

The Academy Weekly

News & Information for LTC Providers



The Academy of Senior Health Sciences, Inc.

www.seniorhealthsciences.org

Week of 29 May 2022

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Ohio News

General Assembly heads into summer break

The General Assembly wrapped-up a busy week as they head into summer break. HB 466 (staffing agency regulation) and HB 461 (private rooms) remain in the House Finance Committee. The Senate amended HB 371 to extend the deadline to commence construction 24 months for certain CON projects because of COVID and to allow the transfer of certain CONs. That bill has been passed by both chambers, and the House accepted the Senate amendments. Bills related to rebasing nursing home direct care rates for SFY 2023 also stalled in their respective chambers. The GA may meet again prior to the elections and there will most likely be lame duck sessions in November. ([Back to top.](#))

State creates task force to address direct care worker shortage

Ohio has created an inter-agency task force to address the direct care shortage. From the announcement: "Direct care workers are the cornerstone of Ohio's healthcare system. They help older adults, people with disabilities, and those with special healthcare needs remain connected to their communities and live as fully and independently as possible, with the safety, dignity, and respect they deserve. Due to the emotionally and physically demanding job duties, coupled with low wages and the perceived lack of advancement opportunities, Ohio continues to face a growing deficit of direct care workers. The volatility in this space impacts consumers' access to care and the quality of care provided to those in need. Direct care worker shortages stretch across the various provider types and program models.

Recognizing these challenges, several state agencies are partnering with stakeholders to identify potential solutions for both the state as a whole and Ohio's communities. While much discussion has focused on competitive wages, the state would like to explore every possible option. A task force will meet over the next several months, with invited expert testimony and extensive opportunities for public comment (written and oral)." We will keep you updated on the activities of the task force. ([Back to top.](#))

ODM launches "fans and filters" CMP program

ODM is now accepting applications for the statewide Indoor Visitation CMP project, which allows nursing facilities to use up to \$3,000 per facility to purchase portable fans and portable room air cleaners with HEPA H-13 or -14 filters to facilitate safe indoor visitation. [Please click here for a document containing details](#) about the application, approval, and reimbursement process. ([Back to top.](#))

Repost: Rules to recover relief funds from the sale of beds, business

As reported in last week's edition, The Ohio Department of Medicaid has released draft rules related to the recoupment of pandemic relief dollars with the sale of licensed beds or business. The rules provide some guidance on the section [in H.B. 169](#) that states "Any nursing facility that receives funds under this section that sells any of its business or bed licenses on or before June 30, 2023, shall reimburse the state, from the proceeds of the sale, the funds distributed under this section." The proposed rules, [available by clicking here](#), specify that "sale" means entering into a purchase agreement or similar document between March 29, 2022 and June 30, 2023 that outlines the terms of the purchase and results in the payment of money for the business or bed license, regardless of when the payment occurs. The

reimbursement of funds are only for sales during that time period and is only up to the amount of the relief funds. The Academy is waiting a response from ODM on clarifying questions. Nursing home providers are also reminded that the relief funds are only to be spent on direct care staff compensation. ([Back to top.](#))



National News

HHS gives states one more year to spend HCBS ARP

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has notifying states that they now have an additional year — through March 31, 2025 — to use funding made available by the American Rescue Plan (ARP) to enhance, expand, and strengthen home- and community-based services (HCBS) for people with Medicaid who need long-term services and supports. Section 9817 of the American Rescue Plan provides states with a temporary 10 percentage point increase to the federal medical assistance percentage (FMAP) for certain Medicaid expenditures for HCBS. This ARP funding allows states to identify and implement changes aimed at addressing existing HCBS workforce and structural issues. It will also help expand states' capacity to provide critical services and meet the needs of family caregivers and people on HCBS waitlists. Moreover, states can use these funds to tailor HCBS activities based on the needs and priorities of their residents. [Ohio's plan to use these funds is available here.](#)

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MLN Connects Newsletter

[News](#)

- [Medicare Shared Savings Program: Application Deadlines for January 1 Start Date](#)

[Claims, Pricers, & Codes](#)

- [ICD-10-PCS Procedure Codes: Fiscal Year 2023](#)

- [July 2022 Integrated Outpatient Code Editor \(I/OCE\) Specifications Version 23.2](#)

Multimedia

- [Inpatient Rehabilitation Facility & Long-Term Care Hospital Virtual Training Program – Part 1](#)

[Click here to view this edition online.](#)

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Keep October 27 & 28 open for the ASHS Fall Conference in Columbus!

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ODDS AND ENDS

ASHS updates mission, creates vision, statement

The Academy of Senior Health Sciences, Inc. Board of Directors recently voted to update their mission statement and create a vision statement. The statements were made to reflect ASHS's commitment to developing solutions that create better outcomes for both residents and providers:

Mission Statement: The mission of The Academy of Senior Health Sciences is to promote and advocate for issues that improve the quality of life of individuals receiving facility-based long-term care services and supports and improve the well-being of the staff and businesses that provide those services.

Vision Statement: The Academy of Senior Health Sciences strives to be the leader in developing innovative business strategies and public policies that create a quality driven facility-based long-term services and support industry to the benefit of both recipients and providers.

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NOTABLE DATES OR EVENTS

[HCIC Program Ends](#)
07 June 2022

[CMP Visitation Grant](#)
Ends 31 May 2022

H.B. 120
Compassionate Care
Effective 19 July 2022

[Click here for QIO training series.](#)

[Click here for QIO Booster Blitz series.](#)

[Click here for CMS NH COVID-19 Training Modules](#)

[Click here to view CGS Part A training events](#)

[Click here to view CGS Part B training events](#)

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