



# Wisconsin Assisted Living Association

## News Blast

January 6, 2011

Save the date for the  
WALA Spring  
Conference!

March 22-24, 2011

Kalahari Resort,  
Wisconsin Dells

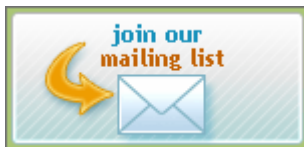
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Employment](#)



Dear Sarah,

Welcome to 2011! Hope your holidays were wonderful.

WALA Members receive these blasts twice a month plus whenever breaking news in Assisted Living develops. If you are a member and want to join the mailing list please follow the link on the left of the page.

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

To join WALA, please visit [www.ewala.org](http://www.ewala.org) for more information.

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### → New Memos from BAL

[DQA Memo 11 -001](#) - Revisions to Chapters DHS 83 community Based Residential Facilities and DHS 88 Licensed Adult Family Homes - Effective January 1 ,2011.

This memo addresses the DQA amendments on certain provisions in DHS 83 and DHS 88 which is in effect January 1, 2011. The administrative rules were amended to correct cross references, links and charts and to make other minor changes. A summary of the changes made to each rule and links to the

complete text of the rules are listed in this memo.

### **AL Forum - Meeting update/information**

**The AL Forum held on January 11, 2011 will be conducted via a web based program (Adobe Connect) and will not be an in-person meeting.**

Adobe Connect Meeting is a web conferencing product that allows users to conduct live meetings and presentations over the internet.

BAL has sent out instructions via the ListServ for participants to test their connection capability to Adobe Connect Pro. If you have not received this email, or have questions, feel free to call the WALA office at 608/288-0246.

You can test your computer with the link below now, to prepare for the meeting on January 11. If you successfully connect to the web link, you will see a "Welcome Announcement."

<https://connect.wisconsin.gov/dhsdqaalforum/>

**Use the above link to connect to the January 11 meeting and future web-based meetings.**

Meetings will be held bi-monthly in 2011. For a complete list of meeting dates and locations go [here](#).

### **Legislative Update**

**Special Session Legislation on Health Care Tort Reform to be Introduced and Passed in Coming Weeks**

A legislative proposal (LRB-0388) relating to healthcare and manufacturing tort reform will be introduced as a senate bill this week. [View the LRB draft bill to review here](#). In addition, portions of the summary impacting healthcare has been pulled out and provided below for your review and understanding.

This bill will be taken up in the Special Session of the Legislature Called by the Governor, which means this proposal will likely pass in the coming weeks.

The relating summary of the proposal states: This bill makes several changes to current law regarding civil actions for negligence in long-term care facilities product liability, actions in strict liability, punitive damage awards, and awards for defending a frivolous lawsuit. The bill also makes changes regarding the confidentiality and use of reviews and evaluations of health care providers and regarding criminal liability for certain acts or omissions by health care

providers. [View a summary of the Special Session Legislation and how it relates to Assisted Living here.](#)

Please note that a public hearing has already been scheduled on the Tort Reform proposal. Members are encouraged to contact your state senator and assembly representative to request their support in passing this bill into law.

**Assembly Committee on Judiciary & Ethics**  
**Tuesday, January 11, 2011 1:00 PM 417-North, State Capitol**

*A Public Hearing will be held on the following (Health Care & Product Tort Reform Bill)*

- [January 2011 Special Session Assembly Bill 1](#): Relating to: limiting noneconomic damages awarded in actions against long-term care providers; actions against manufacturers, distributors, sellers, and promoters of certain products; confidentiality of health care services reviews; use as evidence of information regarding health care providers; reporting of quality indicators identifying individual hospitals; homicide or injury by negligent handling of a dangerous weapon, explosives, or fire; criminal abuse of individuals at risk; criminal abuse and neglect of patients and residents; evidence of lay and expert witnesses; damages for frivolous claims; and punitive damage awards.

**Walker Announces Cabinet**

On December 30, 2010, Governor Walker announced the leadership team that will help achieve the goal of ensuring Wisconsin has a business climate that allows the private sector to create 250,000 new jobs by 2015.

"I am excited that these top notch individuals have agreed to serve the State of Wisconsin as members of my cabinet," said Walker. "This diverse group will join me in public service to help reshape government so that our state can efficiently provide the basic level of core government services taxpayers expect and deserve."

Some of Walker's new cabinet that you might be interested in knowing more about include:

- Dennis Smith - Secretary of the Department of Health Services
- Eloise Anderson - Secretary of the Department of Children and Families
- Manuel "Manny" Perez - Secretary of the Department of Workforce Development
- Gary Hamblin - Secretary of the Department of Corrections

[For more appointees and background information about all the appointees see summary here.](#)

WALA's information is compiled by Forbes McIntosh, lobbyist for WALA and by WALA's Legislative/Regulatory Subcommittee.

For more information on how you can get more involved in subcommittees like the Legislative/Regulatory Subcommittee, contact WALA at 608/288-0246.

## Managed Care Update

### **New Releases from DHS**

The Department has released two reports of interest:

- The 2009/2010 external quality review report completed by MetStar which can be found at <http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/LTCare/StateFedReqs/eqro09-10/annualrpt.pdf>
- The latest report on relocation and diversions which can be found at [http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/bdds/icfmr/relocationreport\\_10.pdf](http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/bdds/icfmr/relocationreport_10.pdf)

This information is compiled by members of WALA's Managed Care subcommittee. For more information on how you can get more involved in subcommittees like the Managed Care Subcommittee, contact WALA at 608/288-0246.

## Time is running out! Take the WALA Compensation Survey Now!

**Have you wondered what others in your area compensate their staff? Take this survey to be able to compare your facilities compensation to others like yours in the State!**

The second annual WALA Compensation Survey for Wisconsin's Assisted Living Facilities is now available!  
**Participants will receive the published report of the findings and be entered in a drawing for a \$300.00 voucher for WALA products and events!**

You can take the survey 3 ways:

- Use Survey Monkey directly online,
- Download the PDF and send information to Wipfli LLP,
- Download an Excel Spreadsheet and send information to Wipfli LLP

[Take the survey today!](#)

## Community Training Opportunities

### **Dementia Specialist: Best Practices for Direct Care Staff**

This Spring the Alzheimer's & Dementia Alliance of Wisconsin will

again present "Dementia Specialist Training" - a 2-day interactive training developed for direct care staff and all other long term care professionals. This training will give staff the real life practical tools to provide specialized and individualized care to people with dementia and the opportunity to learn innovative problem solving techniques that can prevent challenging behaviors and increase success.

The Dementia Specialist training will be held in the Madison area on February 16, and February 23, 2011 at Hospice Care Inc. For more information or to receive a registration brochure, please contact Lana Phelps at the Alzheimer's & Dementia Alliance of Wisconsin at 608-232-3400 or [download a registration form here](#).

**Do you have a training you would like other WALA Members to know about? Send your information to [sbass@ewala.org](mailto:sbass@ewala.org) to get into the next e-blast!**

Sincerely,

Jim Murphy, Executive Director  
Sarah Bass, Operations Director

Wisconsin Assisted Living Association

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