



Communicator

ASSISTED LIVING ASSOCIATION OF ALABAMA

April Showers...and all that!

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If it's Easter in Alabama you can count on rain, wind, hail, and sometimes even snow.

No doubt, that kind of conditioning makes us Alabama natives a hardy breed.

These days "hardy" is a necessary attribute for assisted living providers.

A recent survey of all ALAA members shows no slow-down or softness in the markets at year-end 2008; but, everyone predicted softer occupancy and increased resident fees in 2009.

See the notice inside this issue to get your copy of the survey.

A new Long Term Care Advisory Committee is proposed by an Alabama Senate Joint Resolution now pending in the Alabama Legislature.

The bill, offered by Senator Linda Coleman (D), Birmingham, seeks to organized and fund a committee of stakeholders to examine the state of public policy for Alabama seniors and others who depend on services such as nursing home care, hospice, home nursing,

assisted living and other services.

ALAA has a seat at the table and will support the passage of this resolution. The time table is long, and we have been down this road before, but it is time to address delivery of services to Alabama's most vulnerable citizens.

Meantime, just enjoy the blooms that come with Alabama Springs!

SouthernLINC Radio Phone Program Continues on Voluntary Basis...Two Dozen Providers Sign-Up!

If you would like to join the providers who have continued the Senior Emergency Network, contact Amy or Carol in the ALAA office (334) 262.5523 to get the name of your Southern Link representative.

“...Survey Says....”

Just My Opinion
Frank Holden

Anyone who has tried to project a budget can attest that statistics are important indicators for predicting future behavior of businesses or people.

I have enormous admiration for folks who can evaluate trends and predict market behavior. Clearly some of the folks I have admired missed badly in predicting the current economy.

But there were those voices in the minority during the last four or five years who had it just about right.

I hope we can “get it right” by looking at some statistics on aging and assisted living in Alabama. We spent the month of January collecting data from each ALAA region, including a telephone survey of all ALAA members.

We overlaid demographic data from the US Census, State Health Planning Agency, a proprietary real estate data bank, and ADPH.

There are some interesting trends developing that will be very important to providers over the next five to ten years.

For example, nearly all the data we looked at show a dip in population aged 70-79. But all sources show annual population growth of the 80+ cohorts in the range of 2% to 4% per year.

Sixty to eighty percent of facilities reported having had an ADPH survey in the past four years. Scoring varied widely from region to region.

Region III (Tuscaloosa south and west of I-65) scored the highest. Ninety-percent scored above 80. Half of the providers who had surveys in the last four years in Region III scored 90 or better!

Several Regions had 73-75% in the 80+ category and 13% was the lowest Regional score for “Green” surveys.

Other data evaluated in the survey include household income and net worth by age, ownership and type of facilities, average and mean combined resident rates, occupancy, and style.

The response ranged from 43% to 66% of licensed facilities by region.

A free copy of the survey is available to any ALAA member. You must request it by contacting the ALAA office.

The data are compiled by ALAA Regions, so the information is aggregated by the counties in that region. The same data can be provided upon request for a single county. (A modest charge applies.)

Request copies of the Regional Surveys or get a Copy of SJR84 by contacting the ALAA office.

SJR84 is also posted on the ALAA website;
www.alaaweb.org

Senate/Joint Resolution Bill SJR84 Introduced

State Sen. Linda Coleman (D) Birmingham, has introduced a joint resolution to create an advisory committee comprised of Alabama governmental agencies and representatives of service organizations providing services to elders and disabled citizens.

ALAA, ANHA, AARP, ADPH, ADSS, Medicaid, Hospitals, Hospice, Home Care, and others will join with consumers and legislative members to develop a framework for public policy.

The “Creating the Long Term Care Advisory Committee” resolution will address the “continuum of care” and attempt to address issues of access, cost, and the role of state government in meeting the needs of elders in Alabama.

The goal is to reach a consensus public policy recommendation by 2011.

ALAA can play an important role in this effort. The Association will be developing an action plan for your approval.

Your suggestions and input will be vital if we are to succeed in shaping public policy for seniors in the next decade.

More on this soon!

BOE NEWS

The Board of Examiners of Assisted Living Administrators met and held a public hearing on Thursday, April 16, 2009.

The following rules will be effective May 22, 2009.

135-X-3-.01 Meetings of the Board.

The Board shall hold not less than four meetings each year. The Board shall meet in the conference room of the Board of Examiners' office building quarterly each year unless such date is a federal or state holiday, as posted on the Board of Examiners' website or as notified in the Alabama Administrative Monthly.

135-X-5-.02 Pre-Examination Requirement and Conditions Precedent.

3. The person must be a citizen of the United States of America or have duly declared his/her intent of becoming a citizen of the United States of America. or, if not a citizen of the United States, a person who is legally present in the United States with appropriate documentation from the federal government.

(a) All applicants must submit a business license for any facility in which he/she is employed.

135-X-5-.03 Application for Examination.

(5) An application for examination will expire 90 days from the date approved. After the expiration date, the applicant will be required to resubmit a new application and will be responsible for all applicable fees.

135-X-7-.01 Licenses.

(1) A provisional Category I Assisted Living Administrator license shall be issued to Board approved applicants who pass Section A of the Category I examination. This provisional license qualifies the licensee to temporarily administer an assisted living facility, as defined in Rule No. 135-X-2-.01 (e) of these Rules and Regulations, until the provisional license expires and becomes void nine (9) months from the date issued by the Board, or the provisional license becomes void upon the denial of an initial application. A provisional Category I licensee who completes the required classroom training as set forth in Rule No. 135-X-5-.01 (2)(a) of these Rules and Regulations and passes Section B of the Category I examination, shall be issued a Category I Assisted Living Administrator license. This license shall qualify the licensee to administer an assisted living facility and must be renewed annually.

(a) Any person currently employed at an assisted living facility is authorized to apply for license renewal only if said facility that employs the licensee is licensed by the Alabama Department of Public Health. All applicants seeking a renewal license must submit the business license of the facility in which he/she is employed.

(6) Failure to secure an annual renewal of a license based on a failure to meet the continuing education requirements shall result in the expiration of the license. An expired license may not be "reactivated". All persons holding an expired license shall be required to submit a new application and follow all procedures for licensure of a new applicant. In addition, any applicant whose license has previously expired is subject to the payment of a reapplication fee.

135-X-13-.01 Fees

The Category II application fee will increase from \$75 to \$100.00

(12) A reapplication fee (\$150.00)

(13) A replacement license fee (\$25.00)

Education News

First quarter of 2009 has taken off rapidly. Before long we will be at the Fall Conference in Mobile. Hard to believe Education Committee is working on that already.

We have had a lot of discussion concerning 485s from home health companies. The bottom line is show that you are making a good faith effort to get the signed 485 by:

- a. Copy of the home health service order from MD and put in chart.
- b. Hand written note from RN assessing resident from home health agency, showing what services they are going to provide and put it in the chart. (Your care plan MUST coincide with home health's)
- c. Request the a copy of the 485 as soon as they create it and place that in resident's chart. Yes, it is unsigned, but this way you can see for yourselves what care is going to be given and your care plans can match.
- d. Finally, you should receive the signed 485. It is your responsibility to obtain the signed 485 when the physician signs it.

By following this path, you will have knowledge of the resident's needs, what the agency projects to provide AND your care plans will be in order with home health. It is vital that you keep up the care plan.

This is **NOT MANDATED**, so please do not think this is policy. This is purely a calculated way to keep up with your 485 process. The main idea here is, by doing this or something similar, you are showing a **good faith effort** in obtaining your signed 485.

Education, AIT, and Region Meetings 2009

"Risk Management in Assisted Living" Seminar / Region Meeting Dates

April 21, 2009	Region 1	Regency Retirement Village, Huntsville	1:30pm
April 22, 2009	Region 2	Chateau Vestavia, Birmingham	2:00pm
May 19, 2009	Region 4	Azalea Place, Auburn	9:00am
May 27, 2009	Region 3	Capstone Village, Tuscaloosa	1:00pm
June 16, 2009	Region 6	Kelley Place, Enterprise	1:00pm
June 17, 2009	Region 5	Catherine Place, Daphne	1:00pm

2009 Administrator-In-Training Schedule

May 12-14, 2009

August 11-13, 2009

November 10-12, 2009

You must have an approved application on file with the BOEALA before you can attend.

You can reach the BOEALA at (334)

271.2418 or by email at:

amy.findley@boeala.alabama.gov

Other News

Legislative: Rep. Mac Gipson<R> Prattville has introduced a bill that would allow cameras in a resident's private room, provided the sponsor/family wanted it and were willing to pay all costs associated with the installation and monitoring. Similar bills have been introduced in other states. Prognosis at this time is that it will not secure enough support in the Legislature to pass.

Spring Conference: Very high marks from registrants and sponsors go to the Education Committee and Education Director for the agenda and venue at the 2009 Spring Conference. Top topics were: US Foods presentation, P.K. Beville, Dr. Regina Harrell, Daphne Simpkins, and Dr. Geary-ADPH.