



Communicator

ASSISTED LIVING ASSOCIATION OF ALABAMA

340 Attend Spring Conference in Montgomery!



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Highlighted by Keynote Speaker Jacqueline Marcell, the 2010 Spring Conference drew a crowd of 340 to the Renaissance Hotel and Convention Center in Montgomery.

Ms. Marcell is author of the national best selling book "Elder Rage" and is a regional radio host in southern California.

Dr. Daniel Potts, a neurologist from Tuscaloosa was a favorite as judged by the attendee evaluations. ALAA is making plans to bring Dr. Potts back in the fall for a new presentation.

One of the most significant presentations was the introduction of the ALAA "It Works For Me" initiative.

This best practices program will reward the top practical programs introduced by professionals in our Association. A cash award will be made to the top programs!

"Arts in Action" is another program announced at the Conference. Partnering with Alzheimer's of Central Alabama (ACA), our Association will provide venues for demonstration programs using art as an expressive therapy in SCALF communities.

The results will be a proven

program of therapeutic art activities that will enrich the lives of our seniors.

Dr. Tom Geary gave a recap of survey scores and the deficiencies most frequently cited.

All the programs and their hand out materials are available on our alaaweb.org website.

We are already excited about our Fall Conference which will be at the new Westin hotel property in Huntsville.

NOW...more than ever.

ALAA membership is more important and more valuable than ever before.

Changes in regulation and challenges to efficient and profitable operations mean that the discounts and regulatory representation is more important than ever.

Being on "the inside" and having access to information gleaned from the positive experience of peers is priceless.

Dues have remained stable. Valuable discounts alone pay the dues for most members.

ALAA has remained stable for ten years. Most licensed com-

munities are members...when you get your membership renewal or invitation to join us, be sure to respond. Even in the worst recession in a generation, ALAA membership has remained constant...testimony to the value of being a member of Alabama's finest association.

SHCC Makes Historic Ruling Affecting SCALF

Just My Opinion

Frank Holden

On Thursday March 25th the Statewide Healthcare Coordinating Council (SHCC) unanimously approved a motion to adopt a modification to the State Health Plan that sets a specific number of SCALF beds for Shelby county unrelated to any bed need methodology.

I believe this is unprecedented.

Further, the decision adds to the burden of proof-of-need in that an applicant must show occupancy rates for existing SCALF communities to be at 92% or higher in order to apply for additional beds.

The decision affects Shelby County only and does not apply to other counties in the state.

In additional action, the SHCC instructed SHPDA to undertake a statewide review of the number SCALF beds in operation, the occupancy rates by county and recommend changes to the State Health Plan.

This action was precipitated by an application for 24 SCALF beds to be located in North Shelby County.

The application was opposed by two existing SCALF communities.

Eventually a lawsuit was heard by Montgomery Circuit Court Judge William Shashy. In December Judge Shashy ruled that state law required the CON Review Board to strictly abide

by the State Health Plan in approving any new beds.

In fact, the CON Review Board has historically acted as a “relief valve” in awarding additional beds when the State Health Plan (which is updated no more often than every four years) was out of sync with the growing need in a particular area.

This ruling by Judge Shashy will apparently put an end to that.

The dispute in this case-and now in all cases-will be settled by petitioning the full SHCC to amend the State Health Plan to change the bed need in a particular county.

Both parties in this case reached an agreement before the SHCC hearing and a win-win ending was achieved.

This will most assuredly establish precedence for applicants for new or additional SCALF CONs in counties which already meet or exceed the bed need of 4 beds per 1,000 population of seniors 65 y/o or older.

The review of SCALF bed need will be undertaken by SHPDA beginning this year. ALAA will cooperate with SHPDA to provide occupancy data and other information to inform their calculations.

It is important that ALAA hear from its members with recommendations for adjusting the State Health Plan regarding growth of dementia care in Alabama.

Contact the ALAA office or convey your opinion to a member of the ALAA Board.

Adjustment to State Health Plan SCALF Bed Need-Shelby County (Subject to Approval by the Governor)

Only the State Health Plan (SHP) can control CON matters (including the number of units available to be awarded).

The CON Review Board may not approve additional beds unless they are consistent with the State Health Plan.

The rule adoption serves to expand the State Health Plan bed need in SHELBY County only; and, it does so by establishing a need for specifically 164 beds (an increase in 36 beds + the existing 128 beds) and ignores the SHP SCALF bed need methodology of 4/K/65+.

Going forward, new applicants in *SHELBY County only* must demonstrate need and assert that existing SCALF occupancy in the county is at least 92%

State Survey Tips

Watch this space in every *Communicator* for tips on issues that will help you achieve compliant scores on state surveys.

420-5-4-.06 - Medication

Medications kept under the control or custody of an assisted living facility shall be packed by the pharmacy and shall be maintained by the facility in unit dose packaging.

420-5-4-.06 - Admission & Retention of Residents

An Assisted living facility shall not admit a resident who is receiving or in need of hospice care at the time of admission.

420-5-4-.12—Physical Plant (on ALAA website)

http://www.alaaweb.org/Leg_Reg/2009/FIREWATCH%20Policy.pdf

Fire alarm and Sprinkler system outages of more than 4 hours require evacuation of the facility or the establishment of a continuous fire watch. The fire watch procedure must be coordinated with the Department of Public Health and the local Fire Marshall. Outages and fire watch documentation shall be reported to the Department of Public Health within 12 hours or no later than the next duty day; and shall be corrected expeditiously.

420-5-4-.05 - Records & Reports

Resident needs or problems that require intervention by the facility, such as behavioral symptoms, weight loss, falls, and therapeutic diets.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

ADPH Fire Alarm Inspection & Testing Summary-

http://www.alaaweb.org/Leg_Reg/2008/ADPH_FireAlarm_Sum.pdf

ADPH Sprinkler Inspection & Testing Summary-

http://www.alaaweb.org/Leg_Reg/2008/ADPH_Spr_Sum.pdf

If you have any tips you would like to share, please email Samantha Mason at smason@alaaweb.org

AlaCOMP FREE Seminar

AlaCOMP / OSAA's Understanding Workers' Compensation Practices

When- Friday, April 30, 2010 (8am—Noon)

Where- The Wynfrey Hotel, Birmingham

Registration begins at 8:00am

Please RSVP to Ramona Lavoie at (334) 356-2038 or (334) 215-0868 or ramona@albig.biz

Education Director Named

Samantha Mason, ALA has been named Education Director for ALAA. She was hired March 1- just in time for the Spring Conference!

“Sam” was Administrator for several troubled properties-including both SCALF and ALF-for which she crafted plans of correction that significantly raised survey scores.

Her experience in building compliant communities through remedial action and staff training will serve ALAA well as we work to improve policies and provide excellence in resident care.

Welcome Aboard, Samantha!

SPRING REGION MEETINGS

SCALF Leadership

Concentration on the roles of Governing Authority, Administrator, Medical Director, Nurse, and Unit Coordinator

2009 surveys resulted in lower scores for SCALF communities than in 2008. 2010 surveys continue to focus on SCALF operations. Don't miss this opportunity to address the organizational roles of these key required positions and review the most recent deficiencies cited for SCALFs.

Presented by Wanda Ferris RN, ALA and Samantha Mason, ALA

Region 1- April 20 Wills Creek Village, Ft. Payne 1pm

Region 2- April 21 Hearthstone @ Grayson Valley, Birmingham 2pm

Region 3- May 6 Regency Retirement Village, Tuscaloosa 1pm

Region 4- May 5 Wesley Gardens, Montgomery 9:30am

Region 5- April 30 Live Oak Village, Foley 9:30am

Region 6- April 29 Hartford Retirement Village, Hartford 2pm



REGISTRATION FORMS AVAILABLE ON LINE AT alaaweb.org or contact the ALAA office. \$35 for members, \$55 for non-members.

You may attend in any region; pick the one most convenient for you.

CEU approval requested for ALA, NHA, Nursing, Social Workers, and Pharmacists. (On site registration is \$55 for members and \$75 for non-members, so definitely pre-register.)

BOE News

You can now renew your administrator license online!!

Simply go to www.boeala.state.al.us and click on one of the following forms:

- 1) Assisted Living Administrator License Renewal
- 2) NHA License Renewal for ALA (Renewal form for Nursing Home Admins)
- 3) Replacement License Form
- 4) NHA Initial Application for ALA License (Initial App for a licensed NHA)

Remember, all forms/documents that are required for renewal (i.e., business license, ADPH license) must be submitted/postmarked by your expiration date to avoid late fees.



Join us on FACEBOOK at [ASSISTED LIVING ASSOCIATION OF ALABAMA](http://www.facebook.com/assistedlivingassociationofalabama), for community info and to keep up with current events.