



Culture Change in Georgia gets a big kickoff with the Culture Change Summit on September 4 at the Lauder milk Center



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Aging Services of Georgia is the statewide association of over 150 key not-for-profit and other mission-focused organizations dedicated to providing quality housing, health care, community based and other related services for older Georgians. The mission of Aging Services of Georgia is to represent and promote the common interests of its members through leadership, advocacy, education and other services in order to enhance each member's ability to serve older Georgians

Inside Aging Services of Georgia News from the Staff

GAHSA Night on Monday at AAHSA Conference in Philadelphia

Deadline to register is Monday, October 6. GAHSA Night at the national aahsa conference will be held Monday evening, October 13 before the evening events of the conference. The registration form is available [here](#).

2008-2009 Resource Guide & Membership Directory has been distributed.

Members, please let email Susan Watkins at swatkins@agingservicesga.org if you did not receive a copy.

Association Name Change



As you know by now, The Georgia Association of Homes and Services for the Aging is now **Aging Services of Georgia**. www.agingservicesga.org will take you to the same place as the former www.gahsa.org. The name change will become a part of celebrating 35 years of serving the key providers of housing and community-based service organizations in Georgia at our annual business meeting, December 4th, at King's Bridge Retirement Community.

National Dues Update

Hospice

Vacancy Report

Career Opportunities

AAHSA Information

Website Notes,
Computer Tips and
ListSers

GIA Partners

Ziegler Capital
Markets GroupOccupied
RenovationsCornerstone
Senior LivingMoore Stephens
Lovelace, P.A.

GIA Supporters



As many of you know, there has been a national dialogue regarding national aahsa dues moving to "full" millage rate. This mostly affects nursing homes and CCRCs. The Aging Services of Georgia Board of Directors has negotiated staying at the 5% increase for aahsa dues in 2009. During 2009, we will evaluate our state dues structure as well as work with aahsa on their movement to full millage rate for national dues. We expect it will happen over a 3-year plan.

Your Travel Helps Fund the Georgia Institute on Aging

Welcome to the most recent edition and exciting service of Aging Services of Georgia and the Georgia Institute on Aging. By going to our new travel website: www.TravelConnectionGA.org (powered by Travelocity), you can turn your vacations and business travel into donations to the Georgia Institute on Aging!

Did you know that 82% of personal travel is booked over the internet? To take advantage of this overwhelming statistic, we encourage you to check out our travel site to access the same vendors that you would find on Expedia, Orbitz, Hotels.com, etc. You will still get great travel rates and you'll be supporting the Institute at the same time—that's the only difference!

100% of the travel commissions received by the Passport-to-Giving program from the travel vendors you use, goes to support the Georgia Institute on Aging in the form of a royalty.

Don't wait! Book your next business travel or vacation, flowers, golf package, and more on our website by going to www.TravelConnectionGA.org now! Nothing changes, just where you shop—and still make a difference by becoming a Passport-to-Giving!

Note: Seasonal Campaigns coming your way via www.agingservicesga.org.

Events at a Glance

Upcoming Events

Thursday, October 2

[Professional Forums Day](#)

Aging Services of GA Office

Monday, October 13

[Georgia Night at Maggiano's](#)

for Attendees of the AAHSA Annual Meeting in Philadelphia

5:30 - 8:00 pm

Friday, October 24

[Person-Centered Dementia Care](#)

Culture Change Network of Georgia

<http://www.culturechange.org>

Aging Services of GA Office

Mauldin & Jenkins

**Tuesday, October 28**[Fair Housing Symposium](#)

Christian City Welcome Center Union City

9:30 am - 3:30 pm

Thursday, November 6

The Ethics of Caring

Canterbury Court

LW Consulting, Inc.



GIA Friends

The Law Offices of
Williams & Edelstein

Dixon Hughes

Pfizer



GIA Contributors

HVAC Services

Kings Bridge
Retirement Center

Seth Strongin



AAHSA

<http://www.aahsa.org>Keep Up with the Quality
First Program

General Notes of Interest

ARC Launches New RSVP Volunteer Program

The Aging Services Division of ARC has been designated by the Corporation for National and Community Service to be the local sponsoring agency of the RSVP program. RSVP is America's largest volunteer network for people age 55 and over with nearly 500,000 volunteers across the country who are tackling tough issues in their communities. ARC is rolling out the new Metro Atlanta RSVP program in Clayton, Cobb, DeKalb, Fulton and Gwinnett Counties. ARC has identified eight key areas where volunteers are needed to enhance local and regional programs and address gaps in services: consumer fraud, computer literacy, Medicare counseling, access to services, environmental awareness, disaster preparedness, education about preventive health care services and assistance to seniors.

Direct Express Cards Now Being Offered to Those Receiving Social Security and Supplemental Security Income

The U.S. Department of Treasury is encouraging recipients to consider signing up to receive their Social Security of Supplemental Security Income Benefits on the Direct Express® card. This card is a prepaid debit card offered to Social Security and Supplemental Security Income check recipients who wish to receive their benefits electronically. The debit card offers the convenience and security of using electronic transactions to spend and access one's money rather than using cash for purchases. You do not need to have a bank account to sign up for the card. There is no credit check or minimum balance requirement. To learn more about the card, visit the website

<http://www.directexpress.org> or go directly

http://www.directexpress.org/media/About_Direct_Express/media_faqs.cfm

that has a section that answers frequently asked questions about the program.

Family Caregiver Dementia Project

Deadline: October 31, 2008

Participant Payment: \$50

Dr. Marsha Lewis and Dr. Ken Hepburn at Emory University in Atlanta, in conjunction with HealthCare Interactive, Inc. in Minneapolis, MN, are conducting a research project to evaluate an online dementia training program for families called "Savvy Caregiver Online." The program is accessible from any Internet-connected computer, and is an informative resource for anyone caring for a loved one at home or in an assisted living facility. We are seeking 49 family caregivers to evaluate the program by October 31st.

A \$50 participant payment will be offered to each family caregiver participant who consents to participate in the project and completes the training by October 31, 2008. You should be a caregiver for someone living at home or in an assisted living facility. (Family members caring for someone in a nursing home are not eligible to participate in this study.)

Family caregivers will be asked to:

1. Fill out a consent form (5 min)
2. Fill out demographic form (5 min)
3. Complete the Savvy Caregiver Online program (2 hours)
4. Fill out an evaluation form (15 min)

If you would like to participate in this study, please click on the following website link to complete a [consent form and demographic form](#). Once you fill out a consent form, we will then email you directly with a participant ID and the program Website address. All participants must complete the 3-hour study by October 31, 2008.

If you have any questions, please call or email:

Marsha Lewis, PhD, RN

Emory University
(404) 712-9693
marsha.lewis@emory.edu

Economic Stimulus Payment Blitz

AARP Georgia and AARP Tax Aide is collaborating with Atlanta Prosperity Campaign, the IRS and Georgia Legal Services to coordinate efforts to reach an estimated 160,000 people in Georgia who are eligible for the Economic Stimulus Payment (ESP) for 2007, but may not be aware of it. Thousands of Georgians qualify for the ESP for 2007, but, they have not filed a Federal tax return in order to receive the ESP. If they do not file a Federal tax return by this October 15th, they will not receive the ESP. Given the troubled economy, causing the increasing costs of food, gas, heating etc., it is crucial that families in Georgia learn about this financial resource.

This collaborative will conduct a 3 day statewide blitz on September 9th, 10th and 11th, 2008, with volunteers stationed at 25 sites to assist Georgians to file for their ESP payment FREE to the filers. To supplement our media promotion of this 3 day blitz, we are requesting of you to forward the attached flier (pdf) to agencies, organizations and the faith community within your network and request their support in a further distribution to their network.

Your assistance will contribute greatly to the success of this effort.

Thank you.

Ernest Arceneaux
Associate State Director
404-870-3788 (phone)
678-938-0765 (cell)
404-881-6997 (fax)

Intergenerational Shared Site Best Practice Awards

Generations United is pleased to announce the second Generations United/MetLife Foundation Intergenerational Shared Site Best Practice Awards. These awards champion best practices of intergenerational shared site programs while raising the visibility of these important initiatives and encouraging the development of new models. Up to five shared site programs will be selected as best practice award winners, receive a cash award of \$2,500 and be highlighted in a report released at GU's 15th International Intergenerational Conference in Washington, DC in July 2009. The deadline for nominations is Friday, November 14, 2008. Visit www.gu.org/ShareBestPractices.asp for more information and to apply on-line.

Transportation Costs and Commute Options

This month's Regional Snapshot examines a variety of transportation-related data to gain a better understanding of how higher fuel costs affect travel behavior. In exploring national travel patterns and local data from ARC's RideSmart program, a service for those interested in alternative transportation, the research reveals that as gas prices rise, vehicle miles traveled (VMT) falls and those looking for alternative commutes increase. It also shows how transportation costs vary throughout the region, depending on where one lives.

[Read this month's Regional Snapshot](#). For more information about this snapshot, or to suggest topics for further research, please email mcarnathan@atlantaregional.com.

Schedule Flu Shots for Your Residents

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) reminds health care professionals that Medicare Part B reimburses health care providers who accept the Medicare-approved payment amount for influenza, pneumococcal, and hepatitis B vaccines and their administration. All adults 65 and older should get influenza and pneumococcal shots. Last year, approximately 63.7 percent of seniors 65 and older received their flu shots even though Medicare pays for their doses.

CMS needs your help to ensure that people with Medicare and those working in the health care field take full advantage of these vital preventive benefits. Flu kills about 36,000 each year and leads to about 200,000 hospitalizations. Choices include standard flu shots for all ages, and the nasal vaccine FluMist, which can be used in healthy people age 2 to 49. For more information about Medicare's coverage of adult immunizations and a list of related educational resources, please visit [CMS' Medicare Learning Network Preventive Services Educational Products web page](#) on the CMS Web site.

New Guidance Available on HIPAA Privacy Rule

New guidance from the Health and Human Services Office for Civil Rights clarifies the responsibilities of providers under the HIPAA privacy rule when communicating with a patient's family, friends or others involved in the patient's care. This five-page guide explains when a health care provider is allowed to share a patient's health information with the patient's family members, friends, or others identified by the patient as involved in the patient's care under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) Privacy Rule.

Even though HIPAA requires health care providers to protect patient privacy, providers are permitted, in most circumstances, to communicate with the

patient's family, friends, or others involved in their care or payment for care. This guide is intended to clarify these HIPAA requirements so that health care providers do not unnecessarily withhold a patient's health information from these persons. This guide includes common questions and a table that summarizes the relevant requirements. The guide is available [here](#).

For Further Information: Contact Jennifer Hilliard at jhilliard@aaahsa.org.

Hartford Institute for Geriatric Nursing Updates Evidence-Based Protocols

The Hartford Institute for Geriatric Nursing has announced that it has updated the following evidence-based practice protocols, available at <http://consultgerirn.org> - click on resources.

Advanced directives (updated March 2008)
Hydration management (updated March 2008)
Medication--reducing adverse drug events (updated April 2008)
Normal aging changes (updated March 2008)
Sexuality issues in aging (updated March 2008)
Substance abuse (updated March 2008)
Treatment decision-making (updated March 2008)
These and other evidence-based protocols are available at the above web site.

Evacuation Guidelines from Florida

Thankfully, Georgia has not had to evacuate long-term care facilities during this hurricane season so far (yes, I'm knocking on wood). But I thought you might like to know of this tool in case you haven't already seen it, developed by the State of Florida and disseminated by CMS. It is designed for nursing homes (and could be applicable to personal care homes) for determining whether/when to evacuate residents:
<http://www.fhca.org/news/evacsurvey.pdf>.

It isn't limited to hurricanes, but applies to many types of disaster and it might be a helpful resource for facilities in your membership. Also, here is a link to a research article about the aftermath of evacuation of long-term care facilities in Texas related to Hurricanes Katrina and Rita and the impact on residents, direct care staff and providers.
http://www.ltombudsman.org/uploads/File/JGN_Article.pdf Looks like it includes some useful recommendations for policy as well.

Becky A. Kurtz, Esq.
Georgia State Long-Term Care Ombudsman

Alzheimer's In-Service Newsletters Available Free from Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corporation

Four Alzheimer's in-service newsletters are now available free from Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corporation in cooperation with Senior Living University. This In-Service newsletter is designed to support a better understanding of Alzheimer's disease, the care and treatment for residents who live with Alzheimer's disease and resources available to providers.

The four newsletters are available at http://www.seniorlivingu.com/ALZ_Free.html. Senior Living University reports that each subsequent publication will be archived and available on the above

web site as a resource to providers.

Business Connection Updates from our Associate Members

Customer Service *... the best starts with a Smile*

At the baseline of every good marketing program is solid customer service. First impressions are formed very quickly and we all know what a smile can do. It seems simple and we think we all do it, but it can go beyond greeting customers. Try to smile every time you answer the phone and see what happens. Remember, you can hear smiles as well as see them. And smiling whenever you pick up the phone will keep you positive and upbeat. Try it...it really works!

The best customer service would also never leave a customer on hold for over one minute without reconnecting with a status report. Ask if the customer would prefer a callback. If so, get a phone number, get a convenient time, and make sure the return call happens.

If others answer the phone for you, make sure they know how to smile, too! If you are unavailable, be certain to let the one speaking with the caller know what information to ask for and how to manage the call, where to leave the message, and what to do if an immediate response is required. Having a process in place that becomes a good habit will ensure the customer always gets the 'five star' experience.

Submitted by
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Operation Safe Driver

Operation Safe Driver, a new safety initiative of Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance (CVSA) and the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA), focuses on increasing commercial and non-commercial vehicle driver performance through enforcement and education.

The complete report is available [here](#).

Michael Nischan, CDS
The McCart Group
Michael.nischan@mccart.com

Skilled Nursing Provider Medicare PPS Rates

We've updated our rate model and calculated the new FY 2009 rates by county. These are now [posted on the GAHSA website](#). Contact DeDe Nichols (478.787.0527 or dnichols@mslcpa.com) if you prefer them in an Excel format and/or if you need them for areas outside of Georgia.

In addition to giving us the full Market Basket increase of 3.1%, CMS postponed the "recalibrations" of case-mix weights (proposed to reestablish budget neutrality), that would have reduced payments this October and continued indefinitely. Those refinements are coming, just not as soon as we thought. Both Urban and Rural Federal rates increased approximately 3.4%, and the percentage of the rate impacted by the wage index declined slightly again, from 70.00% to 69.78%.

CMS's projected regional impact summary indicates the biggest Urban increases are those in the Pacific region with 4.9%, while the smallest Urban increases are in the Middle Atlantic and East North Central at 2.9%. For the Rural groups, the biggest winners are again those in the Pacific region, with an increase of 4.5%, while the smallest increases are in the New England region (1.6%). (The Pacific area had the largest increases in wage index data.)

In Georgia, the Albany area's rates will increase by 5.1%, while those in Atlanta will increase 3%. Rural rates are up 3.2%. The only area with a rate decline (almost 3%) is the Athens area, where the wage index declined sharply.

DeDe G. Nichols
MOORE STEPHENS LOVELACE, P.A.
Direct: 478.787.0527
Cell: 478.957.6490

GIA News

**September 28th:
The 6th Annual Cabaret: Black & White
Hollywood Affair Dinner Theatre
*What a Success***



Bernardine Mitchell and Renee Clark entertain



Our Platinum Sponsor and others enjoying the evening

Due to record numbers of volunteers that served on the committee, the Georgia Institute on Aging and Aging Services of Georgia Board members' involvement, exceptional sponsors' willingness to give in a huge way, and beautiful guests that filled the room--it's little wonder that we reached record numbers in attendance and achieved our fundraising goals.

The talent for the benefit concert opened with Jonn Serrie, a composer of a genre of ambient [Electronic Music](#) and [New Age](#) music. He has recorded at least eighteen albums and worked on various projects for [Lucas film](#), [IMAX](#), [NASA](#), the United States [Navy](#), Hayden Planetarium, Expo Seville, and [CNN](#). Serrie has been composing and performing music for planetariums since the early 1980s. His first album "And the Stars Go with You" was in memory of the astronauts lost in the [Challenger disaster](#) in 1986.

Headliner and songstress, Bernardine Mitchell a classically trained, versatile and seasoned entertainer performed classical Hollywood hits. Bernardine has performed nationally and internationally with a variety of roles including Bessie Smith in Bessie's Blues, Alice in Big River, and starred with Morgan Freeman in A Resting Place.

This was certainly a night to remember. Take a look at some of the candid photos from the evening's event.



If you participated in any way, the Georgia Institute on Aging supporters will receive tremendous benefits through the creation of additional quality, affordable training. All proceeds raised from this benefit will provide additional educational opportunities via scholarships for paraprofessionals, professionals, and family caregivers who care for older adults.

Your donations show you CARE for older Georgians and you responded to the call to ACTION on their behalf. The elders in our community secured our future...Now we can help secure theirs!

Special Thanks to the following Committee Members and

Sponsors: Zandra Matthews, Chair. Antoinette Sturm, Sandi Comer-Cooper, Barbara Woodhouse, Stacey Shulman, Stacey Howse, DeDe Nichols, Mackay Asbury, Anne Foster, Betsy Caldwell, Tonya Miller, and Elaine Jackson

PLATINUM SPONSOR: The Law Firm of Williams & Edelstein, P.C.

GOLD SPONSORS: Mauldin & Jenkins, LLC, The McCart Group

BRONZE SPONSORS: PRI X-Ray, LLC, Signature Benefits, Trimark Health Services

Table Sponsors:

- The Law Office of Williams & Edelstein, P.C.
- Mauldin & Jenkins, LLC

- Presbyterian Homes of GA
- Saint Anne's Terrace
- Senior Connections
- Right at Home/ADA Medical/Cooper Medical Associates
- Georgia Pharmacy Company
- Clairmont Oaks, Inc./Briarcliff Oaks
- Gas South
- Digital Eyez
- Asbury Harris Epworth Towers

Silent Auction Items Sponsors:

- Air Tran
- Gas South
- KNINE
- Simplex Grinnell
- Susan Rosmarin (www.susanrosmarinphotography.com)
- Leila Weisberg
- Alliance Theatre
- InterVision Group, LLC
- Right at Home
- Jean Wright
- Georgian Bank
- The Atlanta Ballet
- The Fox Theatre
- Georgia Shakespeare's Theatre
- FERNBANK
- Zoo Atlanta
- Center for Puppetry Arts
- Georgia Institute on Aging Board
- Aging Services of GA Board Challenge Donation
- Ginny Helms c/o Alzheimer's Association – GA Ch.
- Wallpaper Plus

Last Month's Events

1st Annual Culture Change Summit -- September 4



Carmen Bowman and Peter Notarstephano

The First Annual Georgia Culture Change Summit was a huge success. 140 participants from all areas of the continuum of aging services came to learn more about how to succeed in person-centered programs and services for the seniors they serve. Carmen Bowman provided a variety of relevant information defining culture change and the various movements around the US, specific ways programs relate to regulatory oversight, assessment tools and more. Peter Notarstephano, HCBS Director at aahsa, shared information about successful programs with more independent seniors throughout the US.

Faculty:

Carmen Bowman, Regulator Turned Educator

Peter Notarstephano, HCBS Director, AAHSA

Kim McRae, Culture Change Consultant, Aging Services of Georgia

Summer Luncheon Long Term Care Financing Solutions -- September 11



LTC Panel

Georgia's LTC Finance Forum was held Sept 11th at the Loudermilk Center. An interactive discussion about long-term care financing reform including a wide variety of leaders. Among them: staff from the State Dept of Insurance, CEO of AHCA affiliate, State Director and staff from AARP, Alz Assoc GA policy director, Directors and staff of providers including Nursing homes, CCRCs, Assisted Living, HUD, HCBS, Hospice, Adult day providers along with various business members

Faculty:

Joy Cameron, AAHSA

Melissa Sharp, Regional VP, AAHSA

Panel:

Tom Bauer, Legislative Counsel, GAHSA, Facilitator

Representative Len Walker, Chair, House Human Relations & Aging Committee

Pamela Madden, Long Term Care Services Program Policy Auditor, Georgia

Department of Community Health
Maria Greene, Director, Division of Aging Services
Tom Rockenbach, COO, Presbyterian Homes of Georgia

Coaching Supervision: Skills for Supervisors in Home and Residential Care -- September 18



Mary Arthur directing one of many role-playing sessions

This curriculum is designed specifically for supervisors of direct-care workers in both home and residential settings. The focus of the training is on worker retention and improvement of work performance. It is part of the Atlanta Regional Commission's Taking Care Initiative, a project funded through a grant from the Healthcare Georgia Foundation.

Faculty:

Mary Arthur, Director: Senior Living Initiative, Visiting Nurse | Hospice Atlanta
Catherine Ivy, Fuqua Center for Late-Life Depression, Emory University
Walter Coffey, President/CEO, Aging Services of Georgia

Adult Day Services Forum -- September 25



Adult Day Service Providers gathered at Senior Citizens' Services

The focus of the day was on quality assurance. A program evaluation of the Weinstein Center was shared with the group, focusing on lessons learned and how to improve services and programs. There was a good dialogue and information sharing regarding the movement to more person-centered programming in adult day settings.

Faculty:

Ann Garzia, SarahCare Adult Day Services
 Dianne O'Donnell, Gerontology Institute, Georgia State University
 Georgia Gunter, MJCAA Weinstein Center for Adult Day Services

Upcoming Events

**Thursday & Friday
 September 18-19**

[Coaching Supervision: Skills for Supervisors in Home & Residential Care](#)

9 am - 4:00 pm, gahsa Offices

NOTE: This training will be available for housing providers in 2009

This curriculum is designed specifically for supervisors of direct-care workers in both home and residential settings. The focus of the training is on worker retention and improvement of work performance. It is part of the Atlanta Regional Commission's Taking Care Initiative, a project funded through a grant from the Healthcare Georgia Foundation.

Created in 1999 as an independent, private foundation, the Foundation's mission is to advance the health of all Georgians and to expand access to affordable, quality healthcare for underserved individuals

Thursday, October 2

Forums Day

9:30 - 11:30 gahsa Offices

These forums will be meeting: Marketing, Hud Administrators and Maintenance Professionals

Thursday, October 2

2:00 - 3:30 gahsa Offices
Annual Medicare Update

This is updated training on Part D including all of the mailings that are being sent to beneficiaries, the Low Income Subsidy and how to help someone apply. Some information about Part C.

Presenter: Lisa Federico, MSW, Coordinator, Georgia Cares, Atlanta Regional Commission.

If you are outside the metro Atlanta area and CAN NOT attend in person, you may call into the meeting. Contact Barry Lastinger at blastinger@gahsa.org for the conference call number and passcode.

Tuesday, October 28

Fair Housing Symposium
Christian City, Union City GA

Wednesday, October 29

Last gahsaNEXT Event for 2009 class
Aging Services of Georgia Offices

Tuesday, November 4

Ethics Symposium with Nancy Kriseman
Canterbury Court, Atlanta

Thursday & Friday**November 13-14**

[*Coaching Supervision: Skills for Supervisors in Home & Residential Care*](#)

9 am - 4:00 pm, gahsa Offices

NOTE: This training will be available for housing providers in 2009

News Throughout the Continuum

HUD Issues Clarification on HUD Model Leases

On Sept. 18, HUD issued a clarification regarding its model leases, which were approved by OMB last March. The approved leases included the OMB approval number and expiration date. Because of feedback from providers and HUD staff, HUD recently requested and received OMB's permission to remove the OMB approval number and expiration date from the model leases generated by TRACS and other software. This eliminates the problem of owners and management agents who use the leases generated by this software needing to re-issue leases when there is a change in the OMB expiration date.

However, HUD states that OMB continues to require that the leases posted on HUDCLIPS must continue to include the OMB approval number and expiration date. Owners and management agents who are not using software that generates leases should be using the leases with the OMB approval number and expiration date.

HUD's clarification also says that leases that were modified before the release of the OMB-approved model leases can continue to be used as long as the modifications have been approved by HUD or the Contract Administrator. The

modified leases can be used until such time as HUD issues modifications to the leases themselves. Any new lease modifications made by owners/management agents must be in the form of a lease addendum and must be approved by HUD or the Contract Administrator. HUD Handbook 4350.3 REV-1 will be revised to include the lease addendum requirements.

A copy of the Sept. 18 HUD memo is posted on the e-communities HUD discussion forum. The HUD Model Leases Questions and Answers currently posted on the Multifamily RHIIP web site are being revised but are not yet available.

For Further Information: Contact Michael Sharkey at Michael.A.Sharkey@hud.gov.

AAHSA Advocates for Project-Based Section 8 Providers in the Continuing Resolution

To prevent a replay of last year's project-based Section 8 late payment problem, the American Association of Homes and Services for the Aging (AAHSA) joined more than 40 organizations and individuals in a letter urging Congress to recognize and resolve the special funding needs of the program in the expected continuing resolution (CR). The letter may be viewed at <http://www.aahsa.org/article.aspx?id=4052>.

CRs generally provide programs with funding based on the amount available in the previous fiscal year for the term of the CR, and AAHSA doesn't want to see a recurrence of last year's short funding. In 2008, HUD adopted a policy that had the effect of short-funding Section 8 Housing Assistance Payment contracts. As a result, HUD will need to provide funds for all project-based Section 8 contracts early in FY09.

If the usual CR is drafted, funding will be inadequate because so many fewer contracts required funding during the same FY08 period. The Sept. 4 letter urges the chairs of the Senate and House Appropriations committees, Sen. Robert Byrd (D-WV) and Rep. David Obey (D-WI) to recognize the peculiar needs of the Section 8 program and include provisions in the CR to ensure that the funding needs of the program can be met during the period covered by the CR.

Rental Subsidy Payments in Place Through November

HUD officials have been working hard to get funding in place to carry contracts beyond the current fiscal year end (Sept. 30, 2008). As such, all but a few 811/PRACs should continue receiving funds uninterrupted for a while (see related item on the CR). If you have any problems with contract renewals or non-payments, please contact AAHSA's [Colleen Bloom](mailto:cbloom@aaahsa.org). cbloom@aaahsa.org

Report Issued by Federal OIG -- Trends in Nursing Home Deficiencies and Complaints

The [report](#) makes the following assertions: "in each of the past 3 years, over 91 percent of nursing homes surveyed were cited for deficiencies and a greater percentage of for-profit nursing homes were cited for deficiencies than not-for-profit and government nursing homes. During those same years, the most common deficiency categories cited were quality of care, resident assessment, and quality of life. Additionally, 17 percent of nursing homes surveyed in 2007 were cited for actual harm or immediate jeopardy deficiencies, and 3.6 percent were cited for substandard quality-of-care deficiencies-a slight increase since

2005. Lastly, the number of substantiated complaints decreased nearly 3 percent since 2005."

In addition, the OIG issued a press release today announcing that it has published a voluntary supplemental compliance program guidance for nursing facilities in today's (September 30th) Federal Register. The OIG states that this guidance does not create any new law or legal obligations, and the discussions in this guidance are not intended to present detailed or comprehensive summaries of lawful or unlawful activity. This guidance is not intended as a substitute for consultation with CMS, a facility's fiscal intermediary or Program Safeguard Contractor, a State Medicaid agency, or other relevant State agencies with respect to the application and interpretation of payment, coverage, licensure, or other provisions that are subject to change. Rather, this guidance should be used as a starting point for a nursing facility's legal review of its particular practices and for development or refinement of policies and procedures to reduce or eliminate potential risk. This guidance reviews issues regarding staffing, comprehensive care plans, medication management, appropriate use of psychotropic medications, and resident safety.

"LIFELines" email publication for GAHSA Nursing Home Members & Nursing Staff

GAHSA healthcare/nursing home members will begin receiving a new publication called LIFELines. This publication is a partnership between GAHSA and our Illinois Association (Life Services Network). LIFELines provides timely information regarding state and federal issues such as survey preparedness, risk management, immediate jeopardy, clinical issues, abuse investigation, recruitment and retention and a host of other vital information for GAHSA nursing home members. **All GAHSA nursing home members should now be automatically receiving LIFELines. Any other GAHSA member is welcomed to receive this publication – just contact swatkins@gahsa.org.**

September topics were:

The "may use" format/wording when referring to the use of personal alarms, side rails, self-release belts or lap buddies, etc. and things to keep in mind when using Nursing/CNA Students.

Vacancy Report

GAHSA VACANCY REPORT

Please assist your colleagues by sharing this information when you receive calls from consumers you cannot serve.

Facility	Units	Cost	Type of Subsidy/Waiver
Lutheran Towers, Midtown Atlanta	3 – Efficiency		Sec. 8
	6 – One		Sec. 8

	Bedroom		
Springfield Gardens, Warner Robbins	1 – One Bedroom	\$627	HUD PRAC
The Zaban Tower, Atlanta	3 – Efficiency		HUD PRAC
	Personal Care:		
	2 – Studio	\$2100	HUD PRAC
	6– One Bedroom	\$2655	HUD PRAC

Career Opportunities

Decatur Christian Tower

[Overnight Courtesy Staff](#)

Brandon Wilde

[Health Services Administrator](#)

Canterbury Court

[Marketing Director](#)

MobilexUSA

[Sales Representative](#)

A.G. Rhodes Home

[Director of Nursing](#)
[Admissions Manager](#)

St. George Village

[Marketing Director](#)

Christian City, Union City, Georgia:

[Nursing Home Administrator](#)
[Director of Nursing](#)

AAHSA Information

News from AAHSA

Melissa Sharp, Vice President, Southeast Region, AAHSA

Please feel free to contact me with your questions or concerns at (202) 508-9456 or by e-mail at msharp@aahsa.org.

Have you seen the new aahsa.org yet?

Our new Web site will help you find what you need, fast. We've got expanded resources for [providers](#) and [consumers](#). We've also implemented mechanisms to help you find things easier. Visit us now at www.aahsa.org!

The Gerontologist Devotes Special Issue to BJBC

Research findings from Better Jobs Better Care are the subject of a special issue of The Gerontologist, the flagship journal of the Gerontological Society of America (GSA). The special issue, which became available in August, is entitled "Better Jobs Better Care: New Research on the Long-Term Care Workforce." [Read more.](#)

Reforming Long-Term Care Finance

Whether you missed the GAHSA Summer Luncheon, or just wanted more information on the AAHSA Long-Term Care Financing Solution, here are some resources and background for you.

AAHSA's vision is for all Americans to receive the care they need, when they need it, in a place they call home. AAHSA leaders convened a Finance Cabinet in 2004 to recommend a position for future financing of long-term care. The result was a plan that would create a public insurance program to help people manage and pay for the services they need with cash payments based on level of disability. The Finance Cabinet published a [white paper](#) with recommendations and the rationale for its decisions.

From the Cabinet's recommendations, AAHSA launched the [Long-Term Care Solution](#), an initiative to transform how long-term care is paid for in this country. Our [brochure](#) outlines the problem of long-term care finance and our framework for creating a national long-term care insurance trust that will provide cash benefits for those needing assistance.

BJBC Catalogue Highlights Useful Workforce Tools

Even if your organization didn't participate directly in Better Jobs Better Care, you can still benefit from the workforce-building tools developed during that program. More than 80 of those tools are included in a new IFAS publication, *A Crisis with a Solution: Tools and Resources for Transforming the Long-Term Care Workforce*. IFASage recently spoke to researchers who developed three of those tools. Click the links below to find out more about:

- A data-driven tool that can help you ["spend smart" on recruitment and retention](#).
- A training guide to help workers and managers handle [culturally sensitive situations](#).
- [Occupational profiles](#) for entry-level and advanced direct care workers that can help you write job descriptions and develop training programs.

AAHSA Member Benefit Spotlight: HCBS Report

Are you currently receiving our monthly HCBS Report? If not, check it out [here](#). To subscribe, please send an email to memberservices@aahsa.org.

