Maine Council on Aging launches *Invest in Me, Invest in Care* campaign with issue brief

The Maine Council on Aging recently launched its *Invest in Me, Invest in Care* campaign, an initiative in support of Maine’s long term care workforce. The campaign is designed to create awareness about the critical role direct care workers have in contributing to the quality of care and life for thousands of Mainer’s receiving long term care services. It also highlights the current staffing shortages in long term care and the need for improved compensation and value for these jobs in the future. The Council is comprised of various stakeholders with an interest in aging issues, including MHCA. Rick Erb, MHCA President and CEO, serves as Chair of the group’s Long Term Care Committee.

The Council has authored the attached issue brief to educate lawmakers and the general public about the challenges facing long term care providers across the continuum. Maine is experiencing a serious shortage of direct care workers in nursing homes, assisted living facilities and in home care. Despite the consistent demand for long term care services, our young adult population is projected to decline, leaving fewer people to care for our elderly and disabled citizens. The shortage is already having a discernible impact on access across the spectrum, with facilities limiting admissions and home care agencies unable to staff approved hours. The brief includes data and trends in the direct care workforce and also profiles the stories of two caregivers having a positive impact on residents and consumers.

Lawmakers will have an opportunity to improve the direct care worker experience through support of legislation that has been filed to address the shortage. The bill, which has not been printed yet, invests in these employees by providing increased Medicaid funding for direct care workers across all long term care settings. The bill also calls for the development of a coordinated workforce recruitment and retention strategy. The Council will share the issue brief with the Legislature’s Aging Caucus next week.

MHCA members are also encouraged to share this issue brief with staff, families, local legislators and community members. If you would like printed copies, feel free to contact ngrosso@mehca.org. MHCA is an active participant on the Council on Aging and tracking this issue closely. We will activate grassroots mobilization when the time is right.

**Staff Contact:**
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Licensing to correct online NF renewal procedure

You may recall that in September, the Division of Licensing and Certification informed nursing homes that new and renewed licenses would now be good for two years at a time. The fee for license renewal would therefore be based on the required annual fee x 2. For example, the annual fee per licensed bed for Skilled Nursing and Nursing facilities is $26.00 per licensed bed. The license renewal application for the two-year license should include the fee for two years or $52.00 per bed.

MHCA has been informed by members that the online license application still refers to a one year period and that it still retains the $26 per bed licensing fee. The Division of Licensing advises us that they are aware of the problem and will be updating the online application. They assure us that renewals will be for two years as announced and that the amount due is therefore doubled. Providers may submit that amount at time of renewal. If there are further questions they can be directed to Cherrie Lowe at 287-9300.

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What does Repeal & Replace mean for LTC?

On Wednesday, House leadership released the long-awaited "repeal and replace" bill. As expected, it makes Medicaid reform a part of "replace" and this raises concern for long term care.

The bill fundamentally changes the federal contribution to states for Medicaid. It switches the federal contribution to a per capita cap. It divides beneficiaries into five categories: aged, disabled, children, Medicaid expansion adults and other adults. Our members would receive funding from the federal aged and disabled allocations. Each state would receive a dollar amount for each person in each category in the state. The state would then decide how to spend the funds within the categories. States could spend the funds on long term care facilities, on home health, on acute care or any combination of health care providers, up to the cap.

This represents a challenge to us for two reasons. First, there is no guarantee that states will spend the funds on long term care. For nursing homes, this means losing the certainty of being a required service under the current Medicaid system.

Second, starting in FY 2020, states will likely receive less money than they would have under the current system. The calculation of the state payment for 2020 and beyond works in this manner: The federal government will first look at the average aged beneficiary spend in FY 2016 and then increase it by the medical consumer price index (CPI) for the next three years. That amount then becomes a state's per beneficiary payment in FY 2020, and that number then increases every year by the medical CPI.

This results in lower funding for several reasons. First, the increase that the federal government provides the states is limited to the medical CPI. Unfortunately, the cost of care in our settings has traditionally increased at a rate that exceeds this index. Second, because the base rate is FY 2016, it would exclude any increases in federal match that states have had due to a Medicaid rate increase, a new or increased provider assessment, and it may also preclude inclusion of other state financing mechanisms. Maine, for instance, did receive an increase in the federal match percentage between 2016 and 2017.

AHCA has contracted with the Moran consulting group to provide a state-by-state analysis of the impact of this and expect to have estimates available to the state affiliates within the next week.

The timing of this becomes critical, as leadership would like this signed by the President by the time Congress leaves for the Easter recess on April 7. The following is the intended schedule for the bill:

- **Week of March 6**---Energy & Commerce and Ways & Means Committees work and approve the legislation
- **Week of March 13**---Budget and Rules Committees work and approve the legislation
- **Week of March 20**---House Consideration
- **Week of March 27**---Senate Consideration

Because Repeal and Replace has been criticized by healthcare constituencies for a variety of reasons, the level of support in Congress is questionable. During this compressed timeframe, AHCA and its state affiliates will be looking for specific protections for elders and others who depend on long term care services.

Staff Contact: Rick Erb, President and CEO
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Last chance to reserve your seat in the upcoming Medicare University workshop

Medicare compliance is a vital part of your facility’s ongoing success. If you would like to compliment your nursing expertise with a thorough understanding of Medicare processes and procedures, and develop the skills necessary to consistently earn accurate reimbursement for the care you provide while helping your residents thrive, why not take advantage of this upcoming educational opportunity?

MHCA will be offering AANAC’s 3-Day Medicare University workshop on March 28, 29 & 30, 2017 in Augusta, Maine. This course will provide a comprehensive review of the Medicare benefit as well as offer tools to help manage the reimbursement system, navigate audits, avoid risky practices, and stop drowning in confusing and changing regulations. For details, please refer to the Medicare University Brochure.

To register: Complete the Registration/Invoice Form included in the brochure, fax it to MHCA at 207.623.4080 and send the original, along with your payment, to MHCA at 317 State Street, Augusta, ME 04330.

Sign up your nurses today so you, too, can have a Medicare Expert on staff.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact MHCA at 207.623.1146.

Staff Contact:
Karen Michaud
Director of Education
kmichaud@mehca.org

Partnership to Improve Dementia Care will meet in April to set goals

The Maine Partnership to Improve Dementia Care will meet on Tuesday, April 4th at 10 am at the Barron Center in Portland. The agenda will include updates and discussion on:

- Most recent A/P utilization data from CMS
- Potential webinar series for providers regarding strategies for A/P reductions
- Peer Mentoring
- Music and Memory Phase 2

- Ideas/goals for the Partnership

The Partnership welcomes members to attend this important planning meeting that will guide the group’s efforts this year. To RSVP for the meeting or be added to the distribution list, please contact Nadine Grosso at ngrosso@mehca.org.

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AHCA schedules next webinar on Emergency Preparedness

The next webinar in the education series on Emergency Preparedness: AHCA Emergency Preparedness Final Rule Webinar Series has been scheduled for April 27th at 2pm EST. Below is the registration link for the webinar. The second link is a registration link for the entire webinar series. All webinars will be recorded and available the next day after the session.

Event Link: educate.ahcancal.org/products/...
Series Link: educate.ahcancal.org/products/...

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rerb@mehca.org
OIG updates federal exclusion data

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Inspector General (OIG) has released its updated List of Excluded Individuals and Entities (LEIE) database file, which reflects all OIG exclusions and reinstatement actions up to, and including, those taken in February 2017.

LEIE Database

- **02-2017 Updated LEIE Database** (CSV)

Current Monthly Supplements

- **02-2017 Exclusions** (CSV)
- **02-2017 Reinstatements** (CSV)

Next dementia care and QAPI provider call

The next National Partnership to Improve Dementia Care and QAPI provider call has been scheduled for **Tuesday, March 21st, 2017 from 1:30 to 3:00 pm**. The speakers will be:

- Kathy Hagen, The Eden Alternative
- Kristi Wergin, Lake Superior Quality Innovation Network
- Michele Laughman and Debbie Lyons, CMS

During the call you will learn:

- A project grant awarded for [Creating a Culture of Person-Directed Dementia Care](#)
- A new [QAPI Written Plan How-To Guide](#) to help assist providers with quality improvement efforts from the

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Notice of Rulemaking

To view this week’s applicable proposals & adoptions please click [here](#) and refer to proposed rule number **2017-P028** *Rules Governing Employment Leave for Victims of Violence* and adopted rule numbers **2017-030**, *Home and Community Based Services for Adults with Other Related Conditions*, **2017-031** *Support Services for Adults with Intellectual Disabilities or Autism Spectrum Disorder*, and **2017-038** *Home and Community Services for Adults with Intellectual Disabilities or Autism Spectrum Disorder*.

Staff Contact:
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Save the date for AHCA webinar on Best Practice standards for nutrition in LTC

AHCA will host a free webinar on best practice standards for nutrition in long term care on Thursday, May 11th, 2017, from 2:00 – 3:00 pm.

Learning Objectives:
- Identifying the current best practice standards with nutrition and aging
- Discussing the current best practice standards with nutrition related to malnutrition, wounds, and hydration
- Balancing the risk versus benefit with person-centered care
- Knowing the available best practice resources to support implementation at your facility

To register for this webinar go to: best-practice-standards-for-nutrition-in-long-term-care.

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AHCA/NCAL Bookstore: LATEST edition of The Long Term Care Survey

Don’t Get Caught Without It! Order the latest edition. This is the first time in more than 20 years that CMS is significantly changing the Requirements of Participation and the latest revision since the July 2014 edition. This is Phase 1 of a three-phase implementation plan from CMS that is set to take place over the next three years. AHCA Publications is offering several printed versions of the updated material; Subscription through November 2019, Softbound, or Binder.

For detailed information about the updates and to place your order, please visit AHCA/NCAL’s online store.

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Upcoming education programs and special events

**GENERAL SEMINARS & CONFERENCES:**
- March 28, 29 & 30, 2017—AANAC Medicare University—Maine Health Care Association, Augusta (Code: W17031) [Brochure/Registration Form]
- April 11, 2017—Don’t Get Burned on Your Next Survey! Know the 2012 Life Safety and Health Care Facility Codes—Hilton Garden Inn, Bangor (Code: W17042)
- April 12, 2017—Don’t Get Burned on Your Next Survey! Know the 2012 Life Safety and Health Care Facility Codes—Hilton Garden Inn, Freeport (Code: W17043)
- May 19, 2017—Assisted Living Conference—Hilton Garden Inn, Auburn Riverwatch [DATE CHANGE]
- May 24, 2017—The Activity Professionals Workshop—Maple Hill Farm Inn & Conference Center, Hallowell (Code: W17052)
- June 1, 2017—Food, Nutrition & Dining: Critical Components for Successful Outcomes in Long Term Care—Maple Hill Farm Inn & Conference Center, Hallowell (Code: W17064)
- June 13, 14 & 15, 2017—Leadership Symposium—Point Lookout Resort, Northport
- October 3-5, 2017—Fall Health Care Conference & Expo—Samoset Resort, Rockport

**WEBINARS:**
- March 10, 2017 – What Owners & Administrators Need to Do About Occupancy and Mix (10am)

**CERTIFICATE COURSES**
- March 15, 2017—CRMA Recert Course—Maine Health Care Association, Augusta (Job Code: C17031)
- April 7, 12, 21, 28 & May 3, 2017—CRMA 40-Hour Course—Maine Health Care Association, Augusta (Code: C17051) (Snow Date: May 11)
- May 17, 2017—CRMA Recert Course—Maine Health Care Association, Augusta (Job Code: C17052)
- June 21, 2017—CRMA Recert Course—Maine Health Care Association, Augusta (Job Code: C17061)
- July 12, 2017—ServSafe Food Safety Program for Managers—Maine Health Care Association, Augusta (Job Code: S17071)

Click below to learn more about our new Gero Nurse Prep partnership.
MHCA E-News

Upcoming MHCA committee meetings/other meetings of interest

Regional Meetings

Region I DONs and RN Consultants – The next meeting is TBA. Chair: Larry Strickland, Kennebunk Rehab, lstrickland@nathealthcare.com

Region I Administrators – The next meeting is TBA. Contact: Maureen Carland at mcarland@mainevets.org

Region II Administrators & DONs – The next meeting is at Heritage Rehab & Living Center in Winthrop on Friday, April 14th from 9-11 AM. Contact: Lori Pomelow at 786-0691 X 102 or pomelow@northcountryassociates.com

Region II Social Workers – Next meeting is March 16 from 1:00 - 3:00 @ Odd Fellows in Auburn. Chair: Judi Rousseau-Gagnon, LSW at 773-4261

Region III Social Workers – Meetings are held the last Monday of every month from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Oak Grove, 27 Cool Street, in Waterville. Contact: Linda Woodside at Oak Grove Rehab & Living Center at 873-0721

Other Meetings of Interest

Southern Maine Activity Professionals Committee – The next meeting the Southern Maine Activity Professionals Committee is March 16th @ 11:30am at Freeport Place. If you wish to join the group or RSVP to the meeting please contact Jessica Leclerc, St. Andre JLeclerc@standre.org

American College of Health Care Administrators (ACHCA) – The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, May 5, 2017 from 9am- 3pm at Seaport Village in Ellsworth, Maine. For more information, please contact Jeffrey Lacroix at lacroije@cmhc.org

Culture Change Coalition/LANE – The next Southern meeting is March 28th at Gorham House from 10-2. If you are interested in joining this group or wish to RSVP to the meeting, please Contact: Tim Knight Email: tknight@midcoasthealth.com

Food Service Professionals Committee – The next meeting is April 28, 2017, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., at the Barron Center in Portland. Co-Chairs: Mary McCarthy, Barron Center at 774-2623 or MM@portlandmaine.gov and Kandi Lilley, North Country Associates at 786-3554 or kward@northcountryassociates.com.

MHCA NH Quality Initiative committee— The next meeting is TBA. Please contact Bonny Small at bsmall@mehca.org

MHCA Assisted Living committee— The next meeting is TBA. Please contact Bonny Small at bsmall@mehca.org

LTC Social Work Council – Next meeting is TBA. Chair: Janis Rodgers, Gorham House, Gorham (Tel: 222-8959).

Maine Partnership to Improve Dementia Care in Nursing Homes – The next meeting is Tuesday April 4th at 10:00 at the Barron Center in Portland. If you are interested in joining this group or wish to RSVP to the meeting Please contact Nadine Grosso at ngrosso@mehca.org

MDS Coordinator Support Group - The next meeting is at Maine Veterans Home in Scarborough on March 15th from 9A – 11A. Contact: Penny Hahn 289-3447 phahn@mainevets.org

Nursing Home Administrator’s Licensing Board — Meetings are open to members of the public for observation but not for participation. If you plan to attend or have any questions concerning the agenda, please call 624-8623. Meetings are scheduled for March 22, May 24, July 26, September 27, and November 22. All meetings are held at 9am at the Office of Licensing & Registration: 76 Northern Avenue, Gardiner, ME.

Staff Contact: Ashley Ellis Staff Support Specialist

For sponsorship opportunities, please contact Dianne at the Association office.