



Wisconsin Assisted Living Association

News Blast

October 26, 2011

Don't forget to change your information for us! We have moved! Our new address is listed on the left hand column of this email.

It is WALA membership renewal time! Keep a look out in your mail, you will soon be getting a renewal notice from WALA. Contact the office for more information.

Are you Facebook friends with WALA? If not, come join and hear updates about Education, Legislative activity, Regulatory issues and many more topics!



Don't forget about our newest membership benefit - ability to write on the WALA Wall!

It's an online discussion forum that lets you talk about hot button topics, like Family Care, with other members! Contact the WALA office for more information!

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 [WALA urges members of Wisconsin Assembly to Support Amendment of the "I'm Sorry Bill"](#)

The Wisconsin Assisted Living Association along with other Long Term Care Associations are urging members of the Wisconsin Assembly to support a technical amendment, Assembly Amendment1 to [Assembly](#)

[Bill 147](#), that would ensure that all assisted living health care providers are included in the bill. WALA believes this technical amendment is meant to rectify an oversight.

RCACs and AFHs are an important component of assisted living and, similar to CBRFs, provide nursing, personal and supportive care to the individuals they serve - we believe strongly that these long-term healthcare providers should be included in the definition of "Healthcare Provider" for the purposes of Assembly Bill 147.

[View the Letter to the Assembly](#) regarding the support of Assembly Amendment 1 to Assembly Bill 147 Ensuring that All Health care Providers are Truly Included Inadmissibility of Statement of Apology of Condolence

Administration Will Not Move Forward with CLASS Act at this Time

From: ALFA

WALA is a State Affiliate of ALFA

Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Kathleen Sebelius announced earlier in October that HHS will postpone implementation of the CLASS Act indefinitely. The announcement reignited an old battle over the program, with Republicans calling for the CLASS Act's repeal and the White House opposing the effort.

HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius announced that the Administration would be halting implementation of the CLASS Act in a letter to Congress. "For 19 months, experts inside and outside of government have examined how HHS might implement a financially sustainable, voluntary, and self-financed long-term care insurance program..." wrote Sebelius. "But despite our best analytical efforts, I do not see a viable path forward for CLASS implementation at this time." The letter was accompanied by a report, developed by the Offices of CLASS, ASPE, and the General Counsel, that included an actuarial analysis, a study of legal risks, and an overview of marketing factors that would affect the implementation of the CLASS Act. The reports' authors dissected several versions of the CLASS plan, each with varying degrees of vulnerability to legal challenges and solvency problems.

In response to the announcement, the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations and the Subcommittee on Health will conduct a joint hearing, [CLASS Cancelled: An Unsustainable Program and Its Consequences for the Nation's Deficit](#), next Wednesday on the program. Republicans have also responded to Sebelius' announcement through a renewed effort to repeal the CLASS Act, an effort made easier by a new Congressional Budget Office (CBO) report that claims repealing CLASS would have no impact on the federal budget.

Despite Kathleen Sebelius' statement, the White House has announced that it opposes a full repeal of the CLASS Act. "Repealing the CLASS Act isn't necessary or productive," said White House spokesman Nick Papas. "What we should be doing is working together to address the long-term care challenges we face in this country." Although Papas would not say if the President would veto a

repeal effort, the statement further confused advocates for the CLASS Act, many of whom are still fighting for CLASS to be implemented.

Read the full actuarial report: [A Report on the Actuarial, Marketing, and Legal Analyses of the CLASS Program](#) and [Secretary Kathleen Sebelius' letter to Congress](#) about the program's indefinite postponement. Also read the Associated Press article: [White House Waffling on Long-Term Care Plan?](#)

Department of Health Services to Hold Town Hall Meeting in Madison on Medicaid Savings Initiatives

The mission and cost of Medicaid in Wisconsin have expanded dramatically over the years. One out of every five citizens is now served in a Medicaid program (traditional Medicaid, BadgerCare Plus, SeniorCare and Family Care). Medicaid pays for 45 percent of all births in the state, and Medicaid recipients occupy roughly 60 percent of nursing home beds.

State funding for Medicaid had to be significantly increased above the 2009-2011 budget, primarily for two reasons - federal matching funds decreased by \$1.33 billion and previous budget estimates were based on a projected decline in enrollment. But even after an infusion of \$1.2 billion of additional state funding for the current budget cycle, the Department was tasked with finding savings to keep the Medicaid program in balance with the state budget.

"To fulfill our responsibilities to those who rely on our programs and the taxpayers who provide the funding, and ensuring a balanced state budget over the biennium, we had numerous discussions with consumers, providers and advocates to generate the commonsense changes to Medicaid that we have proposed," said Secretary Smith. "Now that the public has had the opportunity to look at these initiatives we are very much interested in obtaining feedback."

"We believe that our proposals are fair, focused, and will make the Medicaid program sustainable in Wisconsin," said Deputy Secretary Rhoades. "We want to hear from the public prior to submitting anything formally to the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services or Wisconsin's Joint Committee on Finance."

Individuals who are interested in speaking will have up to three minutes to share their comments at this forum. Those who would like to share their ideas and do not wish to speak are encouraged to submit their written feedback at the meeting. Those unable to attend the town hall meeting can provide comments on the DHS website at www.dhs.wisconsin.gov.

Assisted Living Properties for Sale

Madison Property for Sale

4802 Waukesha Street, located on the west side of Madison.

\$399,900. This former group home has 8 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, (4 are handicap accessible with lipless showers), elevator, ramps to two to four doors, new windows, newly painted, large sunny kitchen, dining and living areas, sprinkler system, security system and personal alarms in all bedrooms. Large, private level yard with large patio.

[Click Here to View Listings](#)

Click on link above for pictures and more information or call Mary Whitcomb at 608-828-5117

Silver Tree Place - CBRF/AFH

The five bedroom, two and a half bath ranch home sits on 1.39 acres in a quiet neighborhood on the south end of the township of Minocqua. The building has 1,944 sq. ft. on the main level, ramps at the front and back doors, single-hand operation door knobs and a fire alarm system.

For more information about the property or to see pictures please contact Michael Fraley at 715/892-3209 fraley@charter.net



Dementia Specialist Training: Best Practices for Direct Care Staff

From the Alzheimer's & Dementia Alliance of Wisconsin

Professional caregivers in assisted living, nursing homes, adult family homes and in-home care can become specialists in caring for persons with Alzheimer's disease or a related dementia. Give your organization a reputation for quality care and excellence that will set the bar for others in your field.

Hosted by - Agrace HospiceCare
5395 E. Cheryl Parkway - Fitchburg, WI

December 1st & 8th, 2011
8:30am-4:00pm

For a registration form please contact:

Lana Phelps, Training Specialist
Alzheimer's and Dementia Alliance of Wisconsin
517 North Segoe Road, Suite 301
Madison, WI 53705
608.232.3400

Sincerely,

Jim Murphy, Executive Director
Sarah Bass, Operations Director

Wisconsin Assisted Living Association