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## Medicaid Expansion Could Enroll 450,000 Residents



The *Times-Picayune* reports that Louisiana's Department of Health and Hospitals is now estimating that the state's Medicaid rolls could increase to nearly 450,000 people after initially projecting that as many

as 300,000 uninsured could be covered under the federally funded program. The article explains that officials originally based their projections on US Census data that counted roughly 306,000 people as uninsured. For more information, read the full article [here](#).

## Letters: Recent Jeff Sadow article exaggerates Medicaid costs



LNHA recently submitted a Letter to the Editor published in the January 20, 2016 edition of *the Advocate* newspaper. Joe responds to Sadow's recent false statements regarding Louisiana nursing facilities. See the letter below.

In Jeff Sadow's recent article "Medicaid expansion a budget disaster," he used a highly inflated estimate to criticize the cost of Medicaid expansion.

In an attempt to bring attention to home and community-based services by linking the issue with Medicaid expansion, Sadow criticized the 2014 medical assistance constitutional amendment as exacerbating the budget crisis. This amendment protects the proceeds of the special tax that is levied on nursing facilities and certain other providers and directs that those fees be utilized to provide the intended services. The amendment was passed by Louisiana's Legislature with overwhelming bipartisan support and approved by the voters of Louisiana by a wide margin. This amendment is unrelated to Medicaid expansion.

In addition, Sadow continued to share his false statements and skewed statistics regarding nursing facilities in Louisiana. His statistics regarding per capita costs on nursing facility services is significantly different than the Kaiser Foundation's findings ([kff.org](http://kff.org)) and a Wall Street Journal article utilizing federal data to measure per capita health care spending by state and by service. Nursing facility per capita spending in Louisiana is \$68 below the national average while spending in the category that contains home and community-based waivers is \$34 higher than the national average. Additionally, Medicaid spending per recipient may be a better measure of efficiency as opposed to per capita spending. *(continued on page 2)*

**Join the conversation and connect with LNHA today!**

## Letters: Recent Jeff Sadow article exaggerates Medicaid costs (cont.)

According to the Kaiser Foundation, Medicaid per recipient spending on Louisiana's aged population was 44th in the nation and 35 percent below the national average. And Sadow is misinformed about occupancy rates. Although the overall occupancy rates of Louisiana nursing facilities are low, they are not the lowest, and they have been improving over the past 10 years because of initiatives recommended by the nursing facility profession, including bed buy-back and private room conversion. And taxpayers and families of care recipients need to know that fraud and waste remain a serious problem in the personal care services business.

Medicaid expansion will have a broad impact on Louisiana in a positive way. The state economy will have federal Medicaid dollars flowing through it. Because Louisiana is one of the poorest, sickest states in the nation, providing health care to the uninsured working poor will drastically reduce state costs for uncompensated care. Also, the expansion will significantly reduce the number of uninsured working adults, which will help ensure a healthier workforce of low-wage workers. Improved health decreases absenteeism, which in turn increases productivity.

Louisiana's nursing facilities strive to provide quality care in an efficient way. We will continue to collaborate with other health care providers and the Edwards administration to search for meaningful solutions to issues that surround our profession, including the health and well-being of Louisiana's elderly. I believe expansion could improve the health of wage earners who can't afford insurance, some of whom work in nursing facilities.

Joseph Donchess  
Executive Director, Louisiana Nursing Home Association

## LNHA Proposes Revision to Constitution in Recent Board Meeting



In November of 2015, the board approved a motion to revise a definition in the LNHA Constitution under Article III, 3. Professional. The revision is stated below:

“Individuals engaged in activities related to and allied with those of this Association, such as professionals in long term care related disciplines not currently practicing in licensed long term care facilities (i.e. nursing facilities, adult residential care facilities); ~~or engaged in study at educational institutions.~~  
A professional member may not be employed in a long term care facility in the State of Louisiana.”

This proposed revision will be offered to the House of Delegates at the Annual Convention in September 2016.

## Unique Quality Improvement & Training Opportunity for 3-5 Star Nursing Facilities

The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) created the On-Time Pressure Ulcer Prevention program (OTPP) to help nursing facilities with electronic health records (EHR) reduce the occurrence of in-house pressure ulcers. AHRQ contracted with NORC at the University of Chicago, and its partner Stratis Health, to provide ongoing practice facilitation with 50 nursing homes recruited across the U.S. to implement and evaluate this evidence based program.

### How is the On-Time Program Implemented?

The On-Time Program integrates clinical reports from an EHR to identify residents at risk for pressure ulcer development. Using these reports, participating facilities will implement team-based strategies with the help of an experienced facilitator to improve risk identification and care planning. These strategies allow staff to intervene in a timely manner with at-risk residents to reduce the incidence of pressure ulcers. Nursing homes that participate in this project will receive individualized technical assistance and education from the facilitator to successfully implement the On-Time program.

For more information, read the full [article](#). Also, there is an introductory webinar on January 27 from 11:30 a.m. - 12 p.m. CST that will describe the On-Time Pressure Ulcer Dissemination Program in more detail. Register [here](#).



## LNHA Welcomes Three New Assisted Living Members

LNHA is pleased to welcome three new assisted living members, Sunrise at Siegen, Sunrise of Baton Rouge, and Sunrise of Metairie. [Read more](#) about the nearly 300 Sunrise Senior Living communities.

## 2016



## LNHA 2016 Event Calendar

LNHA has compiled an event calendar that includes education events, conferences, conventions, AHCA events, as well as various other events and health care observances. Click [here](#) to download the calendar. It will also be included in this year's LNHA Membership Directory and Buyer's Guide.

## Electronic Staffing Data Submission: Payroll-Based Journal



Over time, CMS has utilized staffing data for a myriad of purposes in an effort to more accurately and effectively gauge its impact on quality of care in nursing facilities. Section 6106 of the Affordable Care Act requires facilities to electronically submit direct care staffing information (including agency and contract staff) based on payroll and other auditable data. The data, when combined with census information, can then be used to not only report on the level of staff in each nursing facility, but also to report on employee turnover and tenure, which can impact the quality of care delivered.

Therefore, CMS has developed a system for facilities to submit staffing and census information – Payroll-Based Journal (PBJ). This system will allow staffing information to be collected on a regular and more frequent basis than currently collected. It will also be auditable to ensure accuracy. This article provides an overview of how and when CMS will implement the PBJ.

CMS intends to collect staffing and census data through the PBJ system on a voluntary basis, which began on October 1, 2015, and on a mandatory basis beginning on July 1, 2016. Registration for voluntary submission began in August 2015. Training will also be provided on registration for both voluntary and mandatory submissions. For more information on how to register, as well as the draft policy on PBJ, click [here](#).

### Submission Timeliness and Accuracy

Direct care staffing and census data will be collected quarterly, and is required to be timely and accurate. The deadline for submissions must be received by the end of the 45th calendar day after the last day in each fiscal quarter in order to be considered timely.

### Registration

Submission of staffing information through PBJ will be accessed through the Quality Improvement & Evaluation System (QIES). To connect to PBJ through QIES one must have a CMSnet user ID. Most long term care facilities will already have connectivity to QIES and CMSNet through submitting minimum data set (MDS) or other CMS data. For more information on registration one may visit the following websites:

- <https://www.qtso.com/cmsnet.html>
- [https://mds.qiesnet.org/mds\\_home.html](https://mds.qiesnet.org/mds_home.html)
- <https://www.qtso.com/webex/qiesclasses.php>

### Methods of Submission

The PBJ system has been designed to accept two primary submission methods – 1) Manual data entry, and 2) Uploaded data from an automated payroll or time and attendance system (XML format only). In addition, users can use either methods or combinations of these methods for submitting data as needed or desired.

1) Entering information manually will require an individual(s) at a facility to key in information about employees, hours worked, and census information directly into the PBJ User Interface. The system has been designed to be user-friendly and intuitively guide users to successfully complete the process.

2) Uploading data directly from an automated payroll or time and attendance system will function very similarly to how MDS data are submitted currently. The data will be required to meet very specific technical specifications in order to be successfully submitted. These requirements can be found [here](#). Additionally, technical questions from vendors or software developers related to the PBJ Data Submission Specifications should be sent to the following email address: [NursingHomePBJTechIssues@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:NursingHomePBJTechIssues@cms.hhs.gov).

If you have any questions, email [Nathan Shaw](#) or [Robin Bleier](#) or call 727.786.3032.

*Author: Nathan Shaw, RN, BSN, MBA, RAC CT 3.0, Director of Clinical Reimbursement, RB Health Partners, Inc.*



# Become a Five-Star SUPERSTAR

Louisiana Nursing Home Association and Louisiana Board of Examiners of Nursing Facility Administrators invites you to attend a one-day session where attendees will learn how to become a Five-Star Superstar. Tanya Procell, RN, President of Provider Professional Services, will describe the components of the Five-Star Rating System and explain how they are calculated. The goal of this one-day session is to help the attendee identify items that could improve the facility's overall Five-Star rating. See the agenda on page 2 of the [flyer](#) for more detailed session information.

## Date and Location

February 16, 2016, Paragon Resort, Marksville, LA

Registration starts at 8:00 a.m. Class starts at 9:00 a.m. and concludes at 3:00 p.m.

## Cost

The registration fee is \$150. Your hotel reservation is not included in this fee. To receive a group discount on your hotel room, call 1.800.642.7777 and mention code **LNHF13G**.

To register, click [here](#). The registration deadline is Friday, **February 12, 2016**. Once you've registered online, mail your check to 7844 Office Park Blvd., Baton Rouge, LA., 70809, or contact Susan Helm at 225.927.5642 to pay by credit card.

## Additional details

This session has been approved by the Louisiana Board of Examiners of Nursing Facility Administrators for **five** continuing education hours.

**Read the [flyer](#) and [register](#) today!**

Written cancellation of a registration received in the LNHA office at least 10 days prior to the program will be refunded in full. Otherwise, one-third of the fee will be retained or billed for administrative costs.



7844 Office Park Blvd.  
Baton Rouge, LA 70809  
225.927.5642 (phone)  
[www.lnha.org](http://www.lnha.org)

## LNHA's Upcoming Events and Save the Dates!



New events have been added to the [News and Events web page](#) and to the e-calendar. To register for an event, visit [www.lnha.org](http://www.lnha.org) and click the calendar icon on the home page and select the appropriate event.

### UPCOMING EVENTS:

- January 26-27: MDS Training Update, Metairie (REGISTRATION IS CLOSED)
- January 28-29: MDS Training Update, Marksville (REGISTRATION IS CLOSED)
- February 16: Become a Five-Star Superstar, Marksville
- March 8-11: Resident Activity Director Certification Workshop, Marksville

### SAVE THE DATES:

- May 3-4: LNHA Spring Conference, Baton Rouge



### LNHA Facilities Earn Deficiency-Free Survey

Nursing facilities are under great scrutiny and many continue to provide a high level of care and service.

LNHA congratulates the following facilities for achieving a deficiency-free annual survey:

1. Chateau de Notre Dame, New Orleans
2. Lafourche Home, Thibodaux (2013, 2014, 2015)
3. Wynhoven Health Care Center, Marrero (2013, 2014, 2015)

LNHA appreciates your hard work, compassionate care and unyielding commitment to provide quality services to your community.

If your facility achieves a deficiency-free annual survey and would like to be recognized in the *Lagniappe* newsletter, contact Karen Miller at [kmiller@lnha.org](mailto:kmiller@lnha.org).



The *Lagniappe* newsletter is published twice a month by the Louisiana Nursing Home Association, 7844 Office Park Blvd., Baton Rouge, LA 70809, 225.927.5642. *Lagniappe* is provided as a membership benefit. Executive Director: Joseph Donchess; Communications Director: [Karen Miller](#).