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Advocacy Day fast approaching—we need your support! – Skilled Nursing Care Coalition (SNCC) members – AOPHA, The Ohio Academy of Nursing Homes, Inc. and OHCA – are organizing an Advocacy Day to urge support for fair Medicaid funding for skilled nursing care. **We need your support! The Advocacy Day will be held Tuesday, June 23 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Statehouse in Columbus.** We need the participation of our member facilities in asking employees and family members to play a part in this event. Participants will hear from Ohio legislative leaders and others during the event, and boxed lunches and beverages will be provided. We ask that each participating employee or family member “sponsor” a resident from the facility, and carry a small picture of the resident (no signs are permitted). The Academy will provide [a release](#) authorizing the use of the individuals’ names and images. Please let us know if you can assist in this effort by completing the [attendance form](#). Complete the release and the attendance form and return it to the Academy office as soon as possible. Additional details regarding this effort, including travel and parking information, expectations and Statehouse restrictions, are available at the SNCC website <http://www.caringforohio.org/advocacy-day.htm>. Contact [Victoria Gresh](#) with questions. ([Back to top](#)).

“Fire Prevention” class will prepare your staff and facility – Are you ready for the day the Ohio Fire Code Enforcement Official comes to inspect your facility? What if there is a real fire? Prepare your staff and your facility attending the upcoming **“Fire Prevention: Safety & Code Enforcement.”** 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.

- **Columbus – Tuesday, July 14**
Confluence Park Restaurant
679 W. Spring Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215
- **Cleveland – Thursday, July 16**

Holiday Inn Independence
6001 Rockside Road
Independence, Ohio 44131

- **Cincinnati – Wednesday, July 22**
Kings Island Resort and Conference
5691 Kings Island Drive
Mason, Ohio 45011

Watch your fax and email for more information or you can register online at

<http://www.oanh.org/educationalofferings.shtml>. For questions, contact [Dawn Kennedy](#). ([Back to top](#)).

Time is running out for Early Bird discount at convention—only 12 days left –

If you haven't registered for your tradeshow booth, do so TODAY as only twelve days remain save your company money with the "Early Bird" discount. **You can save at least \$100 by registering for your trade show booth by June 30!** Reserve your 2009 Trade Show booth now to get your preferred location. The 2009 OANH Convention & Trade Show will be held Oct. 21-23, 2009 (Wednesday - Friday) at the Hilton Columbus at Easton. Trade show hours will be very similar to the 2008 show.

Booth prices are as follows:

- **Regular Booth Pricing**
Early Bird Booth Prices (Through June 30, 2009)
OANH Member: \$875
Non-Member: \$975
Regular Booth Prices (After June 30, 2009)
OANH Member: \$975
Non-Member: \$1,075
- **Premium Booth Pricing**
Early Bird (Through June 30, 2009): \$1,075
Regular (After June 30, 2009): \$1,275

The 2009 Exhibitor & Sponsor Prospectus has been mailed. The prospectus and contracts for 2009 are available via the [OANH website](#), or you can contact [Dawn Kennedy](#) to reserve your booth. ([Back to top](#)).

Life Safety Code/Disaster Workgroup meets – Members of the Life Safety Code/Disaster Workgroup, which includes the Academy, met on June 16. Following are highlights of the meeting discussion:

- The committee discussed the joint petition offered by AOPHA, OANH and OHCA related to the next revision of the Ohio Fire Code. The petition dealt with controlled egress allowing for one of each door security type in a path of egress.
- The workgroup reviewed and discussed the clarifications issued by CMS Region V regarding natural gas generators. A facility that has a natural gas generator may obtain a letter from its natural gas vendor demonstrating the fuel source is reliable. This letter must contain all of the following:
 1. A statement of reasonable reliability of the natural gas delivery
 2. A brief description that supports the statement regarding the reliability
 3. A statement that there is a low probability of interruption of the natural gas
 4. A brief description that supports the statement regarding the low probability of interruption
 5. The signature of technical personnel from the natural gas vendor.

ODH has been contacted for further clarification if a provider is having issues obtaining this letter. There has been no response.

- Educational materials from the Indiana state survey agency about the use of oxygen around hair dryers was reviewed.
- The group reviewed petitions submitted to the NFPA from the Pioneer Network regarding changes the code that would allow for more latitude in providing a more person-centered environment.
- The planning and training guides for workplace violence/disruption, facility owned transportation, and insect/pest infestation were reviewed and additional recommendations were made.
- The group discussed how ODH takes a very long time to do initial surveys. We will ask for this to be discussed at the CMS Region V meeting in September.

For more information, contact [Dawn Kennedy](#). ([Back to top](#)).

Federal health reform debate heats up – The debate over health reform has increased in Washington these past few weeks as President Obama has stressed that health reform was a priority for his administration and that it needs to be done quickly. The President has been meeting with interest groups, most recently the American Medical Association, to gather support for health care reform. Health care reform is currently a dynamic process and it is difficult to determine exactly what the fallout will be when the debating is over and the dust settles. There has not been a formal bill introduced, but parts of a bill and leaks have shed some light as to what might be included.

Possibilities include:

- Mandating insurance coverage
- Creating a “health care clearinghouse” for individuals to purchase insurance
- A new public insurance plan to compete with private insurance
- Increasing subsidies to the poor
- Increasing income taxes or taxing employer health care benefits
- Increase subsidies to preventative services

The price tag of health care reform has been tagged at over \$1 trillion, although this is subject to what is actually included in the bill. Regardless, it appears that President Obama is prepared to use his stock of political capital to get Congress to pass some form of substantial health care reform. Besides having an impact on every U.S. citizen, it could also have a significant impact on the long-term care industry. The Academy will be monitoring the debate closely and keep you informed as it progresses.

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

- **Draft Version of MDS 3.0 Released**

A draft version of the new MDS 3.0 for nursing homes and long-term care facilities was posted Monday on CMS’ website. The MDS 3.0 draft version is not the final version, CMS warns, and should not be used for training purposes. The final version is slated for release in October of this year, and will include the item set, data specifications and RAI manual. Any questions or comments on the draft version should be directed to MDS30Comments@cms.hhs.gov. The draft version of the MDS 3.0 and a timeline for its implementation can be found by searching for "MDS 3.0" on the CMS website, or by visiting the following web address:

http://www.cms.hhs.gov/NursingHomeQualityInits/25_NHQIMDS30.asp

- **Five-Star Quality Rating System/June News**

1. The Five-Star provider preview reports are beginning Wednesday, June 17, 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:
 - o Visit the MDS State Welcome page available on the state servers where you submit MDS data to review your results.
 - o To access these reports, select the Certification and Survey Provider Enhanced Reports (CASPER) Reporting link located at the bottom of the login page.
 - o 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.
 - iii. Facid is the state assigned facid of your facility.
2. BetterCare@cms.hhs.gov is available to address June’s data concerns and/or issues. The helpline will reopen in July to coincide with quarterly Quality Measure (QM) data updates.
3. Nursing Home Compare will update with June’s Five-Star data on Thursday, June 25, 2009.
4. Please visit http://www.cms.hhs.gov/CertificationandComplianc/13_FSQRS.asp for the latest Five-Star Quality Rating system information.

- **CMS Releases Guidance on the Recovery Act**

CMS released a [State Medicaid Director Letter](#) that provides guidance on the implementation of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA), Public Law 111-5. It summarizes most sections of ARRA that impact titles XIX (the Medicaid program) and XXI (the Children’s Health Insurance Program, or CHIP) of the Social Security Act (the Act) and provides detail on the sections specific to payments that should not be counted for purposes of eligibility for Federal programs.

- **FDA Consumer Alert: Warning Consumers of a Tainted Skin Sanitizer**

Following an announcement by the U. S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) warning consumers of a tainted skin sanitizer, CMS is advising health care providers and consumers not to use skin products made by Clarcon Biological Chemistry Laboratory. Clarcon is voluntarily recalling some skin sanitizers and skin protectants marketed under several different brand names because of high levels

of disease-causing bacteria found in the product during a recent inspection. Consumers and providers are being warned to not use any Clarcon products and to throw these products away in household refuse. FDA analyses of several samples of Clarcon products revealed high levels of various bacteria, including some associated with unsanitary conditions. Some of these bacteria can cause opportunistic infections of the skin and underlying tissues. Such infections may need medical or surgical attention, and may result in permanent damage. Examples of products that should be discarded include:

- Citrusshield Lotion
- Dermasentials DermaBarrier
- Dermasentials by Clarcon Antimicrobial Hand Sanitizer
- Iron Fist Barrier Hand Treatment
- Skin Shield Restaurant
- Skin Shield Industrial
- Skin Shield Beauty Salon Lotion
- Total Skin Care Beauty
- Total Skin Care Work

Health care professionals and consumers may report serious adverse events (side effects) or product quality problems with the use of this product to the FDA's MedWatch Adverse Event Reporting program either online, by regular mail, fax or phone. For more information visit

<http://www.fda.gov/ForConsumers/ConsumerUpdates/ucm164845.htm>. [\(Back to top\)](#).

Online CEUs are available anywhere – The Academy's online training makes CEUs available wherever you are—at work, home or on the road. 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 new 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](#). [\(Back to top\)](#).

Intermediate QIS slated for August 18 – Save the date for the much-requested follow up to the highly successful "Basic QIS" courses that were held in Cleveland, Columbus and Cincinnati during the month of March. Speaker Cindy Mason, LNHA will return to teach "Intermediate QIS" on **Tuesday, August 18 in Columbus**. This new course will expand on your basic QIS knowledge and take you to the next level of understanding. Participants in "Intermediate QIS" should have attended "Basic QIS" or have a basic knowledge of the QIS process. Watch your fax and email for more information. For questions, contact [Dawn Kennedy](#). [\(Back to top\)](#).

Has your facility received an outstanding survey? The Academy wants to recognize you! – The Academy recognizes any member facility that has received an outstanding Ohio Department of Health survey. With the statewide average now at seven deficiencies, and the national average at eight, an excellent survey is something that should be acknowledged! Executive Director Victoria Gresh will present the award to your facility and it will be highlighted on the website at <http://www.oanh.org/facility.shtml> and in *The Academy Advocate*. The Academy presents three types of awards to member facilities:

- **Perfect Survey Award**—presented to facilities with zero deficiencies on the state health survey.
- **Perfect Life Safety Survey Award**—presented to facilities with zero deficiencies in the Life Safety survey.
- **Award of Excellence**—presented to facilities with three or fewer deficiencies on the state health survey.

Please contact [Christina O'Neal](#) to schedule your awards presentation. [\(Back to top\)](#).

The newly designed *Academy Advocate* will be mailed next week – Academy members will soon receive the revamped *Academy Advocate* in their mailboxes, sporting a brand new look and design! This issue contains a plethora of informational articles designed to help your business grow and prosper. The Academy would like to thank all our sponsors of this new issue: Acclaim Hospice, American Medical Equipment, American Medical Technologies, CHAMPS Group Purchasing Services, CompManagement, Inc., Cummins, Krasik & Hohl, Destiny Hospice, Encore Rehabilitation Services, Geoffrey Webster—Chester Willcox & Saxbe, LLP, Griffiths Healthcare Group, Howard Wershale & Co., MedLab, MobilexUSA, Omnicare of Ohio, OPOC.us, Risk Management Solutions, Salsbury & Salsbury, LPA, and Willowood Care Center. Your support enables the Academy to not only seek new goals and initiatives, but also to *help innovative long-term care professionals provide quality health care to Ohioans.* ([Back to top](#)).

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