



Helping innovative long-term care professionals provide quality health care to Ohioans.

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**House passes budget; Senate prepares to move forward** – The House passed House Bill 1, the budget bill, with few changes regarding Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF) reimbursement from the Substitute Bill passed by Finance Committee last week. Although the bill returns SNF funding to their current levels, the Academy still has concerns. The bill retains the franchise permit fee increase of \$4.75 and fails to provide any relief for many providers for the tax increase. Most of these same providers would also receive Medicaid rate reductions, putting a significant burden on them. Last minute changes found in an omnibus amendment adopted earlier this week included increased funding for adult protective services, libraries and food banks. The bill, passed along party lines, increased spending by \$600 million over the Governor’s original proposal. The additional funds are the result of using higher revenue projections and increased federal drawdown from the federal stimulus dollars because of the increase in Ohio’s unemployment rate. The budget bill heads to the Senate, where members have already expressed concern over the use of one-time funds and what the state of Ohio’s finances will be heading into the 2012-2013 biennium if the House version of the bill becomes law. Those issues, along with the possibility if more revenue shortfalls for the current biennium, suggest a possible contentious conference committee this June. ([Back to top](#)).

**Golf outing success depends on YOU** – The upcoming OANH Political Action Committee (PAC) Golf Outing is the Academy’s largest annual PAC fundraiser, and its success depends on YOU. If you aren’t participating, then you aren’t helping the PAC earn funds to give the Academy a strong voice in legislative matters. **We need you to golf, sponsor a hole or donate a prize and make this year’s outing a HIT!** Register now to show members you support their association by being a part of this annual member favorite. This year the outing will take place on **Monday, May 18** at the private Medallion Club in Westerville, Ohio. Registration and lunch will begin at 11:30 a.m. with a shotgun start at 1 p.m. After a challenging game of golf, attendees will stay at the course for food, drinks and prizes at the “19<sup>th</sup> Hole” reception. Prices are \$250 per golfer or \$950 per foursome. Registration brochures have been mailed and you can also view the brochure at [www.oanh.org](http://www.oanh.org). For more information and to discuss sponsorship opportunities, contact [Dawn Kennedy](#). ([Back to top](#)).

**Learn from former ODH investigator how the state defines abuse and neglect** – Facilities often struggle to correctly define abuse and neglect. Learn from former ODH investigator, Robert Reed of the Critical Incident Group how to correctly define abuse and neglect and when you must report an incident. This and much more will be offered at “**Definitions of Abuse & Neglect.**” This new regional education program will be held Thursday, May 14 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in

Columbus. It has been approved for four (4) hours of CEU from BENHA. Academy members may attend this program for \$89 and non-members may attend for \$129. A member facility may send three employees for the discounted price of \$199, a savings of \$68! Watch your fax for more information or you can register online at <http://www.oanh.org/educationalofferings.shtml>. For questions, contact [Dawn Kennedy](#). ([Back to top](#)).

**Accu Medical provides cost-effective waste disposal** – Accu Medical Waste Service, Inc. is a full service medical waste management company headquartered in Marietta that provides the legal transportation and disposal of regulated medical waste. An [Academy Premier Partner](#), Accu Medical provides support and assistance in the implementation of cost effective medical waste management programs for the health care profession. The company utilizes the latest technology and the most environmentally friendly methods of disposal of all medical waste. Most waste is treated by autoclaving, a non-polluting method that complies with all federal and state requirements. Accu Medical's services include:

- medical waste transportation and disposal
- skilled, trained and professional personnel
- efficient, well-maintained equipment
- prompt, dependable pick-up service
- documentation of statutory requirements and guidelines

Take advantage of Accu Medical's special pricing for Academy members by emailing [Doug Parks](#), or contact him via phone at 740/373-1168. Visit Accu Medical at [www.accumedicalservices.com](http://www.accumedicalservices.com). ([Back to top](#)).

**“Fire Prevention” offered in July** – Mark your calendars now for the OANH regional education program **“Fire Prevention.”** This popular class will be in Cleveland on Tuesday, July 14; Columbus on Thursday, July 16; and Cincinnati on Wednesday, July 22. Each class will feature both a Fire Safety Educator and a Code Enforcement Official. “Fire Prevention” has been approved for four (4) hours of CEU from BENHA. Academy members may attend this program for \$89 and non-members may attend for \$129. A member facility may send three employees for the discounted price of \$199, a savings of \$68! Watch your faxes and email for more information. ([Back to top](#)).

**PASRR rules head to clearance** – The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services put the Preadmission Screening and Resident Review (PASRR) proposed rule changes into clearance last week. The general public now has two weeks to review the rules and make comments. The proposed rule changes are the result of the Front Door Stakeholder Group, which includes The Academy, that meets to discuss rule changes related to the Money Follows the Person federal grant. The proposed rules make several changes to the PASRR process including updating forms and notification to allow for better tracking, increasing the role of community providers in finding placement for MI residents, and requiring a PAS if an adverse determination was made within the past sixty days. The rules do not change the definition of specialized services. The group will meet to review clearance comments prior to sending the rules to the Joint Committee on Rule Review sometime in June. For more information, contact [Chris Murray](#). ([Back to top](#)).

**Update from CMS** – The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) recently released the following information of interest to long-term care providers:

- **Survey & Certification Memos**
  - [S&C 09-31: The power point slides associated with S&C Memo 09-31 have recently been released.](#)
  - [Download S&C 09-33, "Survey and Certification Issues Related to Swine Flu Outbreak."](#)
- **Swine Flu**
  - The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reported the human swine flu outbreak continues to grow in the United States and internationally. As of April 28, 2009 at 11:00 a.m., the CDC reported a total of 64 laboratory confirmed cases in the U.S., including one case in Ohio. At this time, no confirmed cases have been reported in Ohio long-term care facilities. For more information about the swine flu, including information about transmission and prevention, please visit [www.odh.ohio.gov](http://www.odh.ohio.gov) or call the Ohio swine flu information line at 1-866-800-1404.
  - HHS has worked with CDC to create a small-footprint widget that brings people to three primary categories of information (general, the investigation and what people can do). HHS would appreciate our partners placing the widget on as many home and related pages as possible. The English version is available immediately. A Spanish version should be available

this weekend. The widget with code is available from <http://www.cdc.gov/swineflu/>

- **Investigative Protocol for Weight Loss in Nursing Homes**

[Transmittal 42, State Operations Manual](#), is a revision to Appendix P, Task 5, Subtask 5C. The Investigative Protocol for Weight Loss in Nursing Homes has been removed from Appendix P and Appendix P has been so revised. The investigative protocol is now in Appendix PP at F325.

- **OASIS**

[View the latest Q & As related to OASIS](#). A new version of OASIS version is coming, and changes include deletion of items not used for payment, quality or risk adjustment; revisions to some existing items; and addition of new items to support process measures. There will be an Open Door Forum on the changes and a vendor call in the summer, and there will be training in the Fall.

- **HCPCS Update**

CMS is pleased to announce the scheduled release of modifications to the Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS) code set. These changes have been posted to the HCPCS web page at [http://www.cms.hhs.gov/HCPCSReleaseCodeSets/02\\_HCPCS\\_Quarterly\\_Update.asp](http://www.cms.hhs.gov/HCPCSReleaseCodeSets/02_HCPCS_Quarterly_Update.asp). Changes are effective on the date indicated on the update. ([Back to top](#)).

***The Academy Advocate can open the door to potential business*** – The Summer issue of *The Academy Advocate* is coming soon! Utilize this professional resource to help grow your business!

- **Contribute Now!** With an exciting new look and design, the upcoming summer issue of *The Academy Advocate* can help your business grow in this challenging economy. When you contribute and ad or an article, your company name will be in front of industry leaders and colleagues in the long-term care profession. To place an ad, email it to [Christina O'Neal](#) in a PDF or JPG format. Go to <http://www.oanh.org/bus-dev.pdf> to view all ad prices and specs. To contribute a timely article on your industry (not an op-ed or sales pitch) you must sign the [article release form](#) and email a professional headshot of the author to [Christina O'Neal](#). All ads and articles are due no later than Monday, June 1. The editorial staff cannot guarantee that an article received after this date or due to space will be published. Burgie MediaFusion will publish the magazine.
- **Voice your opinion and get a free education course!** What more could you ask for? You get to tell the readers of the *Academy Advocate* what you are doing at your facility and be rewarded with a free education course. As part of *The Academy Advocate* redesign, the magazine will have a new feature "Member Viewpoint." In this section, members will address specific questions relating to a long-term care issue. If you answer the question and your answer is published, you will receive a coupon for a free Academy education course. This issue's question is: "**Community exposure is part of any facility's successful marketing campaign. How does your facility gain exposure in your local community?**" Answers (250 words or less) can be emailed to [Dawn Kennedy](#) and must include your name, position, the facility's name and a headshot of the author. All answers should be emailed prior to May 22 and authors of published answers will be notified on June 5. ([Back to top](#)).

**I-9 Form updated** – The I-9 Form, which must be completed for every new hire, and the process has recently been updated. View the short [summary of the changes](#) to the I-9 Form and the [new I-9 Form](#). The Employer's handbook prepared by the US Citizenship and Immigration Commission can be obtained at: <http://www.uscis.gov/files/nativedocuments/m-274.pdf>.

(Source: Salsbury & Salsbury, A Legal Professional Association, [www.salsburylaw.com](http://www.salsburylaw.com).)

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**Registration now open for Ohio Person-Centered Care Coalition conference** – [Click here](#) to register for the 2009 Ohio Person-Centered Care Coalition conference, "Our Residents: The Heart of It All", scheduled for June 2 at the Aladdin Shrine Center in Columbus. The conference is from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and registration and breakfast begins at 7:30 a.m. The conference has been approved for six (6) hours of CEU from BENHA and registration is \$60/person before May 15. Breakout sessions will be held focusing on three domains of culture change: care practices, work place practices and the environment. For the agenda, speaker biographies, area hotels and the conference brochure go to <http://www.centeredcare.org/conference2009/default.asp>. ([Back to top](#)).