

Wisconsin LTC Update (Monday, April 27, 2009)

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ARTICLES

- **Contact Your State Assembly Representatives and State Senators Today!**

LEGISLATIVE PUBLIC HEARING NOTICES

- 05-05-09: [Assembly Committee on Health](#) public hearing on [AB-207](#), to require patients be informed of health care facility use charges and that the charges be identified.

OTHER MEETING NOTICES IMPACTING LONG-TERM CARE

- 04-30-09: [CR09-003](#): Dept. Health Services public hearing to revise Ch. DHS 10, relating to fair hearings and continuation of benefits pending the outcome of a grievance, department review, or hearing under the family care program.
- 05-05-09: [WI Council on LTC](#) (Madison)
- 06-19-09: [WI Council on LTC – Committee on Family Care Quality](#) (Madison)

NEW STATE AGENCY MEMOS (DHS, DQA, DLTC, DMHSAS, etc.)

- Nothing new reported for this past week.

NEW LEGISLATION – INTRODUCED PROPOSALS IMPACTING LTC

- [SB-180](#): Granting prescriptive authority to psychologists and requiring rule-making authority.

ADMINISTRATIVE RULES

- [CR09-003](#): Hearing to consider rules to revise Ch. DHS 10, relating to fair hearings and continuation of benefits pending the outcome of a grievance, department review, or hearing under the family care program. (CR09-003). April 30, 2009, 9:00 AM, Dept. Health Services, 1 W. Wilson St., Room 518-B (Madison). Deadline for submitting comments to DHS is 4:30 PM on Monday, May 7, 2009. Written comments may be submitted at the public hearing or submitted using the Wisconsin Administrative Rule Website at <http://adminrules.wisconsin.gov>.

Contact Your State Senators and Assembly Representatives Today!

Please contact your state senator and assembly representative and ask them to support and oppose the following budget items – please use the talking points \ issue paper attached to this e-mail. To find your legislators, go to: Who is my Legislator? <http://www.legis.wisconsin.gov/waml>

REQUEST: An Increase in LTC Funding to Ensure a “Living Wage” for Direct Caregivers

REQUEST: Require Family Care Rate Increase be Passed Through for Worker Wages

REQUEST: Require Family Care Reimbursement be Reasonable and Sufficient to Provide Services in Conformity with State and Federal Laws

OPPOSE: 1% Across-the-Board Cuts to Essential Long-Term Care Programs

REMOVE: Wisconsin Quality Home Care Authority: **Introduce as Separate Legislation**

OPPOSE: Assisted Living Facilities Certification & Licensing Fee Increases
27% Fee increases on CBRFs, AFHs, RCACs and ADC.

OPPOSE: Creation of New Fees on 1-2 Bed Adult Family Homes

- **SUPPORT INCREASE \$200 Re-Inspection (“Revisit Fee”) on Certain Health Care Facilities.** The WALA board is sending a letter to DHS opposing the 27% license fee increase and suggest that the “revisit fee” be increased to off set that. The concept is that those that are not compliant should pay for those increased costs.

It is imperative that WALA members reach out to your state legislators and make your voices heard – **loudly**. You along with your employees, the individuals you serve and their families need to educate the Wisconsin Legislature so that they can recognize that quality care, staffing, salaries and benefits provided to serve our most vulnerable population are directly linked and limited by the amount of funding that is approved by the Legislature.

Even though our state elected officials are facing a significant budget deficit, we cannot stand by and allow additional burdens to be placed on an already strained long-term care system. Our direct-caregivers and the vulnerable population we serve deserve better. The willful underfunding of Wisconsin’s long-term care system is the greatest threat to quality care.

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