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[No surprises in Ohio primary elections](#) – The local Ohio primaries went as planned as the caucus supported candidates won their contested elections. The House side of the slate was much busier than the Senate, with the latter only having five contested seats in four districts. One of the more closely watched primaries was the democratic nominee for the 20th House District. Bev Campbell fell to Nancy Garland; Garland narrowly lost the 20th House District to current Rep. Jim McGregor in 2006. A rematch is set to take place this fall. The three candidates the Skilled Nursing Care Coalition (SNCC) supported in the primary elections by sending mailers and running television ads were all winners. Chris Widener (R – Springfield, 10th Senate District) won with 67% of the vote, while Robert Mecklenborg (R – Cincinnati, 30th House District) and W. Carlton Weddington (D – Columbus, 27th House District) each garnered nearly 60% of the vote. The SNCC will continue to work with candidates on long-term care issues and caring for the elderly in Ohio as we head into the 2008 elections. For more primary election results, please visit the [Secretary of States' website](#). [\(Back to top\)](#).

[Grab four CEUs and lunch for \\$35](#) – Where can you get four CEUs and lunch for \$35? At the upcoming regional education program **“Urinary Incontinence in Long-Term Care.”** The Academy has once again partnered with PureService Pharmacy and several drug manufacturers to offer this new regional education program at a greatly discounted price. This class will cover a variety of incontinence issues including types of urinary incontinence, evaluation and F-tags. It will be held in Cincinnati on May 20 and in Cleveland on September 16. It will offer four BENHA CEUs and lunch at a greatly reduced price! Academy members may attend this program for only \$35 and non-members may attend for \$50. Watch your mailboxes and faxes for information. For questions, contact [Dawn Kennedy](#). [\(Back to top\)](#).

[Gain exposure at convention while sharing your knowledge](#) – The Academy is currently accepting applications for presenters at the 2008 OANH Annual Convention & Trade Show. As a presenter at the Annual Convention, you will be able to share your knowledge with others in the long-term care industry, and gain exposure for your company. Presentations should be relevant to long-term care and must be 1.5 hours in length. Go to <http://www.oanh.org/2007.shtml> to view the application, which may be completed and submitted via the OANH website, or printed and faxed. If you have any questions about the application or being a presenter please contact [Dawn Kennedy](#). [\(Back to top\)](#).

TAP update and information for Academy members – The Technical Assistance Program (TAP) had a very exciting and busy 2007. The following information may be of interest to Academy members:

- [Annual 2008 TAP Newsletter](#)
- [Updated Ohio County Map of the TAP Nurse Educators' Designated Areas](#)
- [TAP's 2008 Educational Opportunities](#)

TAP facilitated a performance improvement project addressing The Prevention of Pressure Ulcers, the "Execution Gap" during two sessions held in August of 2007. As a result of the project, TAP developed three educational programs for management staff, frontline nurses and frontline nurse aides addressing the prevention and treatment of pressure ulcers. View the [Flyer Announcing the three New Pressure Ulcer Prevention Programs](#). For more information on the Technical Assistance Program, contact [Shannon M. Richey](#), TAP Program Manager. ([Back to top](#)).

Update from CMS – The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) released the following information of interest to long-term care providers:

- **FYI for participating Medicaid providers regarding written prescriptions**

Beginning April 1, 2008, all written prescriptions for Medicaid recipients must be on paper with at least one tamper-resistant feature as outlined by CMS and defined by your State. Beginning October 1, 2008, these same prescriptions must be on paper that meets all three baseline characteristics of tamper-resistant pads. CMS has outlined the three baseline characteristics as those that: (1) prevent unauthorized copying of a completed or blank prescription form; (2) prevent the erasure or modification of information written on the prescription by the prescriber; or (3) prevent the use of counterfeit prescription forms. States are responsible for defining specific features that meet the baseline characteristics in order for a prescription to be considered tamper-resistant in that State. Review your State's website for guidance on acceptable tamper-resistant features. Additional information on CMS' requirements can be found at:

http://www.cms.hhs.gov/DeficitReductionAct/30_GovtInfo.asp. Please note that electronic prescriptions, faxed prescriptions and prescriptions sent over the telephone are exempt from this requirement. **Failure to comply with this requirement could result in a withholding of Medicaid reimbursement.**

- **Fire Safety**

Region VII sent the attached [30 second video](#) about how to deal with a common kitchen fire. ([Back to top](#)).

Register now for 2008 Safety Congress – Registration is now available for the 2008 Ohio Safety Congress & Expo. The 78th Safety Congress is slated for Tuesday – Thursday, April 1-3 and will be held at the Columbus Convention Center. This annual conference is one of the largest gatherings in the United States singularly dedicated to this cause. The free event is designed to provide a flexible yet customized, industry-focused learning approach to promote safety in the workplace. This year's congress will feature more than 150 educational sessions and nearly 250 exhibitors. If you play a role in your business' accident prevention efforts, join more than 5,000 participants from private industry and public agencies at this great annual event. Visit <http://www.ohiobwc.com/employer/programs/safety/SafetyCongress.asp> for more information. ([Back to top](#)).

Reserve your trade show booth and/or sponsorship today – Do you have your booth for the 2008 OANH Trade Show? If not, do so today as many booths have already been reserved. A variety of sponsorships are also available for additional exposure. Some sponsorships even include a complimentary booth! The 2008 OANH Convention & Trade Show will be held Oct. 22-24, 2008 (Wednesday through Friday) at the Hilton Columbus at Easton. Trade show hours will be similar to the 2007 show. Contracts for 2008 are available via the [OANH website](#), or you can contact [Dawn Kennedy](#) to reserve your booth or discuss sponsorship options. ([Back to top](#)).

Get your golf game ready for June 5 – Mark your calendars now for the fifth Annual OANH PAC Golf Outing! This year the outing will take place on Thursday, June 5 at Scioto Reserve Golf Club in Powell. Registration and lunch will begin at 11:30 a.m. with a shot gun start at 1 p.m. After a challenging game of golf, attendees will stay at the course for food, drinks and prizes at "19th Hole." Prices are \$250 per golfer or \$950 per foursome. Registration brochures will be mailed soon. For more information contact [Dawn Kennedy](#). ([Back to top](#)).

Diabetes presents growing problem for nursing facilities, study shows –

Diabetes is "enormously prevalent" in nursing homes. One out of every four residents over the age of 65 is diagnosed with the disease, according to a new report from the Institute for the Future of Aging Services. Researchers analyzed the 2004 National Nursing Home Survey, which includes data representing 1.32 million nursing home residents over age 65. Among the findings: Non-white residents were twice as likely to have diabetes as white residents; diabetic residents were younger than their non-diabetic counterparts; and the prevalence of diabetes in U.S. nursing homes was higher in 2004 compared to previous years. IFAS is the applied research arm of the American Association of Homes and Services for the Aging. Those afflicted with the disease are at a greater risk for developing other conditions that can affect their quality of life and care needs, according to researchers. Among the examples shown in the report, diabetics are more likely to take more medication and arrive at a nursing home with pre-existing circulatory problems. Diabetics are also 56% more likely to have a pressure ulcer upon admittance. The research was published in the February 2008 issue of Diabetes Care. To view the report, please go to <http://www.futureofaging.org>.

(Source: McKnight's Long-Term Care News & Assisted Living)

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Register for OPC3 Conference before next Thursday and save –

Register now for Ohio Person Centered Care Coalition (OPC3) Conference—after March 13, the price for the event will increase from \$60 to \$85 per person. To register online, go to

<http://www.centeredcare.org/conference2008/> and save 15% when you register four or more people. The conference will take place on April 3 at the Aladdin Shrine Center in Columbus from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The plenary speakers are Richard Taylor, Ph.D. and Jim Collins, Ph.D. Taylor was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease seven years ago and wrote a book detailing the first four years of living with the diagnosis. Collins is an accomplished educator and consultant in the areas of long-term care, culture change and person-centered care. Continuing education credits are pending for activity professionals, administrators, nurses, dietary, social workers and therapists. For more information, please contact [Christina O'Neal](#). [\(Back to top\)](#).

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