

Second Quarter 2014 Accomplishments

Advocacy/Policy

- A cross departmental team of AHCA/NCAL staff held several meetings and conference calls regarding implementation of the final CMS rule impacting home and community-based settings (HCBS) under 1915 (c), 1915 (i), and 1915 (k) waivers. Concerns about various states' approaches to implementation grew in the second quarter as states began their processes for making HCBS determinations. NCAL is working with the National Association of State Units on Aging, the National Association of Medicaid Directors and key members of Congress on this issue.
- The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau released a new manual for assisted living and nursing facilities titled "Protecting Residents from Financial Exploitation." AHCA/NCAL staff worked with Bureau officials on development of the manual.
- The NCAL *Guiding Principles for Assisted Living* were updated and approved by the NCAL Board.
- CDC's National Center for Health Statistics began its second wave of the National Study of Long-Term Care Providers (NSLTCP) – a biennial national study of the major sectors of paid, regulated providers of long-term care services. This data collection effort includes a representative sample of assisted living and similar residential care communities across the country. Data collection started in June 2014 and will continue through December 2014. NCAL staff worked closely with CDC officials on this project and encourages NCAL members to participate in the survey if contacted.
- The Facility Guidelines Institute (FGI) released new standards for the design and construction of residential health, care, and support facilities. The guidelines, titled *Guidelines for Design and Construction of Residential Health, Care, and Support Facilities*, contain a new set of architectural standards for a wide range of long term care settings including assisted living communities and skilled nursing facilities. Four NCAL Board members worked on development of the FGI guidelines and served as the industry's sole voice on the initiative.
- More than 400 members of AHCA/NCAL converged on Washington, D.C. in May at the annual AHCA/NCAL Congressional Briefing. The two-day event was attended by members from 47 states and the District of Columbia who held more than 200 meetings with Members of Congress to discuss critical issues facing skilled nursing and assisted living centers. NCAL members educated Members of Congress and their staff about

dementia care and hospice in assisted living settings and sought support for bills that would address problems associated with hospital observation stays.

Quality

- Currently, 112 communities have signed up for the National Patient Safety Organization for Assisted Living, collaboration between NCAL and the NJHA PSO. NCAL set a goal to have 125 communities signed up for the PSO by the end of 2014.
- The NCAL Quality Initiative Website was updated with new logos, resources, and a more user-friendly layout: <http://qualityinitiative.ncal.org>.
- This year, 69 Bronze Applications were received from assisted living communities for the AHCA/NCAL Quality Award (a 6% increase over 2013), of which, 44 assisted living communities were honored at the Bronze level. AHCA/NCAL also announced the Silver Award recipients on June 26, 2014. Of the 77 facilities awarded the Silver, four were identified as assisted living.
- AHCA/NCAL staff participated in the Dementia Action Alliance meetings, in Washington, DC. The alliance is a diverse group of expert stakeholders in dementia care.
- AHCA/NCAL staff were invited to be members of the new American Medical Directors Association's assisted living subcommittee.
- The NCAL Quality Initiative Recognition Program closed May 15, 2014, with an increase in participation from 2013. NCAL is currently going through the submissions received and will announce the achievers with AHCA in the fall.
- The NCAL *Guiding Principles for Quality* were updated and approved by the NCAL Board.

Workforce

- NCAL received a total of 108 nominations from 21 states for the 2014 NCAL Awards Program, including: 21 for NCAL Administrator of the Year; 15 for NCAL Assisted Living Nurse of the Year; 57 for NCAL Noble Caregiver in Assisted Living; and 15 for Best Programming for National Assisted Living Week. Winners were announced on June 19, and are as follows:
 - **NCAL Administrator of the Year:** Jean Cannon, Aspen House Memory Care Assisted Living, Loveland, CO
 - **NCAL Assisted Living Nurse of the Year:** Laura Cardillo, RN, CDP, CVW, The Avalon at Hillsborough, Hillsborough, NJ

- **NCAL Noble Caregiver in Assisted Living:** Connie Leinberger, Riverview Village, Menomonee Falls, WI
- **Best Programming for National Assisted Living Week** for 2013 theme, “Homemade Happiness”: Cathy Roark (second-time winner - 2012), Riverside Lodge Retirement Community, Grand Island, NE
- The Vacancy, Retention, and Turnover Survey (VRT) opened in March and closed May 15, 2014. NCAL collected over 500 responses. NCAL developed a “help guide” to assist providers in completing the VRT. The VRT was promoted in *NCAL Connections* and *Focus*, in addition to a member mailing and was required for members submitting staff turnover achievement for the NCAL Quality Initiative Recognition Program.
- In conjunction with the American Assisted Living Nurses Association (AALNA), NCAL held the “Caring Together” quarterly conference call for assisted living nurses on medication return programs.
- The NCAL *Guiding Principles for Leadership* were updated and approved by the NCAL Board.

Membership

- At the end of the second quarter, NCAL member beds stood at 162,196; an increase of 3,314 beds since the beginning of the year. The goal for 2014 is 4%, and currently, NCAL stands at 2% growth.
- The Planning Guide and Product Catalog for the 2014 National Assisted Living Week® was sent to all members as well as non-members. The logo and other materials are available for download at www.nalw.org. The event will take place September 7 – 13, 2014 and will feature the theme “The Magic of Music.”
- The NCAL State Leader program held its in-person Training and Fly-in in Washington, D.C. June 23-25. A record number of attendees participated, with more than 30 states represented. NCAL Leadership, representatives from the Senate Special Committee on Aging, AHCA/NCAL staff and other speakers created the foundation for the three-day leadership training. Jeff Call facilitated a discussion of the book *Leadership & Self-Deception*. Participants also visited their Members of Congress and worked to advocate on Capitol Hill.
- In the second quarter, NCAL staff presented at conferences and affiliate meetings in Arkansas, Maine, North Dakota, Ohio, New York, Illinois, Colorado, Pennsylvania, Michigan, and Georgia.
- The date, location and curriculum for NCAL’s 4th Annual Spring Conference have been chosen. The event will take place March 9-11, 2015 at the Westin Hotel and Resort in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

Customer Relations

- The NCAL *Guiding Principles for Providing Information to Consumers* were updated and approved by the NCAL Board.

Governance

- NCAL's solicitation for candidates for the 2014-2015 NCAL Board of Directors closed June 2. Seven at-large Board positions are open, along with openings for the Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary/Treasurer. Candidates will be credentialed by the AHCA/NCAL Credentialing Committee in July.

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