



FRIDAY, JUNE 8, 2007 HEADLINES:

****Note: The Weekly will not be published next Friday (6/15), but we will continue to provide you with the most up-to-date information via email as needed.***

[Senate poised to increase funding for skilled nursing facilities](#)

[SNCC plans Statehouse rally June 19](#)

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[Senate poised to increase funding for skilled nursing facilities](#) – The Senate Finance Committee released its substitute version of Sub. H.B. 119 (the “budget bill”) earlier this week that included an increase in funding for skilled nursing facilities. The increase brings the total biennium appropriation level for skilled nursing care near the appropriation levels of the current biennium. Although the Skilled Nursing Care Coalition (SNCC) is greatly appreciative of the Senate for restoring funding to past levels, SNCC is currently working with the Senate on incorporating needed statutory language changes that are essential for fair funding and the sustainability of the pricing system. Senate Finance anticipates passing Sub. H.B. 119 out of committee by early next week. The bill will then go to the Senate floor and on to Conference Committee.

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[SNCC plans Statehouse rally June 19](#) – The Skilled Nursing Care Coalition (SNCC) is planning a Statehouse rally for employees of skilled nursing facilities to urge support for an increase in Medicaid funding for skilled nursing care. The event is tentatively scheduled for **Tuesday, June 19 from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. (note date and time change)**. We need the participation of our member facilities in asking employees and family members to play a part in this event. Participants will hear from Ohio legislative leaders and others during the event. Ribbons and other materials will also be provided to those in attendance. We ask that each participating employee or family member “sponsor” a resident from the facility, and carry a small picture of the resident. Use the attached release (**[SNCC Rally Authorization](#)**) allowing the use of the individuals’ names and images. Please complete a release for each resident, and include a copy in the resident’s permanent file. A copy should also be forwarded to The Academy. Please contact Chris Murray (**cmurray@oanh.org**) if you can participate in this important event.

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[Last chance to protect your facility with “Fire Prevention” program](#) – Learn how to protect your facility from the devastation of fire by attending **“Fire Prevention: Safety & Code Enforcement.”** Don’t miss this new program that will review fire safety, including the storing of hazardous materials, and also cover recent updates to the Ohio Fire Code. “Fire Prevention: Safety & Code Enforcement” will be held in Cleveland at the Holiday Inn Cleveland

South on Thursday, June 14 and in Cincinnati at the Kings Island Resort on Thursday, June 21. Both courses will be held from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The course is approved for four hours of CEUs from BENHA (Board of Examiners of Nursing Home Administrators). Any course approved by BENHA is also accepted by the Ohio Board of Nursing. The cost for this course is \$79 for members and \$109 for nonmembers. OANH members can send three staff from the same facility for \$179. Information about this course has been faxed. You can also register online at <http://www.oanh.org/educationalofferings.shtml>. For questions, contact Dawn Kennedy (dkennedy@oanh.org).
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SCRIPPS releases draft of AL Waiver report – Miami University's SCRIPPS Gerontology Center released a draft of the AL Waiver report that evaluates the waiver program's implementation, quality, and costs. Preliminary results suggest that the focus of improvement should be on attracting more residential care facilities into the program. Of an estimated 280 facilities that meet the physical requirements to be in the program, only 54 are currently certified. Of the 190 individuals on the wait list, almost all are waiting because a participating provider is not available in the vicinity. As of June 1, there are 193 people enrolled in the program, only two of which were enrolled in the lowest tier level; however, only 134 people were enrolled and receiving services during the study period. The report notes that the limited number of enrollees involved in various aspects of the study limits the ability to draw definitive conclusions about the waiver program. Other interesting findings of the report include:

- Recipients are generally satisfied with the services they receive and most would recommend the provider to family or friends
- There is a negative correlation between the number of enrollees and the difference between waiver and skilled nursing facility costs
- Out of pocket costs, including the ability to pay prescription co-pays, were a concern to many participants

SCRIPPS anticipates issuing the final report within the next three weeks.
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Grab four CEUs for \$29 – Attend the upcoming “**Pharmacy Update: F-Tags & More**” to obtain four CEUs for only \$29. OANH has partnered with PureService Pharmacy and several drug manufacturers to offer a new regional education program at this greatly discounted price. “Pharmacy Update: F-Tags & More” will be held in Columbus on Wednesday, Aug. 8 at the Courtyard by Marriott West. Registration for this course will begin at 9 a.m. with the program from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Lunch is provided. This class will offer four BENHA CEUs. Participants will learn about the new F-Tag requirements, discover new pharmaceuticals now available, understand how to manage pain more effectively and meet with drug representatives. Academy members may attend this program for only \$29 and non-members may attend for \$39. Watch your mailboxes and faxes for information on “Pharmacy Update: F-Tags & More” or you can register online at <http://www.oanh.org/educationalofferings.shtml>. For more information, contact Dawn Kennedy (dkennedy@oanh.org).
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Monthly Provider Meeting notes – The long-term care trade associations met with representatives from the Department of Health (ODH) and the Department of Job and Family Services (JFS) at the June 7 monthly provider meeting.

NPI backlog: Alan Kidder, LTCF Provider Enrollment Supervisor, reported that there is approximately a one month backlog in the processing of the NPI. A large number of submissions were received in April. A question arose concerning the necessity of an NPI for AL waiver providers. That issue has not yet been fully addressed.

Case Mix: ODJFS indicated that CMS needs some type of communication form with Medicaid agencies that do Case Mix.

Clarification of RCF special population rule: ODH provided clarification of how to determine if a residential care facility meets the threshold that triggers reporting requirements for serving a special population. [Please click here for a copy of the clarification.](#)

Shared RCF and SNF staffing: Nurses employed by both an RCF and SNF cannot be assigned to both facilities and have his or her hours count for nurse staffing. For nursing hours to be considered, the nurse needs to have dedicated time to one of the facilities.

Federal surveyors may be misusing nursing considerations in drug handbook: Some federal surveyors may be citing facilities for failure to follow nursing considerations when

administering certain pharmaceuticals. ODH noted that they do not cite for this reason and are more concerned about facilities following the physician and drug manufacturer's instructions. ODH has worked with a federal surveyor on removing the deficiency upon appeal by the facility. If your facility has been cited under similar circumstances during a federal survey, you may want to appeal the deficiency. If you have a question or concern you would like addressed at the next provider meeting, please contact Chris Murray (cmurray@oanh.org) ([Back to top](#)).

“Early Bird” gets a great discount – Make sure you are getting a discount on your trade show booth by being an “Early Bird.” Only 21 days remain to reserve your booth by June 29 at the discounted “Early Bird” price. The 2007 OANH Convention & Trade Show will be held Monday-Wednesday, Oct. 29-31, 2007 at the Hilton Columbus at Easton. Booth prices are as follows:

- Regular Booth Pricing
Early Bird Booth Prices (Through June 29, 2007)
OANH Member: \$875
Non-Member: \$975

Regular Booth Prices (After June 29, 2007)
OANH Member: \$975
Non-Member: \$1075
- Premium Booth Pricing
Premium booths are only available to OANH members
Early Bird (Through June 29, 2007): \$1,075
Regular (After June 29, 2007): \$1,275

The Exhibitor & Sponsor Prospectus has been mailed. You can also view the Prospectus at <http://www.oanh.org/2007ep.pdf> or you can contact Dawn Kennedy (dkennedy@oanh.org) to reserve your booth. ([Back to top](#)).

Ohio Department of Aging selects Vital Research for satisfaction surveys – The Ohio Department of Aging announced that it has selected Vital Research, LLC, to conduct in-person satisfaction surveys with residents of the state's nearly 1,000 nursing facilities and 550 licensed residential care facilities (also known as assisted living). Surveys will be conducted throughout the summer and early fall, and results will be added to the department's Long-term Care Consumer Guide website (www.ltcoho.org) by January. The satisfaction surveys, developed by researchers at Scripps Gerontology Center and the Margaret Blenkner Research Institute, under contract with the Department of Aging, cover topics such as activities, administration, admissions, choice, environment and general satisfaction. Customer satisfaction ratings will join family satisfaction ratings, Ohio Department of Health inspection data and facility-entered details on the Consumer Guide. This effort is the first such statewide survey of assisted living resident satisfaction in the nation. As with the nursing home family satisfaction survey conducted last year, nursing facilities scoring an above average overall score on this year's survey will be eligible for a quality incentive point in the Medicaid reimbursement formula. In addition, nursing homes signing up with the Advancing Excellence in America's Nursing Homes campaign (www.nhqualitycampaign.org) will be able to use the survey toward meeting one of the key goals identified by the campaign to improve quality in nursing homes. (Source: Ohio Department of Aging) ([Back to top](#)).

CMS update – The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) recently announced information on the National Provider Identifier (NPI), MLN Matters, Bidders Conference for the Medicare DMEPOS, and much more. View a pdf file entitled “CMS Update” by [clicking here](#). ([Back to top](#)).

Westat to survey Ohio providers this summer – The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has contracted with Westat to survey a sample of Ohio healthcare providers about Ohio KePRO, the Medicare Quality Improvement Organization (QIO) for Ohio. If contacted, please take the opportunity to complete this voluntary, confidential survey online or by phone. Ohio KePRO collaborates with nursing home and home health professionals, hospital personnel, and physicians to examine practices and improve systems of providing care. The

Westat survey is your opportunity to share your experience with Ohio KePRO's services and provide valuable insight for shaping the future of healthcare quality improvement in Ohio.
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