

LAGNIAPPE

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Louisiana Facilities Recognized at the AHCA/NCAL Quality Awards



On Tuesday, October 18, [23 of Louisiana's facilities](#) were recognized as Bronze Award recipients and one facility, Zachary Manor, received the Silver Award at the AHCA/NCAL National Quality Awards Ceremony in Nashville, Tennessee at the annual AHCA Convention. This year, 540 facilities were awarded the Bronze Award – Commitment to Quality, 72 facilities received the Silver Award – Achievement in Quality and three facilities received the Gold Award – Excellence in Quality.

LNHA encourages you to apply for the AHCA Quality Awards in 2017. Get your staff involved and excited about this initiative. Make it a team goal to achieve this national recognition next year. Click [here](#) to learn more about the AHCA/NCAL National Quality Award Program. Click [here](#) to view a video and photos of the event.



Left: Bronze award recipients from Central Management.

Right: Bronze award recipients from Nexion Health pictured with owner Fran Kirley. Mr. Kirley was recognized at the AHCA Convention for his years of commitment and dedication as AHCA-PAC Chairman.



Joy Browning, administrator of Zachary Manor, pictured with owners Teddy and Susan Price. Zachary Manor received the Silver Award.

Reform of Requirements Call on October 27



Official Information Health Care
Professionals Can Trust

On Thursday, October 27th, the Medicare Learning Network (MLN) will host a 90-minute presentation to discuss the changes long-term care facilities must make in order to meet the federal standards of participation in the Medicare or Medicaid program. Participants will learn about the changes included in the [final rule](#); implementation and survey process; and provider training and resources. A question and answer session will follow the presentation.

The call will be on Thursday, October 27 from 12:30 to 2 p.m. CT. Registration for the call will close on Tuesday, October 27th at 11 AM CT or when available space has been filled.

Click [here](#) to register. MLN will post the call presentation at least one day in advance on the MLN Connects National Provider Calls and Events [web page](#). They will also post the audio recording approximately two weeks after the call. If you need assistance with registration, email cms-mlnconnectsnpc@blhtech.com.

Paid Sick Leave for Federal Contractors is Here: DOL Announces Final Rule



On September 29, 2016, the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) announced publication of the final rule implementing the paid sick leave executive order that applies to federal contractors. [Executive Order \(EO\) 13706, Establishing Paid Sick Leave for Federal Contractors](#) requires certain federal contractors to provide their employees up to seven days of paid sick leave per year.

The final rule permits employees to take paid sick leave for absences resulting from:

- i. a “physical or mental illness, injury, or medical condition”;
- ii. “obtaining diagnosis, care, or preventive care from a health care provider”;
- iii. “caring for a child, a parent, a spouse, a domestic partner, or any other individual related by blood or affinity whose close association with the employee is the equivalent of a family relationship who has any of the conditions or needs for diagnosis, care, or preventive care described in (i) or (ii) or is otherwise in need of care”; or
- iv. “domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking, if the time absent from work is for the purposes described in (i) or (ii), to obtain additional counseling, to seek relocation, to seek assistance from a victim services organization, or take related legal action, including preparation for or participation in any related civil or criminal legal proceeding, or to assist an individual related to the employee as described in (iii) in engaging in any of these activities.”

According to the DOL’s press release, “For American workers whose employers do not provide paid sick leave, taking time off to go to the doctor can mean missing out on wages or running the risk of getting fired.” The DOL’s Wage and Hour Division’s website includes information on the final rule such as a [fact sheet](#), answers to [frequently asked questions](#), a poster explaining EO 13706, and a [video](#) explaining the new rule.

The DOL had released its [Notice of Proposed Rulemaking \(NPRM\)](#) to implement Executive Order 13706, Establishing Paid Sick Leave for Federal Contractors in February of 2016. Ogletree Deakins will cover EO 13706 and its obligations on federal contractors in depth on the Affirmative Action / OFCCP [blog](#) in the coming days.



Author: [Hera S. Arsen, J.D., Ph.D.](#), is Managing Editor of Ogletree Deakins publications, overseeing the firm’s print and online legal publications and content.

Louisiana Medicaid to Host Electronic Health Record Vendor Fair

In an effort to help Louisiana Medicaid practitioners adopt electronic health records (EHR), the Louisiana Department of Health will host an EHR vendor and clearinghouse vendor fair Wednesday, October 26, 2016, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in Room 118 of the Bienville building located at 628 North 4th Street in downtown Baton Rouge. The fair will provide an open forum for providers to learn about available EHR and clearinghouse technology, as well as the EHR Incentive Payment Program. Providers may attend any time between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. The Louisiana Department of Health estimates that only 30 percent of eligible Medicaid providers have adopted certified electronic health record technology. To learn more, click [here](#).

Distinction Between Assisted Living And Skilled Care Is “Narrowing”

[McKnight's Senior Living](#) editorializes that the distinction between nursing facilities and assisted living communities is “narrowing,” but that “fundamental differences remain” primarily funding and federal regulation. The editorial argues that assisted living is becoming increasingly “clinical” like skilled care as evidenced by the new measures added to NCAL’s LTC Trend Tracker, while many nursing facilities are adopting a “social conscience” making them more like assisted living. The editorial quotes NCAL Board Chairman Chris Mason, who said about assisted living, “What began as a social model with a medical conscience in many states is now a medical model with a social conscience.”

Education and Advocacy Key to Success Under New Quality Measures

Skilled nursing providers may have to “teach” industry stakeholders how recent changes to the Five-Star Quality Rating System have impacted their ratings in order to maintain successful network partnerships, one expert stressed earlier this month.

While 11% of the skilled nursing sector gained a star under recent methodological changes to the rating system, another 16% lost a star, said Cheryl Field, chief product officer for Prime Care Technologies, citing American Health Care Association data. Field spoke during a session at AHCA’s 67th Annual Convention & Expo in Nashville.

To stay in a referral network’s good graces, Field urged providers whose ratings shifted under the new measures to utilize education and advocacy to show hospitals, accountable care organizations and other partners how the recent changes impacted their rating — and then back it up with current data.

CMS Unveils Care Model Linking Social Needs and Healthcare

A new care model from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services will zero in on social health-related needs such as food insecurity or unstable housing. The [Accountable Health Communities Model](#) will examine whether pinpointing and addressing these needs can help improve outcomes, reduce costs and decrease the risk of developing a chronic condition. The model may have particular interest for nursing homes accepting dual eligibles or seniors in need of financial assistance.

CMS will implement and test the model over five years, with three tracks of “varying intensity” aimed at closing a “critical gap between clinical care and community services,” the agency said. Among the tracks is a community referral approach, which link local organizations and agencies to provide care planning and follow-up for beneficiaries. Hospitals, healthcare provider practices, local governments and for- and not-for-profit health systems are eligible to apply for the test.

Deadline Extended: LLTCF Nursing Scholarship Applications



The Louisiana Long Term Care Foundation (LLTCF) is now accepting applications for 2016 LLTCF Nursing Scholarships.

If you have one or more employees who are currently in nursing school, please provide them with a copy of the application packet and encourage them to apply for this scholarship.

[Download the LLTCF Nursing Scholarship Application packet for 2016 here.](#)

The deadline for scholarship application submissions has been **extended to Tuesday, November 8, 2016**. Carefully read the instructions on page 1 of the packet for additional information, including the criteria to be met by each applicant. Contact [Karen Miller](#) if you have any questions.

Don't miss this great opportunity to encourage those on your staff who exhibit the qualities we need in the long term care profession!

New PBJ Resources: Checklist and Video



AHCA has added some new resources regarding Payroll Based Journal (PBJ) Mandatory Reporting. Remember, the deadline for the first required PBJ submission is **Monday, November 14**.

This one page [checklist](#) outlines the major steps that companies should take to be compliant with PBJ. To learn more about the data collection and understand the details of the PBJ requirements, click [here](#) to watch PBJ: How to Get Started.

LNHA Board President Urges Companies to Donate to Flood Relief Fund



At the September board meeting, the LNHA Board of Directors voted to raise monies to support the employees of LNHA member nursing facilities who suffered flood damage to their homes, vehicles and personal possessions

during the Great Flood of 2016 and the spring flooding in North Louisiana.

I urge facilities and associate members to participate in this effort by donating a minimum \$500 which is tax deductible. Over the past month we have received less than 20% participation. I encourage every member to participate so we can make a difference in the lives of those employees who are affected by this tragic flooding.

Please make your check payable to: Louisiana Long Term Care Foundation. When mailing the check, address it to 7844 Office Park Blvd., Baton Rouge, LA, 70809, and include "Flood Relief" in the attention line.

Sincerely,
Ron Goux
LNHA Board President



The Lagniappe e-newsletter is published twice a month by the Louisiana Nursing Home Association. Lagniappe is provided as a membership benefit. If you have any questions about Lagniappe, contact LNHA Communications Director [Karen Miller](#).