

2015 Spring Newsletter

**New York's
Voice for the
Assisted
Living
Community**



SAVE THE DATE

*NY ALFA's 9th
Annual Advocacy
Day*

*June 1-2
Albany, NY*

2015 NYS BUDGET UPDATE

The agreed upon State budget, which holds spending growth below 2%, includes the Governor's top priorities—education and ethics reforms. New investments to rebuild and grow the State's economy, including \$1.5 billion for the Upstate Revitalization Initiative and \$500 million for statewide broadband were also included in the final Budget.

Apart from education and ethics reform, the final budget does not include many non-fiscal priorities critical to the Governor and the Legislature. A minimum wage increase, a rent regulation extender, the Dream Act, lifting the cap on Charter Schools, and the extension of mayoral control over New York City schools are among those issues to be taken up post-budget.

While time constraints around the April 1 budget deadline prevented the Advanced Home Health Aide proposal from inclusion in the final budget, it will be subject to further consideration as the Legislative session proceeds. NY ALFA elevated the issue with key decision makers and highlighted the need to include EALRs as a permissible employment setting. Your direct advocacy will remain instrumental as we continue to advance the proposal through further legislative and Executive Branch outreach and discussions with our allies, including AARP-NY. (See Page 3 "Legislative Update")

Other Budget items of interest to NY ALFA include \$1.3 million to fund criminal history record checks of direct care workers in adult care facilities and assisted living residences, and \$50 million to expand support groups, respite care and other services for Alzheimer's sufferers and their caregivers.

*Nancy Hodes,
Ginger Lynch Landy,
Co-Directors*

*Michele O'Connor, Legislative
Director*

*Courtney David, Member
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EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS GRANT

As you may know, NY ALFA is participating in a New York State Department of Health and Office of Emergency Preparedness grant which is aimed at preparing adult care facilities and assisted living residences to respond to coastal storms and other emergencies in a coordinated and effective manner.

Current grant activities include attendance at the Fall DOH/OEM Emergency Preparedness Symposium, the creation of a mapping document for all adult care facilities and assisted living residences in the New York City area, and the promotion of several webinars focusing on community responses to emergent situations.

We will keep you posted as events develop.

Upcoming Webinar Training:
Emergency Preparedness Forum
for NYS Adult Care Providers

Training and Exercises Program for
Adult Care Facilities
April 28
1:00-2:00

For Registration please go to:
<http://huntercollege.adobeconnect.com/epcentral>

REGULATORY UPDATE

As you know, the Department of Health (DOH) has convened the Redefining Adult Care Facilities for the 21st Century Work Group to reform and consolidate the various sets of complex and often conflicting statutes, regulations, and policies governing adult homes and assisted living residences.

NY ALFA has been consistently advocating for a consolidated and clear set of regulatory requirements to facilitate quality assurance and compliance efforts. Ginger Landy, Co-Director is representing NY ALFA on the work group, which

is charged with reviewing and making recommendations for revisions of existing regulations concerning the licensure and operation of adult care facilities and assisted living residences.

The work group, comprised of New York State's major senior living associations, consumer representatives, and DOH staff, is meeting every two weeks to discuss proposed revisions to the ACF/ALR/EALR/SNALR/ALP regulations, statutes and directives/Dear Administrator Letters.

We have assembled an internal work group of NY ALFA provider members to advise us on recommendations and positions as we proceed with the reform effort. All member organizations are encouraged to participate.

This is a tremendous opportunity to shape the future rules and regulations governing assisted living in NYS.

We will keep you updated as we move through the process.

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

**THE 2015 ADULT CARE FACILITY
1ST QUARTER STATISTICAL
INFORMATION REPORT IS DUE
APRIL 30, 2015**

**OPPORTUNITY FOR DEVELOPMENT
ASSISTED LIVING PROGRAM
3400 INITIATIVE
APPLICATIONS DUE
MAY 22, 2015**

*IF YOU WOULD LIKE ASSISTANCE WITH
THE REPORT OR ADDITIONAL
INFORMATION ABOUT THE OFD, PLEASE
GIVE US A CALL AT 518-465-8303*



PRN & Dementia Care

The Department has clarified that Registered Nurses must initially perform an assessment of dementia residents that identifies behaviors indicating the need for PRN medication.

This assessment is discussed with the LPN and documented in the resident's record/plan of care. The LPN can then administer the PRN medication without consulting with the RN if the resident exhibits these behaviors.

Additionally, the RN and LPN must work together closely and continually discuss the resident's plan of care. The LPN must also be directed as to when to contact the physician and inform the RN of any changes in the resident. The LPN cannot continue to administer medication without ongoing assessment by the RN.

This collaboration must be clearly documented in the resident's record as well as the identified resident behaviors/response to medication.

SURVEYS AND ELECTRONIC PLANS OF CORRECTION

The Department has initiated a new survey schedule that will now include weekends and off hours. The Department intends to roll this out regionally beginning in the Capital District region.

As you know, earlier this year, DOH began a pilot program for electronic plans of correction (ePOC) for those adult care facilities and assisted living residences within two months of their annual survey.

Thus far, the reports are very positive from both providers and the Department. DOH intends to begin full roll-out of ePOCs by the end of June/early July. The roll out will be by region beginning with in Western NY. If you have any questions or would like to participate in the pilot ePOC, please give us a call.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

As discussed in the Budget Update on Page 1, the Advanced Home Health Aide proposal was not enacted as part of the final State Budget.

NY ALFA and our advocacy allies are committed to pressing for the legislation before the end of this Session. We will continue our advocacy efforts to ensure that Enhanced Assisted Living Residences are included as a permissible employment setting.

The Care Act, which would allow patients admitted to a hospital to designate a caregiver and require the hospital to meet with the him/her to discuss the plan of care and offer training on any aftercare tasks upon discharge remains a



Resident Care Aide Training Requirements

Newly hired aides who have had previous training as PCAs, CNAs, HHAs in other similar work settings may not be subject to the 40 hour training requirement.

If the aide can adequately demonstrate competency in the required tasks with proper documentation, the community orientation training is sufficient.

priority. Working with AARP, we will continue our efforts to seek its passage.

NY ALFA will also continue our support for a number of bills aimed at strengthening protections for seniors against various forms of abuse and exploitation, including S.639/A.5336-A (Valesky/Cymbrowitz) which would authorize banking institutions to refuse to disburse moneys in circumstances of the financial exploitation of a vulnerable adult.

We continue to monitor new legislation as it is introduced and will adjust priorities for Advocacy Day as necessary with the input of the Board and Public Policy Committee.

We will keep you apprised of any new developments as they occur.

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NY ALFA'S 9TH ANNUAL ADVOCACY DAY

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NY ALFA's 9th Annual Advocacy Day will be held in Albany on June 1st and 2nd. Join us for the kick-off Reception on June 1st at 6:00pm. We will be back at 60 State Place to enjoy an expansive buffet. Invited guests include the new Senate and Assembly Aging Committee Chairs.

We have invited Valerie Deetz, Director, Adult Care Facility and Assisted Living Surveillance for a discussion the morning of June 2nd just prior to the Breakfast Briefing and full day of legislative meetings in Room 711-A of the Legislative Office Building at 8:00am.

Registration opens April 27th and closes on May 27th- look for detailed information coming soon!

Come be the Voice for Assisted Living in New York!

CCG & NY ALFA On-Line Training

Through our partnership with Care & Compliance Group, NY ALFA offers our members over 150 hours of online training solutions to meet continuing education requirements. CCG has been providing education and compliance solutions for assisted living for over 28 years. NY ALFA members have access to a wide array of high quality training programs specifically tailored to assisted living managers, operators, and staff, covering a diverse spectrum of topics related to the assisted living industry.

Other offerings include a New York Resident Care Aide Training Kit, which provides quality orientation training to stay in compliance with NYS regulations, and a Leadership Development Training Kit which is a self-paced course designed to strengthen and develop leadership potentials.

Visit our website; www.nyalfa.org to take advantage of these critical training options!

