



# Week's *Wirth*

June 4, 2010

Now that the annual convention is over and summer is underway it's once again time to shift to publication of *Week's Wirth*. That doesn't mean we are finished with our "focus on the Capitol," however. On May 26<sup>th</sup> Governor Ritter signed into law HB 1053. This is the bill that CAHSA worked to get introduced and passed. As introduced, the bill allows the Department of Health Care Policy & Financing (HCPF) to accept private funds to contract for a study of Medicaid Reimbursement for Alternative Care Facilities and make recommendations for a new payment methodology. As amended and signed into law, the bill also allows for a study of the cost-effectiveness of the Older Coloradans programs, allows the State Unit on Aging to accept private funds to update the Strategic Plan on Aging, and directs HCPF to pass regulations to allow Medicaid Adult Day programs to offer restricted environments. Our lobbyist, Fofi Mendez, will provide an update on what's next along with a "Capitol Report" on June 22<sup>nd</sup> at our CAHSA Connections membership meeting.

Also presenting at the June 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting is PR expert Jon Pushkin who will speak on "Reputation Management." Our Adult Day members will meet over lunch immediately following these sessions, and our nursing home members will meet after lunch to hear from HCPF Medicaid staff on reimbursement changes, a presentation on the MDS 3.0, and an update on the Advancing Excellence Campaign. A registration flyer is attached and we ask that you register no later than June 15<sup>th</sup> if you plan to attend any/all of these presentations and/or breakout membership meetings.

Last week I attended the Assisted Living Federation of America (ALFA) Annual Conference & Expo along with several CAHSA members. ALFA is celebrating their 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year and in recognition of this milestone they unveiled a professionally produced video and song, penned in honor of ALFA's "serving seniors" mission and performed by staff from ALFA member senior living communities nationwide. I emailed a link to the video and song to all members yesterday on CAHSA Connect. If you missed it you can also find it on ALFA's YouTube channel.

At that same YouTube channel you can also view the ALFA Heroes Awards video clips. Every year the winners inspire and remind us why we are committed to working with seniors. This year's winners are no exception. Speaking of winners, be sure to offer congratulations to Barbara Dice, CEO of Castle Country Assisted Living, for winning a Best of the Best award for a second year in a row. Other ALFA video highlights include current and former leaders of ALFA talking about the pillars on which ALFA's public policy and advocacy efforts rest: Choice, Independence, Dignity, and Quality of Life. Another video, "Taking it to the Hill," provides highlights of ALFA's advocacy "fly-in days" held earlier this year. It provides a great look at what those hill visits in DC are like and I encourage you to check it out. It may motivate you to attend the 2011 fly-in scheduled for February 15-17<sup>th</sup>. ALFA plans to post session highlights and audio files from the sessions on their website, so stay tuned.