



Communicator

ASSISTED LIVING ASSOCIATION OF ALABAMA

ALF Regulations Top Priority... New Gov. Can Help



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Dr. Robert Bentley was sworn in as the 53rd executive of the state of Alabama on January 18th.

Perhaps this governor-doctor will have a fundamental understanding of the needs of Alabama's seniors and the vital role assisted living plays in long term care.

We congratulate Dr. Bentley and look forward to working with the new administration as we work to strengthen assisted living choices in our state.

Re-writing the Assisted Living regulations is the top priority of ALAA in 2011. An administration with interest in broadening choices for seniors

will be a welcome addition to the advocates of assisted living.

Discharge Planning

Many hospitals continue to have difficulty understanding the needs of ALF and SCALF providers who must retrieve specific resident information before admitting or returning an established resident who has been hospitalized.

ADPH Regulations do not require that ALF and SCALF communities treat hospitalization as "discharge". Therefore, any resident who is hospitalized and returns to the community is not treated as a "new" admission. Thus, the requirements for admission and return residents

are different.

- **New** referral hospitalization treated as any new admission
- **Returning** established residents must have the following information updated or added to the resident record and be authorized by the treating physician:
 - Any change in diagnosis
 - All medications/ adjustments/ changes; an order or statement to continue existing prescriptions and care services
 - Any change or new order in personal care assistance needs or orders for outside providers
 - Any change or additions of equipment whether RX or not
 - MD statement that resident is free from contagious disease; and, capable of managing own medications

ALAA has sample discharge forms available for review.

ALAA Offers Solutions

The consulting services offered by your Association can be invaluable. ALAA offers affordable on-site training, mock surveys, and customized services including help with Plans of Correction, policies, and Care Plan review.

Don't wait until you have an ADPH survey team in your building before you find out if you are ready or not!

Call Samantha today for a personalized plan of action at (334) 262-5523.

Don't Sleep Through this "Sermon"

Just My Opinion

Frank Holden

Happy New Year! The changes 2011 will bring are not yet known, but they are already sending signals!

ALAA has met with ADPH to establish the ground rules for negotiating the revised rules for Assisted Living Facilities.

Resident cognition and community standards of medical practice are the top two items up for review.

It is widely accepted that the Mini Metal Status Evaluation (MMSE) is not up to the task of discretely evaluating ALF resident cognition in a regulatory sense.

ADPH is comfortable with the current medication test as determinant of Resident eligibility.

Providers are not convinced that this is a good way to determine eligibility.

Families and sponsors are very confused about Resident eligibility-especially when the Resident/Family-member is functioning quite well in the ALF setting. Yet we continue to see discharges in instances where the Resident is functioning well.

In discussions with several physicians, the idea of a test for function seems more appropriate than a test for cognition.

Of course, finding a functional test for continued Resident eligibility might prove difficult.

Nonetheless, the goal will be to develop or adapt a method of determining eligibility based on how well the Resident is functioning in the ALF setting.

The second issue of physicians prescribing home health or other therapies which the doctors expect will be safely performed in the ALF will be less problematic.

The current regulations permit "skilled services" to be rendered by licensed practitioners up to 90 days' duration in an ALF.

Some recent surveys have cited facilities for performing such skilled services as "inappropriate" for the ALF setting. This has created much confusion for providers in determining just which "skilled" services might be deemed inappropriate in a survey.

So, the goal of the next several months will be to develop policies which clarify what skilled services may be permitted and under what conditions.

Now here is the "sermon" part.

This opportunity to revise the regulations for ALF has not come around since 2000-2001.

It will not come around again for another ten years. So now

is the time to put your ideas into practice. If you have a particular practice or policy or idea that you would like to see incorporated into the new regulations send it to the ALAA office or call Amy, Sam, or me.

Don't doze through this one!

By the way, ALAA has completed its survey of ALF Resident MMSE scores.

Fifty-eight percent (58%) of established Residents in Alabama Regular Assisted Living Facilities score 25 or higher on the MMSE; 35% score between 24-18 on the MMSE; and, 6% score 17 or under.

Sixty-four percent (64%) of potential residents applying for admission present scoring 25 and higher, while 36% score 24 or lower.

ALAA received results on 213 admission tests and 656 established residents. (This would be roughly 10% of the current resident population state-wide, yielding a very reliable prediction of current Resident status.)

This is the time to get involved if you have not been. This is the time to get serious about how you want to define your profession for the next decade.

Life Safety Seminar with Michael Arther, NHA

This is one of those opportunities you really should not miss. Mr. Arther presented a preview of this presentation at the Fall Conference and received very high marks from the evaluations.

We have booked him to present an in-depth seminar on Life Safety and related issues (such as recent increased OSHA inspections in long-term care facilities).

He presents a similar curriculum in other venues where the cost would be five to ten times your ALAA cost!

Be sure to register and attend one of the three events now registering for Huntsville, Birmingham, and Montgomery.

We have collapsed the Region Meeting schedule to accommodate more attendees and are having the meetings geographically located for convenience.

February 1, 2, and 3 are the dates. A registration form is attached to this Communicator.

SHHC Meeting to pass new State Health Plan Cancelled

Governor Bob Bentley issued an Executive Order (No. 3) to suspend the actions of the CON Review Board, the Statewide Healthcare Coordinating Council (SHHC), and the executive actions of the State Healthcare Development Agency (SHPDA) in all health care policy and CON matters until such time as the Governor shall order.

This indefinite moratorium puts an end to the SHHC revision of the State Health Plan. This revision included language allowing up to 16 beds of SCALF to be approved for any assisted living community with 92% occupancy for more than two years.

Governor Bentley appointed Michael Ciamarra as his chief policy advisor. Mr. Ciamarra previously served as Vice President of a think tank in Birmingham known as the Alabama Policy Institute.

Mr. Ciamarra is a leading advocate for abolishing the state CON process altogether.

It will be interesting to watch how the health care policy develops in the Bentley Administration. Certainly the Governor is on the record in favor of free markets and freedom of choice in medical matters. It would seem to indicate a favorable view of assisted living protocols for long term care options.

NEW ALAA Blog

Check out the new ALAA Blog at:

<http://assistedlivingassociationofalabama.blogspot.com>

Check it out every Monday for an ADPH Rule of the Week.

Spring Conference 2011!!

Can it be? It seems like we just got home from the Fall Conference and yet here we are announcing the agenda for the Spring Conference in March!

Teepa Snow, new regulations, dementia training, and a whole host of new and exciting presentations are being finalized right now!

Be sure to get the Early Bird discount!

The RSA Renaissance Hotel and Convention Center in Montgomery will once again host our meeting.

We are adding a "Reception on the Roof" this year which will be a fun networking opportunity. This time with a fabulous view from the Spa Level at this five-star location.

Make your plans now to join us March 21-23, 2011.

SPRING/SUMMER/FALL REGION MEETINGS

Care Planning Medications Seminar-

Presented by Katie Phillips, SunScript Pharmacy

Region 1-	April 12 @ SunScript Pharmacy	1pm
Region 2-	April 13 @ Danberry at Inverness	TBA
Region 3-	April 15 @ Capstone Village	12:30pm
Region 4-	April 25 @ ALAA Office	1pm
Region 5-	April 26 @ Rx Advantage Office	12:00pm
Region 6-	April 27 @ Pike Co. Chamber of Comm	12:30pm

Need A Refresher? Seminar-

Region 1-	June 27 @ TBA	TBA
Region 2-	June 28 @ TBA	TBA
Region 3-	June 30 @ TBA	TBA
Region 4-	July 8 @ ALAA Office	10am
Region 5-	July 14 @ TBA	TBA
Region 6-	July 15 @ TBA	TBA

Winter Seminar-

Region 1-	November 1 @ TBA	TBA
Region 2-	November 3 @ TBA	TBA
Region 3-	November 9 @ TBA	TBA
Region 4-	November 10 @ ALAA	10am
Region 5-	November 21 @ TBA	TBA
Region 6-	November 22 @ TBA	TBA

If your facility would like to host a meeting for an above date, please call Amy at (334) 262-5523.

Upcoming Food Safety & ServSafe Classes

Food Safety & Sanitation Seminar-	April 6, 2011	@ ALAA Office
ServSafe Food Sanitation Course-	June 23, 2011	@ ALAA Office
Food Safety & Sanitation Seminar-	July 12, 2011	@ ALAA Office





“You’re in the Big Leagues NOW”

Sponsored by: Five Star Senior Living & ALAA

**Make Plans to attend the kick-off celebration for the
2011 ALAA Spring Conference**

**Where: Alley Station Roof Top
Terrace**

When: Monday, March 21

Time: 6pm – 10pm

**There will be karaoke, complimentary drinks,
Hors d’oeuvres, and lots of fun.**

**Please RSVP by Tuesday, March 15 to
afindley@alaaweb.org or (334) 262-5523**





“Team Work Makes the Dream Work”

A Symposium for Professionals in Senior Services
 March 22-23, 2011

Renaissance Montgomery Hotel & Spa
 Montgomery, Alabama

**Reach Decision-Makers
 in the Senior Care Market!**

- ◆ Set-up Monday, March 21 (after 6pm- tear down Wednesday after lunch)
- ◆ Several Exhibitor and Sponsorship Options
- ◆ Pre-conference mail out
 (Description of your companies services)



Call the Renaissance Montgomery to make hotel reservations under Assisted Living Association group rate of \$139 per night
 (877) 545-0311.
 Group Rate Deadline of \$139 per night is February 18, 2011.

Platinum Sponsor

- Full Page Advertisement in Agenda
- Pre-Conference Mailing
- Exhibition Booth
- Two CEU-eligible Conference Registrations
- Member—\$2500
- Non-Member—\$3000

Gold Sponsor

- Half Page Advertisement in Agenda
- Pre-Conference Mailing
- Exhibition Booth
- Two CEU-eligible Conference Registrations
- Member—\$1500
- Non-Member—\$2000

Exhibitor

- Pre-Conference Mailing
- Exhibit Booth
- Listing in Agenda
- Two CEU-eligible Conference Registration
- Member—\$900
- Non-Member—\$1100

“You’re in the Big Leagues Now Sponsor”

- (Monday Night Reception)
- Named Event Sponsor
- EXCLUSIVE Signage in Reception Hall
- Full Page Advertisement in Agenda
- Pre-Conference Mailing
- Exhibition Booth
- Two CEU-eligible Conference Registrations
- \$3,000.00

**You must have your Pre-Conference Mailing info in to ALAA by March 10, 2011
 Advertisements can be no large than 8 1/2 x 11. Please send 350 copies.**



2011 ALAA Spring Conference

“Team Work Makes the Dream Work”



March 22-23, 2011

Renaissance Montgomery Hotel & Spa

Please complete the following information:

SPONSOR/VENDOR REGISTRATION:

MEMBER PRICING:

- Exhibit Only \$900 Gold Sponsor \$1500 Platinum Sponsor \$2500

*NON-MEMBER PRICING:

- Exhibit Only \$1100 Gold Sponsor \$2000 Platinum Sponsor \$3000

“YOU’RE IN THE BIG LEAGUES NOW RECEPTION”:

- \$3000 (Only 1 space available)

Company Name: _____

(2)Representatives/Title: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____ Email: _____

We will need an electrical outlet: Yes No

We will provide a door prize: Yes No

I understand that the sponsorship registrations are on a PRE-PAID basis. I understand that the registration deadline is Monday, February 28, 2011.

Signature: _____ Title: _____

Total Payment: \$ _____

Check Enclosed (payable to ALAA) Check Request Enclosed
(If payment is not received by February 15, your company will be asked for a credit card number.)

Please charge my ___ Visa ___ Master Card Total Charge: \$ _____

Name on card: _____ Number: _____

Expiration Date: _____ Authorized Signature: _____

Please return form with registration fee to:

ALAA, 5921 Carmichael Road, Montgomery, AL, 36117

Or fax your registration to (334) 262-4603 with a credit card number.

You will receive a confirmation letter from ALAA prior to the Conference. If you have any questions, please call Amy at 800-826-9410.

Gold & Platinum Sponsors, please email your company logo to afindley@alaaweb.org when you register.