

Of Interest

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CAHSA Salutes our 2006 Organizational Sponsors

This year CAHSA launched a new partnership opportunity for provider and business members. Thirteen members stepped up to the plate and generously agreed to pre-purchase a “bundled” package of member benefits for their staff. This allowed the member organization to make a commitment to CAHSA at the beginning of the calendar year to support our events throughout the year. In turn, it helps us better gauge member interest and participation as we plan our events for the year.

We thank these members for their support and encourage other members to follow their lead next year when asked to participate in this program:

Provider Members:

- Premiere Level*
- Alterra Healthcare Communities
- Christian Living Communities
- Shalom Park
- Platinum Level*
- Good Samaritan Connections
- Gold Level*
- Frasier Meadows Retirement Community
- Silver Level*
- Bethesda Adult Communities
- Eaton Senior Programs
- Fort Collins Good Samaritan Village
- Golden West Senior Residence

Business Members:

- Premiere Level*
- U.S. Foodservice
- Patron Sponsorship*
- Ziegler Capital Markets Group
- Contributing Level*
- Morrison Senior Dining
- Schryver Medical Sales & Marketing

Governor Signs Bill for Elder Alerts

Gov. Bill Owens has signed a bill authorizing Amber Alert-like public notices for mentally impaired senior citizens who go missing. Similar to the notices for missing children, the alerts will appear as crawls on television screens and periodic radio announcements when seniors (60 years of age and older) with a “verified impaired mental condition” are missing and might be in danger. CAHSA testified in support of this bill and actively lobbied for its passage. It will be the first program of its kind in the country.

-Source: *Denver Post*

Study Confirms Low Flu Vaccination Rate for Health Care Workers

A study of influenza (flu) vaccination rates published in the February *Journal of General Internal Medicine* by the University of California at Los Angeles and Harvard University supports growing concerns about health care workers and the flu. Analyzing data from the 2000 National Health Interview Survey, researchers calculated a 38% influenza vaccination rate among health care workers. Health care employees who had particularly low rates of vaccinations were health aids and workers under age 50.

-Source: *Briefings on Infection Control* <http://www.hcmarketplace.com/prod.cfm?id=1721&S=EEBD>

Shortage of Social Workers

The number of social workers providing services to older adults is decreasing, despite projected increases in the number of older adults who will need them, according to a survey of approximately 10,000 licensed social workers. The survey cited a need to recruit and train more gerontological social workers and retain those currently in the profession.

-Source: *National Association of Social Workers, March 2006*

CMS Changes Payment for HHA Administration of Flu Vaccine

In March, the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services revised CR4240 to show that payment for the administration of vaccines for Influenza and Pneumococcal Pneumonia Virus (PPV) by home health agencies (HHAs) is based on Outpatient Prospective Payment System (OPPS), not reasonable cost, effective July 1, 2006 (to be implemented July 3). Payment for the Flu and PPV vaccine and for administration of Hepatitis B Virus vaccine will continue to be based on reasonable cost. In addition, the CR release date, transmittal number, and web address were changed, but all other information remains the same. This change is explained in MLN (Medicare Learning Network) Matters Number MM4240 (Revised). For a copy of this notice, visit <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/MM4240.pdf>.

CAHSA is the Colorado affiliate of



American Association of Homes and Services for the Aging



You still have time to register to attend CAHSA's 2006 Annual Meeting and Exhibition this month in Vail. Our theme is *"Transforming Learning into Action."* Consider how participating in this year's conference will support your ongoing efforts to transform your organization and create a new culture—a culture where older persons enjoy leading-edge services provided by a committed, knowledgeable and well-trained workforce. Your efforts are helping to shape the future in aging services. Think about the new consumer and envision how your organization will evolve in the years ahead to meet the needs of future clients. Imagine how your organization will benefit from a renewed and inspired staff who return to work with fresh perspectives and solutions. We have planned an outstanding program for the conference with timely topics, nationally acclaimed speakers and innovative models of care. You will find the latest technologies in our exhibit hall and you will have unmatched networking opportunities with attendees from all segments of the senior care and housing continuum.

New this year is a pre-conference Leadership program, "Leadership: Are You an 'Easy Rider' or 'Leader of the Pack'?" Although targeted to our "CAHSA Nexters," all members are welcome. The program will be followed by a reception, both of which are sponsored by our member, Health Dimensions Group. The CAHSA Next planning committee will have a special booth in the exhibit hall, the "CAHSA Next Saloon," where you can learn about our new CAHSA Next Mentor Program and sign up to receive more information. Also available will be the details for a summer CAHSA Next event. I urge you to encourage your staff to participate in the CAHSA Next initiative to cultivate and grow the future leaders of our association and our profession!

This year again, we have identified sessions that support AAHSA's Quality First Initiative, to set and meet new standards of excellence in a positive, forward-looking manner. The Opening Luncheon will spotlight the Quality First Awards and recognize the winners. There are 18 workshops sandwiched between the opening and closing luncheons. As usual, Total Longterm Care has planned an outstanding event Thursday evening. Here's a tip - you may want to start honing your "bull riding" and "calf roping" skills now. At a minimum, be sure to pack your best western wear so you will fit in with the crowd. The Closing Luncheon on Friday will feature Emily Friedman, Healthcare Policy Analyst and Ethicist. Emily was named one of the "Top 25 Women in Healthcare" by Modern Healthcare Magazine in 2005. She will present a compelling message that you will not want to miss. We hope you'll be with us in Vail on May 10-12, for our best conference ever!

Also, mark your calendar now for our end-of-summer event, CAHSA's 10th Annual Golf Tournament. This year's event will be held on August 31st at Thorncreek Golf Course in Thornton. Registration information will be available at the convention. Last year's event filled up quickly, so plan to register early! Look for more details later this month. See you in Vail!

Laura Landwirth
Laura Landwirth, Executive Director

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A Business Partner

How long have you been a member of CAHSA?

Lifeline joined CAHSA in early 2006.

Why did you become a member?

Lifeline became a CAHSA member to demonstrate our support for local organizations that care for seniors. CAHSA will be a valuable networking tool for Lifeline.

What goods or services does your organization provide and what would you like members to know about this service/product?

Lifeline Senior Living offers complete resident safety solutions for senior living communities. Our services include emergency call systems, wander management and safety system integration.

How is your organization unique from others who provide a similar service/product?

Lifeline has more than 30 years of experience providing emergency call systems for senior living communities and personal emergency response services for elders living alone. Lifeline's emergency call systems protect residents in more than 2,000 communities, and Lifeline's personal emergency response services assist more than 430,000 elders.

How did you get into this business?

I joined the team at Lifeline because I was impressed with the company's efforts to enhance the independence and quality of life for seniors.

How can people learn more about your service/product?

Contact Tyler Bury, our regional sales manager, at 480-464-5790, or visit our web site at www.lifelineseniorliving.com.



Get out there!

Tips for Gaining Exposure

Community Partnerships

Partnering with a civic group or charity gives your organization a way to reach out to the local community and can help increase the public's general feeling of goodwill toward your company.

From the Lion's Club to the American Cancer Society to Meals on Wheels, there are a plethora of civic groups and charities in existence today that benefit from corporate and community support. Consider the following ways your organization can contribute to a civic group or charity:

- * **Volunteer Time:** Recruit staff members willing to donate time and energy to help the partnering organization's cause. This provides a good opportunity for staff to develop relationships with community leaders and volunteers.
- * **Financial and/or Merchandise Donations:** Many civic groups/charities hold fundraising events such as art festivals, dinners, galas, casino nights and silent auctions. Often, they need door prizes or financial gifts to make these events possible. By contributing to and attending these events, you provide

time to build relationships with other business people and potential referral sources in a fun, relaxed environment.

- * **Donate Facility Space:** Does your organization have a gym, banquet facility, conference room or auditorium? Consider donating or offering a reduced rate for the use of this space. It's a great opportunity to show potential clients and referral sources your facility, programs and services.

Community partnerships are both useful and socially responsible. Not only does it demonstrate your organization's alliance with a worthwhile cause, but it helps support your local community and leads to an enhanced public reputation and an increased network of business contacts.

Remember, an effective partnership depends on honest communication, so be serious about your goals. Make sure you share similar ideals and that the mission of the partnering organization is in line with your company's philosophy of service. These partnerships should be a win-win situation for both parties.



Russ DenBraber
Chair, Quality First

Each month, Russ DenBraber, chair of CAHSA's Quality First Task Force, highlights examples of quality within CAHSA's membership. This month, Eastern Star's "Caring Above and Beyond" program is highlighted.

Eastern Star-Masonic Center, a nonprofit organization owned by the Order of Eastern Star and the Grand Mason Lodge of Colorado, provides independent and assisted living care to 100+ seniors throughout its 21-acre campus in Denver.

Last month, the organization introduced *Caring Above and Beyond*, a long-term, quality-focused management program that uses *Continuous Quality Assurance* and *Quality Improvement* methods to enhance *Leading-Edge Care and Services*, improve operational effectiveness, and foster *Workforce Excellence*.

Spearheaded by Eastern Star's Executive Director Matthew Wistreich and overseen by Eastern Star's management company, Health Dimensions Group, *Caring Above and Beyond* is modeled after the Ritz Carlton Quality Assurance Program—one of the finest in the service industry.



Matthew Wistreich

Eastern Star officially launched the program with a Quality Carnival for staff. The fun-filled event provided the opportunity to lay out the program fundamentals, create buy-in, and identify metrics of success and potential stumbling blocks to avoid. Eastern Star will systematically roll out segments of the quality improvement program over the next 12 to 18 months.

"This is not a flavor of the month program," said Wistreich. "It's a cultural change that builds on the strong foundation of services we offer and provides a way to improve that foundation," he added.

Through *Caring Above and Beyond*, Eastern Star hopes to reduce waste and rework, provide more consistent outcomes, emphasize prevention quality outcomes, aid in meeting and exceeding all stakeholder expectations, continuously improve organizational performance and most importantly, create a win-win-win for customers and families, staff, and the Eastern Star-Masonic Center.

"Our intention is to proactively anticipate changes so we can be successful with our services and meet all our stakeholders' needs," said Wistreich. "Our goal is to become the provider of choice, the employer of choice, the community partner of choice and the system of choice," he added.

Eastern Star is taking a slow, methodical approach to implementing *Caring Above and Beyond* to ensure processes and procedures are firmly in place. The program's success will be scientifically based on benchmarks and metrics to measure improvement, including customer and teammate satisfaction surveys, employee turnover and retention rates, worker compensation rates, access to staff training and development, quality standards, state/federal health department surveys and more.

"We will stay consistent with our philosophy, message, focus and actions so this program becomes ingrained in our team as a second nature activity. We want to be very proactive about how *Caring Above and Beyond* applies to staff's everyday operations and ensure that no customer or staff is left behind," said Wistreich.

Wistreich's advice for others looking to implement a long-term quality management change: Have a firm, well thought out plan in place, and identify a cheerleader responsible for the process. Be consistent, constant and flexible to change in an ever-changing health care environment.

For additional information about how your organization may become a partner in QF, contact Karen Simmering at Karen@cahsa.org or 303-837-8834.

Adult Day News

CMS to Pilot Project Covering Adult Day Care

Medicare announced the launch of a pilot project to cover adult day care medical services. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) announced the implementation of the Medical Adult Day Care Services Demonstration, encouraging home health agencies to collaborate with medical adult day care facilities to provide medical services to Medicare beneficiaries as a substitute for a portion of services otherwise provided in the home.

Today, Medicare beneficiaries who attend medical adult day care facilities pay out of pocket for those services or are reimbursed through a third-party payer other than Medicare.

The five selected project locations are in Wisconsin, Texas, Pennsylvania, New York and Florida. The participating home health agencies will be paid 95% of the home health prospective payment rate for the pilot project, and beneficiaries will not have any associated out-of-pocket costs for these additional services while enrolled in the demonstration.

"This demonstration will allow Medicare to assess whether providing medical adult day care services as part of the home health benefit will improve patient outcomes and increase patient satisfaction," said CMS Administrator Mark McClellan.

-Source: United Press International

Adult Day Services Rate Increase

Rates for adult day services providers in Colorado have increased. Effective April 1, 2006 the new rates are as follows:

- Specialized: \$28.42 per unit
- Basic: \$22.24 per unit
- HCBS-BI: \$46.84 per day

For more information, contact Emily Blanford at 303-866-3674 or emily.blanford@state.co.us.

CAHSA Campaign Highlighted

CAHSA's "Time To Bloom" campaign, which features the very essence of growth and aspires to create a better environment for our elders, was featured in the March issue of **Adult Day Services Letter**, as well as in The Colorado Rural Health Center's spring newsletter. Adult day members, send CAHSA your pictures and descriptions of how your community participated in the "Time To Bloom" campaign and you may be featured in a future issue of *CAHSA Connecting*. Email cahsanews@comcast.net.

GAO Report Questions Security of Information Collected by Medicare, Medicaid

Medical and financial information collected by Medicaid, Medicare and other HHS programs is vulnerable to theft or disclosure because of insufficient computer security at the agency, according to a Government Accountability Office report.

The report says that “[s]ignificant weaknesses in information security controls” increase the vulnerability of the data to individuals or groups who would “inadvertently or deliberately disclose, modify or destroy” the data. HHS uses computer systems to process Medicare claims, track NIH research and manage FDA programs, USA Today reports.

The report, which was requested by the Senate Finance Committee, also finds instances of:

- Anti-virus software that is not installed or up-to-date;
- Computer passwords that are not properly controlled;
- Employees and contractors who are working without background checks; and
- A lack of physical controls, including inoperable surveillance cameras and unrestricted access to a data center.

HHS officials issued a written response to the reports, saying GAO investigators do “not provide an accurate or complete appraisal” of the agency’s security programs. The report fails to note a 57% reduction in reportable deficiencies that resulted from a 2005 effort, HHS said. “The frequent use of the word ‘significant’ to describe control weaknesses ... evokes a negative connotation that is not reflective of the progress or current state of HHS’ information security program,” the agency’s response says.

-Source: Kaisernetwork.org, March 23, 2006

FDA Issues Resident Bed Safety Warning

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has recently released information that focuses on the issue of bed entrapment. In addition to the potential adverse effects associated with bedrail use, such as loss of dignity and immobility, the resident is placed at potential risk for injury. The level of potential injury varies from skin tears and bruises to death caused by entrapment in the device itself. Unfortunately, entrapment and death from side rails has occurred in a variety of health care settings throughout the nation. The FDA’s recent notice, as well as a wide variety of resources about this issue, is available at <http://www.fda.gov/medwatch/safety/2006/safety06.htm#bed>.

Implementing a fall management program, including appropriate alternatives to restraints, is at times a struggle for the facility. The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) has developed an excellent fall resource. “The Falls Management Program: A Quality Improvement Initiative for Nursing Facilities,” can be downloaded at <http://www.medqic.org/dcs/ContentServer?cid=1136495771104&pagename=Medqic%2FMQTools%2FToolTemplate&c=MQTools>.

-Source: NYAHS Advisor, April 06

Nursing Home News

CDC Offers New Safety Guide on Lifting and Moving Residents

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) developed a guide for nursing facilities, “Safe Lifting and Movement of Nursing Home Residents.” The guide is intended for nursing home owners, administrators, nurse managers, safety and health professionals, and workers who are interested in establishing a safe resident lifting program. The guide incorporates research by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), Veteran’s Health Administration (VHA) and the University of Wisconsin, and addresses topics including the “Challenge of Lifting Residents in Nursing Homes,” the “Benefits, Cost, and Effectiveness of a Safe Resident Lifting Program” and frequently asked questions. Go to <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/docs/2006-117/> to obtain a copy of the guide.

-Source: NIOSH

Purchase a Discounted Copy of *Almost Home*

The PBS documentary *Almost Home* follows one organization through the culture transformation process, looking in detail at issues faced by management, staff and residents. AAHSA members are eligible to receive a 20% discount on copies of this DVD. Order today and start to learn more about the value of culture transformation in aging services. To order your copy, visit https://www3.uwm.edu/dept/ageandcommunity/product_ordering/index.cfm?a1=edit&pc=ahhsa.

Civil Monetary Penalty Analytic Tool from CMS

While Civil Monetary Penalties (CMPs) can vary greatly given the factors that affect the CMP amount and each unique situation, CMS believes that it is important for national consistency in the application of CMPs. A joint State-Federal workgroup developed an analytic tool and accompanying instructions that will assist CMS in assessing whether states are imposing CMPs consistently. Also added to the efforts for consistency, Sen. Charles Grassley (R-IA), Senate Finance Committee chairman, is pushing federal regulators to act on survey and certification problems identified in a General Accountability Office report released earlier this year. The report identifies inconsistencies in survey standards used by state survey agencies as a problem.

Assisted Living/ALFA News

ALFA Annual Conference and Expo

May 3 -5, 2006

San Diego Convention Center

San Diego, Calif.

AIA Issues Guidelines for Design and Construction of Hospitals and Health Care Facilities

The American Institute of Architects will preserve the resident-centered model as the standard for assisted living facilities in the 2006 guidelines which will be issued in June, according to AIA. The guidelines are revised every four years. The guidelines are used by many states and federal agencies as a basis for licensing and regulatory policies. To read more about the guidelines, visit the AIA web site at http://www.aia.org/aah_gd_hospcons.

Mary Grace Smigiel, R.N., MS, NHA and executive director of Christian Living Communities The Johnson Center, will host a breakout session at CAHSA's Annual Convention, May 11-12 at the Vail Marriott Mountain Resort and Spa, titled, "Montessori-Based Activities Programs for ALL DEPARTMENTS." Last year, Mary Grace received one of the Association's inaugural Quality First Awards in the category of *Research Findings and Education* for integrating Montessori-type activities and learning techniques into a program for CLC residents with Alzheimer's and related dementia.



Mary Grace Smigiel

We caught up with Mary Grace to find out why leadership requires innovation and communication with others. Here's what she had to say....

How would you describe your personal leadership style and how has it evolved over the years?

I have a firm conviction to trust in my staff and not micromanage. My job is to assist my staff obtain the tools and talents they need to do their job. It's important to make staff feel validated and empowered.

Why do you think it's important for leaders to share innovative best practices and ideas with others via seminars, workshops or conferences?

Senior service providers are talented, caring and integral members of the health care continuum, but the public does not always see this. If the perception of our profession is ever going to gain the respect it deserves, we all need to do our part to help each other learn and increase awareness of the accomplishments the profession has made.

Have you presented at other industry events? What did you learn from that experience?

I have presented at other events at the state and national level. I realized that people need to come away with new ideas they can actually implement in their own communities, rather than concepts and theories that lack concrete actions.

What do you get out of public speaking?

Besides the butterflies in the stomach, I am proud to represent Christian Living Communities and share the commitment and ingenuity of our staff.

How is successful leadership connected to open communication with others working in aging services?

I have dedicated my career to making a difference in the lives of all seniors. In order to grow the profession and be a good leader, I need others to share things with me, and I need to be prepared to share the good, bad, and ugly with others.

What advice do you have for others who may be thinking about presenting at a conference or gathering of professionals for the first time?

Be proud of what you do and of what you've accomplished, and be willing to share it just as you would want others to share with you.

What do you think has helped your Montessori program become so successful in terms of leadership?

Our Montessori program allows us to focus on residents' strengths and talents, and actively involve the resident (and families) in maintaining or even regaining skills. It empowers all staff members to be leaders in providing validation and meaning to residents' lives.

Housing News

U.S. Department of Justice Begins "Operation Home Sweet Home"

The Justice Department recently announced a new housing initiative, which it is calling "Operation Home Sweet Home." It is an initiative to expose and eliminate housing discrimination. This initiative will focus on improved targeting of discrimination tests, increased testing and increased public awareness efforts. "We will help open doors for people as they search for housing. We will not allow discrimination to serve as a deadbolt on the dream of safe accommodations for their family," said Attorney General Alberto Gonzales in a recent press release. To read more about this visit the United States Department of Justice Fair Housing page at <http://www.usdoj.gov/crt/housing/fairhousing/>.

Enterprise Income Verification (EIV)

In September, Enterprise Income Verification (EIV) will replace TASS, the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD) database used by owner/agents to perform up-front income verification. The TASS database allows owners/agents to obtain Social Security/Supplemental Security Income (SS/SSI) benefit information and benefit history reports for use in the recertification process. In addition to incorporating all of the existing TASS information, the EIV system will include the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) National Directory of New Hires (NDNH) data. The NDNH data consists of employment and income information reported to states by employers and submitted to the NDNH. While information in NDNH is not currently available for multifamily housing users, HUD is working with HHS to allow multifamily housing users access to the data to use for upfront verification purposes. Multifamily housing users are encouraged to start familiarizing themselves with the EIV system now. The *Multifamily Housing EIV User Administration Manual*, which provides instructions on the use of EIV, and the EIV Multifamily Housing User Agreement and Rules of Behavior can be found at <http://www.hud.gov/offices/hsg/mfh/rhiip/mfhrhiip.cfm>, under the "What's New?" section.

CAHSA Next Comes to the Convention

Members of the CAHSA Next Planning Committee met last month to discuss the CAHSA Mentor Program and gear up for CAHSA's Annual Convention and Exhibition, May 11-12 at the Vail Marriott Mountain Resort and Spa. Nexters who attend the Leadership Pre-Conference session on May 10 are encouraged to stay after for a special reception sponsored by Health Dimensions Group. Be sure to stop by the CAHSA Next Saloon during the Reception with Exhibitors to learn more about the CAHSA Next initiative and sign up for your chance to win a free iPod!

CAHSA Next Listserv

Don't forget, we've created a listserv for CAHSA Next. If you are on the listserv and would like to send a message to the CAHSA Next group (an invitation to an event, a job posting, a question, etc.), simply send an email to cahsanext@cahsa.org. If you would like to reply to a message, unless your response applies to the whole group, please send an email **only** to the person who sent the original message (if you just hit reply it will go to the entire group). If at anytime you would like to be taken off the listserv or would like to have someone added, please contact Karen Simmering at karen@cahsa.org or 303-837-8834.

CAHSA Next Planning Committee Meeting

Wednesday, June 21, 2006

Noon-2 p.m. (lunch will be provided)

Total Longterm Care—Cody Center

Contact Bethany Novak (BNovak@totallongtermcare.org) or Jen Naber (JNaber@totallongtermcare.org) for directions or more information.

Resources

Feds Offer Wage and Hour Information Online and by Phone

The Wage and Hour Division of the U.S. Department of Labor is making more information available electronically to providers. On its web site, <http://www.wagehour.dol.gov>, a wide range of employment law information are listed, including workplace posters and health care fact sheets through the "Quick Finder" on the bottom of the homepage. There is also a toll-free hotline, 1-866-487-9243.

-Source: *WALA Watch*, March 06

NIA Seeks Participants for Alzheimer's Disease Study

Eight hundred older adults are being sought for the Alzheimer's Disease Neuroimaging Initiative (ADNI), a project developed by the National Institutes of Health, to identify biological markers of memory decline and Alzheimer's disease. The \$60 million, five-year ADNI study is sponsored by the National Institute on Aging (NIA) and supported by more than a dozen other federal agencies, private sector companies and organizations. Investigators at 58 local study sites across the U.S. and Canada will be asking people ages 55 to 90 to become part of the research. ADNI researchers will employ serial magnetic resonance imaging (MRI); positron emission tomography (PET); measurement of various biological compounds in blood, cerebrospinal fluid and urine; and clinical and neuropsychological assessments to track mild cognitive impairment (MCI) and early Alzheimer's disease progressions. The 800 adults sought for the study will be divided into three groups—approximately 200 cognitively normal older people will be followed for three years, 400 people with MCI will be followed for three years and 200 people with early Alzheimer's will be followed for two years.

-The complete article summarized here appeared in *Adult Day Services Letter*, a publication of Health Resources Publishing, 1913 Atlantic Avenue, Suite F4, Manasquan, NJ 08736, 888-843-6242; fax 888-329-6242; hpr@healthrespubs.com. Carolyn Pense, editor, cpense@healthresourcesonline.com.

Eagle County Senior Care Consultant Request for Proposal/Qualifications

Eagle County Government requests proposals and qualifications of experienced individuals or firms to assist Eagle County in defining and creating a successful business model for development and operation of senior care and independent living facilities in Eagle, Colo. A pre-response conference is scheduled for Wednesday, May 3, at 10 a.m. at the Eagle County Building in Eagle, Colo. Response to this request is due by 3 p.m. on Wednesday, June 14. The full request is available at www.eaglecounty.us.

Green House Project Workshop in Denver May 18

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) has awarded a \$10 million grant to help spur the widespread adoption of the "Green House," an innovative model for skilled-nursing care. The Green House is a total rethinking of the architecture, organization, staffing and philosophy of care normally associated with nursing homes. The RWJF has funded a five-year rapid replication initiative. The goal of this initiative is to create Green Houses in every state by 2010. To achieve this goal the Green House Project is sponsoring educational workshops throughout the country. There will be a one-day workshop in Denver on Thursday, May 18, at a venue TBD. The cost is \$100 per participant. The workshop is designed to educate and provide information to organizations that are interested in adopting the model. Architects, researchers, and others who want to learn more are also welcome. Please visit www.thegreenhouseproject.com for more information about registering.

Alzheimer's Resource

Alzbrain.org is a comprehensive web site devoted to Alzheimer's disease and dementia. The site offers many resources including caregiver's toolkits, pictures, behavior issues, fact sheets and much more. Visit this great site at www.alzbrain.org.

Nonprofit Opportunity to Distribute "Caregiver Magazine"

Caregiver Magazine, an informative resource and forum to share challenges and ideas for people caring for a loved one, offers free magazines to nonprofit organizations for distribution at conferences. Contact *Caregiver Magazine* at the link below and they will provide complimentary magazines for your conference attendees. All you pay is shipping and handling. If you are interested, visit the web site at <http://www.caregiver.com/index.asp>.

Non-Profit Health Plan Serves Medically Underserved

Colorado Access, a nonprofit health plan developed for medically underserved Colorado residents, forwarded information to CAHSA to provide to members. This information may be relevant for your residents. The information pertains to a Medicare Special Needs plan that offers a non-emergency transportation benefit, Part D prescription coverage, extra dental, vision and hearing benefits for no plan premiums. For more information, visit www.coaccess.org. Or call 1-877-287-6767. Established in late 1994, Colorado Access is sponsored by The Children's Hospital, Colorado Community Managed Care Network and University of Colorado Hospital/University Physicians, Inc.

People & Places

Altitude Edge Consultants has introduced a new risk adjustment service for health care organizations to help manage changing Medicare payment methodologies. Specifically, the service will help Programs of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) and other Medicare managed-care organizations understand how these changes impact the organizations and how to develop processes to ensure accurate reimbursement. For more information, visit www.altitudeedge.com or call 303-748-6762.

The chapel at **The Little Sisters of the Poor—Mullen Home** celebrated Holy Thursday with a full house, and a photo of the service ran in the *Rocky Mountain News* on Friday.

The Board of Directors of **Total Longterm Care** has named a new CEO, **Maureen Hewitt**. Maureen has worked in the health care field for 16 years in a variety of settings, including rehabilitation units, nursing homes, outpatient clinics, and most recently as COO of California-based Episcopal Homes Foundation, which operates five CCRCs and two affordable housing projects. She has worked in leadership positions in both the for-profit and not-for-profit settings.

“Treasures: A Celebration of Age” is the theme for May’s National Older Americans Month. In celebration, **Hover Community** will celebrate with a fun-filled week of events during “Homes for the Aging Week,” held May 14-20.

Hover Community members’ treasures, including a ‘53 Dodge pickup and a ‘59 Chevy pickup, will be the focus of one display, and Longmont community treasures such as the historic Hover home will be another display feature. Hover Community treasures—its residents, staff and volunteers—will be celebrated at a yard party and barbeque. The week-long celebration will culminate with an Open House on Sunday, May 21, from 2 to 4 p.m. Tours of the facility, visits with residents and staff as well as entertainment and refreshments will be offered. This event is free and open to the public. For more information, contact **Vickie Stotler** at 303-772-9292 x212 or vickiestotler@hovercommunity.org.

Several **Holly Creek Retirement Community** residents and staff were featured in *The Villager*. The article highlighted how the wood-working seniors express their faith and give back to the community by making toys for the “Toys for God’s Kids” program, a non-profit organization that provides handmade and attractive wooden toys to needy children worldwide.

Golden West Senior Residence will hold its annual spaghetti dinner fundraiser on Saturday, May 20, in the main dining room at Golden West, 1055 Adams Circle in Boulder. Seatings will take place at both 5 and 6:30 p.m. All proceeds from the event go to benefit the Golden West Foundation’s Wellness Fund, which provides scholarships (full and partial) to residents who wish to participate in activities but cannot afford the price of a Wellness Center membership. Call 303-444-3967 for ticket prices, reservations or more information. Advance notice for groups of six or more is appreciated.

John Torres, executive director of **Golden West Senior Residence** in Boulder successfully wrote and submitted the following letter to the Boulder *Daily Camera* to thank legislators and the Joint Budget Committee for supporting funding for home- and community-based services with part of the Referendum C funds available this year. Other CAHSA members, including **Dean Painter** of **Eaton Senior Terrace** in Lakewood submitted similar letters to their local papers:

Daily Camera

April 15, 2006

REFC

Your money is serving them well

To voters of Colorado, please know that Referendum C money you approved last fall is going toward good programs. Recently, the state Legislature’s Joint Budget Committee allocated increased funding for programs and services that support seniors. Specifically, the JBC allocated funding for Footnote 50a, an initiative that was begun several years ago to back services for our state’s very low-income aging population, so that they may receive services delivered in a variety of settings. This is a very smart investment by the state.

Our organization is mission-driven. Over 50% of the residents we serve in assisted living are recipients of Medicaid. It is a huge challenge for us to maintain this level of charitable care from year to year. The funds from Ref C will help us to continue to serve those frail elderly persons who are greatest in need for financial and personal support on a daily basis.

By funding many options for aging services, public funds are more equitably distributed between nursing homes and home- and community-based services, including options such as adult day centers, assisted living, home care and in-home personal care. As a result, money is saved as the most costly option, nursing home care, is reserved for when it is really needed. I would like to commend the Legislature and the JBC for honoring this commitment to seniors and Colorado voters who supported Ref C.

-JOHNA. TORRES

Design Matters



by William Brummett
President, William Brummett Architects

Research Surveys Area Facilities

Discovering where design is lacking and what structures are hitting the mark can be challenging. However, it is necessary to periodically take stock so that designs can be adjusted to changing demands. To evaluate the current needs of senior living providers, my firm recently completed a research project. The project surveyed continuing care retirement communities (CCRC), adult day providers, skilled nursing facilities and hospices in the Rocky Mountain Region. This project, sponsored by Community Capital Corporation, Palace Construction and It's Never 2 Late, was designed to assess the current condition and physical amenities of these settings and gain insight directly from providers regarding specific design elements. Some of the key findings are summarized below.

CCRC

The average length of stay at surveyed CCRCs was five years, and the average age of residents upon entering was 83.4 years (a great deal older than many imagine). Almost three-quarters (73%) of respondents said they have some form of wellness center, although the scope, size, and amenities varied greatly. The most desirable amenity, as reported by both staff and residents, was a pool.

Adult Day Programs

Average length of use by participants in adult day programs surveyed was 23 months, with an average age of 76.7 years. This number was likely skewed by younger adult program participants. Half of respondents said their average daily census is increasing, particularly those in western metro Denver. This survey uncovered the fact that 53.1% of respondents said they had some participants with significant confusion, yet only 7% believed their building was designed to meet the needs of those with confusion.

Skilled Nursing Facilities

The average length of stay in skilled nursing facilities surveyed shows a dramatic drop to 23.2 days. Almost six of 10 (57.2%) respondents said they have residents with some form of significant confusion, of those, 44% reported no special accommodation for confused residents. When asked what design element providers thought was most desired and most important, both in terms of serving residents and marketing their facility, almost all listed private rooms as the single most important design attribute.

Hospice

Although the demand for hospice services is growing, currently there is a lack of purpose-built hospice settings. To gather an adequate amount of data, our survey reach was expanded to include surrounding states. The average length of stay was 18.8 days, and the average age was 70.1 years. Less than half (42%) of those surveyed said their census was increasing, 58% said their census was steady, and none said their census was dropping. Spaces respondents said were most used were spas, serenity/spiritual/quiet rooms, and outdoor access. Design attributes included an emphasis on creating a homelike setting, flexibility to accommodate changing needs and clients, and private rooms.

This survey allowed us to analyze the most effective, desirable and functional designs for a wide spectrum of senior care options. Weighing the results for each category will enable future designers to create usable spaces that enhance the overall environment.

The complete survey results, including research methodology, are available on the web, but require a password. Please contact my office at 720-570-2302 to request the research password. Once the password is obtained, the report is available for download at www.brummettarchitects.com under "Our Research." All participants in the research project will receive a mailer with the access password.

I would like to thank all the providers who took the time and energy to help us with this valuable project. Your honesty will help create more thoughtful and functional senior living environments.

Design Matters is brought to you by William Brummett, principal of William Brummett Architects. If you have an idea for a 'Design Matters' column, contact Bill at wba@brummettarchitects.com or call 720-570-2302.

Did You Know?

Survey Finds U.S. Ranks Last Among Six Nations in Patient Safety

While the U.S. spends more than other countries on health care, it ranks lower in the eyes of patients on safety, efficiency, equity and other measures of care, according to two new reports. The reports released by the Commonwealth Fund detail findings from surveys of adults' health care experiences in the United States, Australia, Canada, Germany, New Zealand and the United Kingdom.

The U.S. health care system was top among countries in terms of effectiveness, but it ranked last for equity, efficiency, patient safety and patient-centeredness. It ranked third for timeliness of care. But compared to other countries, the U.S. spends more on health care as a percentage of gross domestic product. The U.S. spent \$5,635 per person on health care in 2003. Next was Canada, which spent \$3,003 per person. New Zealand spent the least - \$1,886 per person.

-Source: McKnight's LTC Daily News Update

May 14 -20 is National Women's Health Week

Take the Woman Challenge, an eight-week challenge to increase physical activity beginning Sunday, May 14, Mother's Day. For more information visit www.womenshealth.gov.

The CAHSA Calendar

May 3-5 ALFA 2006 Conference & Expo
San Diego



Get more information on these events from our website - www.cahsa.org

May 10-12 CAHSA 2006 Convention
Vail Marriott Mountain Resort & Spa

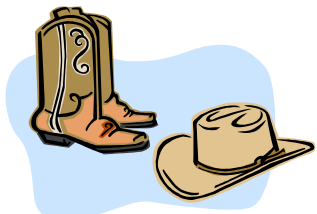
May 17 CAHSA Adult Day Coalition
Rocky Mountain Health Care Service
10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Don't miss the CAHSA 2006 Convention!



Featuring... A "Western Round-up"
and Poker Party

sponsored by Total Longterm Care



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