



Wisconsin Assisted Living Association

eBlast News

February 8, 2012

Jimmy the Groundhog did not see his shadow! Spring is near!

Have you renewed your WALA membership yet? If not, you still have time! Renew today to keep all the great benefits WALA membership offers. Contact the WALA office to renew at membership@ewala.org or 608/288-0246.

Like us on Facebook 

Follow us on 

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.

In This Issue

[Legislative Update - Family Care Caps](#)

[Draft Memos from BAL not to be published](#)

[Legislation Would Extend Tax Credit for Caregivers](#)

[Professional Training Opportunities from the Alzheimer's Association](#)

Legislative Update

From WALA Lobbyist: Forbes McIntosh, GPS

Link to the written testimony given by Dennis Smith at this week's Medical Assistance audit hearing.

<http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/news/PressReleases/2012/JLAC-020112.pdf>

It is now posted on the DHS website.

DHS will hold another round of public hearings around the state on Family Care. Stay tuned for more information.

WALA supports SB-380/ AB-447 - Repeal of the Family Care

Caps

Senate
PUBLIC HEARING
Committee on Health

The committee will hold a public hearing at the time specified below:

Thursday, February 9, 2012
11:00 AM
201 Southeast
State Capitol

Senate Bill 380

<http://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/2011/proposals/SB380>

Relating to: removing cap on enrollment of Family Care and other long-term care programs.

By Senators Moulton, Vukmir, Carpenter, Harsdorf, Erpenbach, Jauch, Wanggaard, Risser, C. Larson and Schultz; cosponsored by Representatives Kaufert, Kestell, Van Roy, Brooks, Doyle, A. Ott, Ziegelbauer, Bernier, Richards, Steinbrink, Ripp, Tranel, Molepske Jr, Grigsby, Stone, Endsley, Wynn, Fields, Staskunas, Jorgensen, Pasch, Sinicki, Petryk, Danou and Spanbauer.

Interesting video on this Bill and Family Care perspective from AARP and Disability Rights Wisconsin.

<http://www.wiseye.org/Programming/VideoArchive/EventDetail.aspx?evhdid=5735>



Draft Memos from BAL not to be published

From Otis Woods, DHS, DQA Administrator

Recently the Division of Quality Assurance (DQA) asked for your review and comments on draft memos to nursing homes, assisted living facilities and hospices regarding the use of electronic surveillance devices by residents, patients or tenants in private living areas. Thank you for sending your comments.

To date, DQA has received on a couple inquiries from providers or from the general public regarding the use of electronic surveillance devices by residents, patients and tenants. After further review, DQA will not issue these memos; instead DQA will work with the Department's Office of Legal Counsel to respond to any questions or concerns we receive on a case-by-case basis. DQA has provided guidance to their staff regarding the use of such devices and privacy considerations.

DQA has also shared the comments from providers with DQA program staff so they are aware of and sensitive to the concerns raised by your members.



Legislation Would Extend Tax Credit for Caregivers

From ALFA - WALA is ALFA's State Affiliate

A new bill introduced in the House of Representatives would extend the dependent care credit to include expenses related to caring for parents and grandparents who do not live with the taxpayer.

The bill, titled the Elder Care Tax Credit Act of 2012, was introduced by Representative Steve Israel (NY-2) and cosponsored by Representative David Loebsack (IA-2,) Representative Jose Serrano (NY-16,) and Representative Edolphus Towns (NY-10.) The bill was introduced in response to the rising number of people providing financial assistance to a parent or grandparent. According to the bill, "the proportion of adult children providing personal care or financial assistance to a parent has more than tripled during the past 15 years."

In order to be listed as a dependent, the adult must be physically or mentally incapable of caring for himself and be the taxpayer's mother or father, or an ancestor of the taxpayer's mother or father. If passed, the tax credit would apply to all taxable years beginning January 1, 2011. The bill is currently in committee.

Read the full bill:

[Elder Care Tax Credit Act of 2012](#)

[http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/z?c112:H.R.3820:](http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/z?c112:H.R.3820)



Professional Training Opportunities from the Alzheimer's Association

The Alzheimer's Association is pleased to present thier 2012 professional training opportunities calendar. This calendar is updated periodically and the most current version can always be found on their website:http://alz.org/sewi/in_my_community_professionals.asp

There are a couple of professional education conferences coming up that include a great line-up of topics and presenters. Proceeds from these conferences will benefit the Alzheimer's Association.

Sincerely,

Jim Murphy, Executive Director
Sarah Bass, Operations Director

Wisconsin Assisted Living Association