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ULTCB Workgroup meets after long hiatus – The Unified Long-Term Care Budget (ULTCB) Workgroup met late last week for the first time in almost a year. The workgroup, comprised of special interest groups and administrators including the Skilled Nursing Care Coalition, was conceived in the FY08 and FY09 budget bill to create a single budget for long-term care (LTC) services. Ohio Department of Aging (ODA) Director Riley presented to the workgroup an overview of legislation in House Bill 1 (the current budget bill) that is the result of the progress the workgroup made over the last two years. These include consolidation of the ODA's funding for LTC services into one line item, the ability to apply to CMS for a single waiver, and fully funding and expanding the waiver programs. The ULTCB Workgroup will enter the second stage of developing the unified budget by creating several subcommittees to address outstanding issues. The subcommittees will address topics such as level of care changes, regional collaboration among agencies and service providers, follow-up assessments of LTC service recipients, single aging waiver, and non-Medicaid LTC services. The Academy will update you on the subcommittees and progress of the ULTCB Workgroup in future editions of the *Weekly*. ([Back to top](#)).

Congratulations PAC Golf Outing winners – The Academy would like to thank all of the golfers and sponsors of the sixth annual OANH PAC Golf Outing. The weather was beautiful and everyone was excited to hit the greens on May 18 at the private Medallion Club. The outing was a huge success with a record amount of money being raised to support the OANH PAC.

Congratulations to the following winners of the 2009 OANH PAC Golf Outing:

- **First Place** – Paul Dauerman, Peregrine Health Services, Inc.; Tom McGowan; Dave Driver; Mike Franks
- **Second Place** – Patty Scott, UBS; Ryan Rieckhoff; Brian Sand
- **Third Place** – Marty Larnhart, The Douglas Company; Tonya Hahn, The Douglas Company; Greg Cini; Mosaic Design Studio; Mike Healy
- **Longest Drive (Men)** – Giuseppi Lancia, Lancia Nursing Homes
- **Longest Drive (Women)** – Tanya Hahn, The Douglas Company
- **Longest Putt** – Jay Henrick
- **Closest to the Pin** – Marcus Banasik

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CMS instructs surveyors regarding residents' one-time benefit payments – On May 15, 2009, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) released S&C 09-38 (see related story below), which directs state survey and certification agencies to issue citations to facilities that mishandle one-time stimulus benefits that many nursing home residents will receive beginning this month. The government has mandated that these benefit checks are for the resident's personal use, and the facility may not use the funds toward payment for the cost of resident's care. CMS has directed surveyors to investigate complaints regarding these of these funds under F tags related to mismanagement and misappropriation of resident's funds (F158-F162 and F224). To download more information, [click here](#).

(Source: Benesch Friedlander Coplan & Aronoff LLP, <http://www.beneschlaw.com>)

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Policy papers on federal health reform released – Senator Max Baucus, Chair of the Senate Finance Committee and Senator Chuck Grassley, ranking member of the Senate Finance Committee, have released the third and final policy options paper on health reform. The policy options paper, *Financing Comprehensive Health Care Reform: Proposed Health System Savings and Revenue Options*, examines health tax subsidies, changes in non-health tax provisions, and reducing current spending as areas of potential savings. This paper and the two previously released policy option papers have been the basis for discussions on health reform leading up to legislation expected in the Senate Finance Committee next month. To view the policy options paper, [click here](#).

(Source: Ohio Association of County Behavioral Health Authorities, May 20, 2009)

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Save the date for "Fire Prevention" – Mark your calendars now as the Academy's most popular regional education program "**Fire Prevention**" is back and slated for July. This 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 local 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. [\(Back to top\)](#).

ODA proposes rule changes to AL Program, certification – The Ohio Department of Aging (ODA) recently released proposed changes to the Assisted Living Program and certification of providers. The rule changes range from administration and payment practices to clarification on certification requirements. The rules are also being reorganized to make it easier to find information on the program. Details of the proposed rule changes can be found here:

<http://www.aging.ohio.gov/resources/publications/173-38PHN.pdf>. For more information, please contact [Chris Murray](#). [\(Back to top\)](#).

ODMRDD releases memos for daily billing reimbursement changes and summer safety – The Ohio Department of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities (ODMRDD) released a memo regarding some substantial changes around the reimbursement process for claims which exceed a daily billing unit (DBU) rate of \$403.98. [The memo can be downloaded here](#). The department also reissued health and safety tips regarding summer activities (download [Part I](#) and [Part II](#)). [\(Back to top\)](#).

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

- **Survey & Certification Memos**

- [09-37: State Operations Manual \(SOM\) Appendix L, Ambulatory Surgical Centers \(ASC\) Comprehensive Revision \(5/15/09\)](#)

New ASC Conditions for Coverage (CfCs) take effect on May 18, 2009. SOM Appendix L has been revised: Part 1, Survey Protocol, has been added and the Interpretive Guidelines have been extensively updated to reflect the new and revised CfCs, as well as to provide more detailed guidance for existing CfCs. State Agency staff should review and incorporate the revised guidance into standard surveys beginning no later than July 15, 2009. The revised guidance should be incorporated into complaint surveys effective May 18, 2009. ASPEN Tags for ASC surveys have been revised and renumbered. ASPEN surveyor kits with the new tags and regulatory text will be available shortly after May 18.

- [09-38: One-Time Cash Benefit to Nursing Home Residents \(5/15/09\)](#)

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Recovery Act) provides for a one-time cash benefit of \$250 to certain eligible individuals who receive a Social Security benefit, Railroad Retirement pension, Veterans Administration disability pension, and Supplemental Security Income (SSI). Many nursing home residents will be eligible for the one-time cash benefit. The money is for the resident's personal use and not to pay the facility for cost of care. Facilities that receive the money directly on behalf of the resident must set the money aside in the resident's personal needs account. Surveyors should be mindful of these payments and investigate any complaints regarding the protection, management, and access of resident personal funds under the appropriate F tags (F158-F162 and F224). (See related story above.)

- **Five-Star Quality Rating System—May News**

The Five-Star provider preview reports began Wednesday, May 20, 2009. Providers can access the report from the Minimum Data Set (MDS) State Welcome pages available at the state servers for submission of Minimum Data Set data. Provider Preview access information:

- Visit the MDS State Welcome page available on the State servers where you submit MDS data to review your results.
- To access these reports, select the Certification and Survey Provider Enhanced Reports (CASPER) Reporting link located at the bottom of the login page.
- Once in the CASPER Reporting system,
 - i. Click on the 'Folders' button and access the Five-Star Report in your 'st LTC facid' folder,
 - ii. Where st is the two-digit postal code of the state in which your facility is located, and
 - iii. Facid is the state assigned facid of your facility.

BetterCare@cms.hhs.gov is available to address May's data concerns and/or issues. The helpline will reopen in July to coincide with quarterly Quality Measure (QM) data updates. Nursing Home Compare will update with May's Five-Star data on Thursday, May 28, 2009.

- **SNF PPS PC File Updated**

The FY 2009.0 SNF PPS PC Pricer has been updated with the latest April 2009 provider specific file (PSF) data. To download the latest FY 2009.0 version of the PC Pricer file (updated 05/14/2009), go to the "Skilled Nursing Facilities (SNF PPS) PC Pricer" web page http://www.cms.hhs.gov/PCPricer/04_SNF.asp under the "Downloads" section.

- **HIPAA Version 5010 Provider Education Call Scheduled**

CMS will host a national education conference call to address the implementation of HIPAA Version 5010 on Tuesday, June 9 from 2:30 to 4 p.m. This call is being conducted for all Medicare fee-for-service providers. The call will give a general overview of the transition to HIPAA Version 5010 and address some of the exceptions and situations you may encounter as the new version is implemented. A presentation will be given and CMS Subject Matter Experts will be available to answer questions. A PowerPoint presentation will be posted on the CMS 5010 web page prior to the call. View the 5010 web page [here](#). In order to receive the call-in information, you must register for the call. It is important to note that if you are planning to sit in with a group, only one person needs to register to receive the call-in data. This registration is solely to reserve a phone line, NOT to allow participation. If you cannot attend the call, replay information is available below. Registration will close at 2:30 p.m. on June 8, 2009, or when available space has been filled. No exceptions will be made, so please be sure to register prior to this time. To register for the call participants need to go to: <http://www2.eventsvc.com/palmettogba/060909>

- Fill in all required data.
- Verify your time zone is displayed correctly the drop down box.
- Click "Register".
- You will be taken to the "Thank you for registering" page and will receive a confirmation email shortly thereafter. **Note:** Please print and save this page, in the event that your server blocks the confirmation emails. If you do not receive the confirmation email, please check your spam/junk mail filter as it may have been directed there. ([Back to top](#)).

June 1 is your last chance to garner attention in the newly redesigned *Academy Advocate*

– June 1 will be your last chance to receive free recognition and possibly a free education course by participating in *The Academy Advocate*. There are three ways YOU can command attention:

- 1) **Purchase an ad.** Take advantage of this great marketing piece and purchase an ad that will be visible to every Academy owner and administrator. Show these industry leaders who you are, what you do and how you serve and support the Academy! To place an ad, email it to [Christina O'Neal](mailto:ChristinaO'Neal) in a PDF or JPG format. Go to <http://www.oanh.org/bus-dev.pdf> to view all ad prices and specs.

- 2) **Write an article.** We know there are many innovative administrators and DONs in the Academy and we want you to share your unique knowledge! Your colleagues will recognize you with your headshot prominently displayed next to your article. To contribute a timely article (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](#).
- 3) **Participate, and possibly win a free education course.** Any long-term care professional can receive a free education course if their answer is published in the new feature "Member Viewpoint." 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.

Please note: The editorial staff cannot guarantee that an article or ad received after June 1 will be published. Space limitations may also apply. Burgie MediaFusion will publish the magazine. ([Back to top](#)).

Ohio Person-Centered Care Coalition conference is right around the corner – [Click here](#) to register for the 2009 Ohio Person-Centered Care Coalition conference scheduled for June 2 at the Aladdin Shrine Center in Columbus. "Our Residents: The Heart of It All" will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and registration begins at 7:30 a.m. The conference has been approved for six (6) hours of CEU from BENHA. Breakout sessions will be focused care practices, work place practices and the environment. For the agenda, area hotels and speaker biographies go to <http://www.centeredcare.org/conference2009/default.asp>. ([Back to top](#)).