



Wisconsin Assisted Living Association

News Blast

February 7, 2011

Save the date for the
WALA Spring
Conference!

March 22-24, 2011

Kalahari Resort,
Wisconsin Dells

Agendas have been sent out... if
you haven't received one please
contact the WALA office.

Notice that all the pictures in
the agenda are from Mary Kay
Baum, a survivor of early on-set
dementia.

Dear Sarah,

Go PACK Go!

WALA Members receive these blasts whenever breaking news in Assisted Living develops.

Have you renewed your membership for 2011? If not, contact Sarah Bass, WALA's Operations Director at sbass@ewala.org or call her at 608/288-0246 to renew or to become a new member today!

For more information about WALA please visit our website at www.ewala.org. Let us know how you feel about the new look and feel of our website!

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[Interview of Wisconsin DHS Secretary Dennis Smith](#)

Now available online is a taped video interview of Wisconsin's new Department of Health Services Secretary Dennis Smith. The video provides some insight of Secretary Smith's views and goals with respect to public policy and the funding challenges facing the Medicaid program. The video was taped on Thursday, February 3, 2011 on the program "Newsmakers" with Steve Walters, a production provided by WisconsinEye. WisconsinEye is the entity that provides coverage of the Wisconsin government through live and taped video of legislative session, committee hearings and other government meetings.

To view the video go to the WALA Website at www.ewala.org

Some Family Care MCO's Announce No Further Reimbursement for BedHolds.

It has been brought to our attention that some long-term care providers have received notices from at least two Family Care - Managed Care Organizations (MCOs) that they will no longer provide reimbursement to community residential providers to hold the placement of a resident\Family Care enrollee that is receiving Waiver, Medicaid or Medicare funded hospital, nursing home or ICF-MR services.

The two MCOs that we have confirmation that have sent letters to providers are: Community Health Partnership (effective January 1, 2011) and Community Care, Inc (effective March 1, 2011). There could be others, but we have not received letters from long-term care providers at this time.

Our lobbyist, Forbes McIntosh, contacted the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) to notify them of the situation and to ask if a new state\federal law or policy has been put into place? The answer provided by DHS is that no new law has been passed, rather this is a federal Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services (CMS) Department policy that has been in existence for sometime and DHS is beginning to enforce this policy now to be consistent with federal law.

However, from a provider perspective this situation basically amounts to a rate cut. And, the question that needs to be answered is, if this is a longtime CMS policy that DHS has not enforced in the past - why now? Also, based on the response below, one could ask whether this is really a CMS requirement or an interpretation by DHS (as other states have done) to implement another rate cut to providers.

DHS Cited the Following in an e-mail Response:

"In the waiver services portion of the Family Care benefit, CMS prohibits states from use of Waiver funds from purchasing duplicative services concurrently. Payment to a community residential provider to hold the placement while a waiver participant is receiving Waiver, Medicaid or Medicare funded hospital, nursing home or ICF MR services has largely been interpreted to be considered duplicative and prohibited by CMS.

- The Waiver application submitted to CMS to operate Family Care Program indicates that 'under no circumstances is it allowable to claim cost for waiver services while a waiver program participant is in the hospital or nursing home.'"

Our lobbyist will be looking into this situation further and will provide updates.

NEW DHS Publications

[Pharmacy Newcapsule \(January - February 2011\)](#) -

http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/rl_dsl/Publications/PharmJanFeb11.pdf

Inside:

- Falls and Medications, by Doug Englebert, RPh
- New Drugs
- Osteoporosis Update
- Home Health Medication Storage
- Consultant Corner

Articles of Interest

Milwaukee Journal Sentinel (02/03/2011)

Feds outline Ways to Reduce Medicaid Costs

<http://www.jsonline.com/business/115237149.html>

Milwaukee Journal Sentinel (02/03/2011)

Federal Health Care Law is Dead, Van Hollen Contends (AG)

<http://www.jsonline.com/news/statepolitics/115227934.html>

Milwaukee Journal Sentinel (02/02/11)

State of the State: Walker Urges Fiscal Restraint, Vows to Move up Zoo Interchange Project

<http://www.jsonline.com/news/statepolitics/115037949.html>

Wisconsin State Journal (02/02/2011)

Walker's State-of-the-State Speech Warns of Tough Cuts, but is Light on Details

http://host.madison.com/wsj/news/local/govt-and-politics/article_e86482a4-2e67-11e0-8adc-001cc4c03286.html

Milwaukee Journal Sentinel (01/29/2011)

Health Care Could Take Hit in Budget

<http://www.jsonline.com/business/114839689.html>

Wisconsin Blizzard Stories from Members

WALA has been hearing some incredible stories of how communities and staff in the lower third of the state handled the blizzard last week. We would like to showcase the extra efforts you and your staff did to meet the needs of your snowbound residents. Please send along short (100-200 words) stories of these efforts.

We heard that one member arranged to pick up staff by snowmobile when the roads were closed. Other staff did not go home Tuesday night and stayed overnight so they could serve their residents in case

they could not get to work. We have heard of incredible efforts - even heroic ones - to make sure that the residents were fed, cared for and their lives were happy.

Send us your stories by Feb 11 and we will add as many as possible to the March WALA Watch newsletter. Send your stories, how much snow you got and the height of your snow drifts - and attach photos if you have them - to sbass@ewala.org

On behalf of all you serve, thanks to you and your dedicated assisted living staff.

Sincerely,

Jim Murphy, Executive Director
Sarah Bass, Operations Director

Wisconsin Assisted Living Association



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