate bill (HB 1379) is moving through the process to implement this reduction. This means a cumulative rate reduction of 2.5% taking into consideration budget action for 2009.

Attention is now focused on final action on bills that remain on the schedule. Adjournment *Sine Die* must occur by midnight on Wednesday, May 12. While *Sine Die* has occurred earlier in recent years, our lobbyist advises that it will most likely go right to the wire this year. Our lobbyist firm will be updating and completing bill reports following the close of the session. We expect to have final Governor's action to us by mid-June, after the conclusion of the 30 day period for the governor to act on bills.

Switching gears to the federal scene there is lots of activity surrounding analysis of Health Care Reform both in terms of the benefits to consumers and the impact on providers. AAHSA has been posting updates as they become available at their Health Care Reform Hub, which is found at <http://www.aahsa.org/healthreformhub.aspx>. They have also scheduled a series of free town-hall style conference calls planned to help you understand how health care reform affects aging services providers and the people they serve. Each conference call will feature experts discussing the basics on payment changes, the CLASS Act, demonstration programs, and provisions affecting employers in 2010 and 2011. These conference calls will be recorded and made available for download the day after the call. The next call is scheduled for May 13th at 12 noon EST, which we realize is in the midst of our annual conference. However, another call is scheduled for May 20th at 12 noon on "Health Reform and What it Means for Employers." We understand that many more will be scheduled in the next few weeks and all will be recorded and available for download.

Capitol Focus will take a break for the next couple of weeks and we will send you this year's final issue in June to include the final status of all bills we monitored. Our lobbyist, Fofi Mendez, will be attending our member meeting on June 22nd to provide a briefing and answer your questions. A separate registration form for this meeting will be distributed next week at the conference and emailed to all members the following week. I hope to see you next week in Keystone!