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Conference Committee hears revenue testimony – The Conference Committee for the budget bill heard testimony this week from budget gurus Director Tim Keen from the Office of Budget and Management and Director Mark Flanders from the Legislative Service Commission (LSC). Dir. Keen presented the committee with somewhat larger revenue estimates that were more in line with LSC's earlier estimates. Because the Senate had chosen to go with the LSC estimates, Dir. Keen noted that most of that additional revenue has been spent and about \$187 million would remain. LSC also provided higher revenue estimates that would suggest legislators have \$271.5 million more for FY 2012 and \$218.4 million more for FY 2013 compared to March estimates. While some legislators have indicated that the monies should be used to fill the rainy day fund, the Academy continues to advocate for some of the funds to offset the \$450 million cut to skilled nursing facilities. Conference committee is expected to wrap-up sometime next week. For more information, please contact [Chris Murray](#). ([Back to top](#)).

"Fire Prevention" class starts Monday! – Are you registered for "Fire Prevention: Safety & Code Enforcement?" If not, do so NOW as the program starts Monday. This popular regional education class will review common citations and answer questions specific to your facility. Each class will feature both a Fire Safety Educator and a Code Enforcement Official from the Ohio Department of Commerce Division of State Fire Marshal. "Fire Prevention: Safety & Code Enforcement" will be held from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and will include lunch. This class has been approved for four (4) hours of CEU from BENHA. Academy members may attend this popular 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! This is great opportunity for administrators, maintenance directors and nursing staff to learn together how to make their facilities safer.

Dates and locations:

- **Wilmington - Monday, June 20**
Roberts Centre
123 Gano Rd.
Wilmington, OH 45177
- **Cleveland - Tuesday, June 21**
Crowne Plaza (formerly Skyline Hotel)
5300 Rockside Rd.
Independence, OH 44131

NOTE: The Academy will be accepting registrations for this course via phone, fax and [online](#), until

Noon on Friday, June 17. After this, you may still come to the class, but will be considered a walk-in. For questions, contact [Dawn Kennedy](#). ([Back to top](#)).

Are you short CEUs for July 1 renewal? Go online! – If you are short a few CEUs for your July 1 administrator's license renewal, check out the Academy's virtual university. OANH online courses are a great way to obtain your CEUs without leaving your office. These online classes have been approved by the Board of Examiners of Nursing Home Administrators (BENHA), and administrators may use online or home study courses to fulfill up to five of their yearly 20-hour CEU requirement. Some of the classes include:

- Introduction to OSHA and the OSH Act
- Employment Law
- Managing Electronic Communication
- Customer Service
- Fire Safety
- Building Security

You may sample any class for free, with no commitment. If you would like to take the class and receive CEU credit from BENHA, the cost is \$20-\$25; however, Academy members receive a discount. Members will need to use a discount code, which is available by the logging into the OANH website. Go to www.oanhonline.org now to learn more about these courses. If you have any questions, please contact [Dawn Kennedy](#). ([Back to top](#)).

Neace Lukens Insurance and Risk Management can match your unique needs– June's OANH Premier Partner of the Month, Neace Lukens Insurance and Risk Management, can develop insurance, risk management and financial protection strategies that fit your unique needs. Neace Lukens also offers numerous programs to protect you and your business: Property & Casualty Insurance, Employee Benefits Insurance, CORE Solutions and Personal Lines Insurance. Their teams within each discipline work with you to construct organized programs that stabilize your entire organization. With the resources of a large firm—and the service of a local, independent office—they become your trusted insurance broker and risk assessment advisor for the long term. The unmatched experience of Neace Lukens gives their clients unparalleled products and services. For more information, contact [Clete Richardson](#) at 614/220-9225 or 800/664-0772. ([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:

- **Five-Star Rating System**

Previews displaying information about complaints and enforcement actions will be available for providers from the Certification and Survey Provider Enhanced Reports (CASPER) link located at the top of your Minimum Data Set (MDS) State Welcome page beginning Wednesday, June 15, 2011. Nursing Home Compare will display this information on July 21, 2011. The provider Five-Star Helpline (800/839-9290) will be open for an extended period through Tuesday, June 21, 2011. Provider questions may also be addressed by [clicking here](#).

- **Free ACO Learning Sessions**

The Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation is offering free [Accelerated Development Learning Sessions](#) (ADLS) for providers interested in learning more about how to coordinate patient care through Accountable Care Organizations (ACOs). *Four* ACO Accelerated Development Learning Sessions are being offered in 2011, with the first session scheduled for June 20-22 in Minneapolis, MN. Each session will teach providers interested in becoming ACOs what steps they can take to improve care delivery and how to develop an action plan for moving toward providing better coordinated care. Registration for the first session is now open for teams of between two and four senior leaders from healthcare delivery organizations interested in forming an ACO or from an existing ACO. In addition, the plenary sessions will be made available via webcast and all materials from the sessions will be publicly available on the [Innovation Center Website](#). Individuals wishing to attend the Monday, June 20, 2011 through Wednesday, June 22, 2011 ADLS in Minneapolis may register for free by [clicking here](#).

- **From the MLN**

- [MM6870 – Reporting of Recoupment for Overpayment on the Remittance Advice \(RA\)](#)
- [MM7416 – July Quarterly Update for 2011 Durable Medical Equipment, Prosthetics, Orthotics, and Supplies \(DMEPOS\) Fee Schedule](#)

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Early MITS web portal registration and account setup – Providers will be able to create a new MITS web portal account and secure access to MITS prior to Go Live on August 2, 2011. Based on the needs and functions of your organization, creating access may involve up to three steps for each billing National Provider Identification (NPI).

- 1) The Administrator Account Setup
- 2) Agent Account Setup
- 3) Assigning Agent Role

If only one person needs access to the account you will only need to perform step one, Administrator Account Setup. However, if two or more people need access to your MITS Account, steps two and three will also need to be performed to set up Agent Accounts and Assigning Agent Roles. [Download the full announcement with instructions here.](#) In addition, [Information Release #13](#) provides information on preparation for the transition dates from the current MMIS to the new MITS. [\(Back to top\).](#)

CMS official: Medicaid block grants are not a viable option for state budgets – A top CMS official said this week that turning Medicaid into a block grant program is not a viable solution for easing state budget woes. Block grants take away states' power to draw down federal money when costs go up, said Cindy Mann, state operations director at the agency, in a speech delivered at the sixth annual Medicaid Congress on Monday. Block grants are a “one-size-fits-all device” that create inequity across states, Mann asserted, according to a report by the Bureau of National Affairs. Texas is among the latest states to petition President Obama for a federal block grant to operate its state's Medicaid program, which insures poor children, the disabled and low-income adults. Under the Affordable Care Act, states are not allowed to raise Medicaid eligibility requirements or shrink benefits unless they get a waiver from the federal government first. If the waiver is granted — which many observers in Texas think is a long shot — state officials would be allowed to take actions such as implementing co-pays. The bill's author, Rep. Lois Kolkhorst (R) has said co-pays would encourage “a culture of personal responsibility and accountability,” according to The Texas Tribune. Other politicians also have voiced their frustration, with 29 Republican governors sending a letter to the administration this week asking for more flexibility in Medicaid spending. Other governors, such as New Jersey's Chris Christie (R), are asking for permission to tighten eligibility requirements, according to The Washington Post. Christie's proposal would deny new coverage to adults in families of three who earn more than \$5,300 per year, compared to the current cutoff of \$24,645. Arizona Gov. Jan Brewer (R) has also proposed several [well-publicized Medicaid cuts](#). (Source: McKnight's Long-Term Care News & Assisted Living, 6/16/11, www.mcknights.com) [\(Back to top\).](#)

Medicaid Provider Incentive Program (MPIP) – The Ohio Department of Job & Family Services (ODJFS) announced the opening of the Medicaid Provider Incentive Program (MPIP). MPIP will provide incentive payments to eligible professionals (EPs) and eligible hospitals (EHs) as they adopt, implement, upgrade, and demonstrate meaningful use of certified electronic health records (EHR) technology. Eligible professionals and eligible hospitals can begin the registration process at the [CMS website](#) and when they select Medicaid as part of that registration process, they will receive information about how to complete enrollment in MPIP at the MPIP web portal. Under MPIP, eligible professionals can receive up to \$63,750 over a maximum of 6 years of participation in the program. Eligible hospital payments are based on a number of factors and will be distributed over four years. MPIP will continue until 2021, but 2016 is the last year a Medicaid provider may begin participation in the program. Please visit the updated [MPIP website](#) for more information including a new FAQ reference, tip sheets for EHs and EPs and prerequisites EPs need to enroll in MPIP. [\(Back to top\).](#)