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LNHA Names Mark Berger Executive Director Effective January 2017



On July 27, the LNHA Board of Directors announced the selection of Mark Berger to be executive director after Joe Donchess' retirement on December 31st.

Mark Berger currently serves as LNHA's Reimbursement Director and has worked on staff for 26 years. He has been a certified public accountant for 31 years. Beyond his accounting skills, Mark is actively involved with the legislative and regulatory processes. He has played an integral role in several major successes, most notably the design and implementation of the case-mix reimbursement system and legislative measures to advance quality care for residents of nursing facilities.

Executive Director Joe Donchess said, "I am pleased to have an accomplished internal candidate to carry on the future and mission of LNHA. I expect Mark's transition to be seamless, as we have worked together closely for several years. He has demonstrated the leadership skills, experience and vision necessary to succeed in this position." Join LNHA in congratulating Mark on his new position. Read the press release [here](#).

CMS Proposes More Mandatory Bundles

Last week, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) [issued a proposed rule](#) that would implement three new mandatory bundled payment episodes and make refinements to the ongoing Bundled Payments for Care Improvement (BPCI) initiative models. CMS is proposing to test 90-day cardiac episodes around heart attack and open-heart surgery, as well as a new orthopedic hip/femur fracture treatment episode (without replacement). The cardiac bundles would be tested in 98 metropolitan areas across the country, to be randomly selected and announced in the final rule. The new hip/femur bundle would be tested in the 67 markets already participating in the Comprehensive Care for Joint Review (CJR) program. CMS is also proposing to test a hospital add-on payment program in 90 markets, to incentivize the use of cardiac rehabilitation. AHCA staff is in the process of analyzing the 906-page rule and will be developing comments, which are due at the beginning of October. In the coming weeks AHCA will be hosting a member webinar to go through the components of the proposed rule. Email [James](#) at AHCA with any questions.

Zika Virus Update

LNHA urges you to remain current on the latest news and information about the Zika virus. To do so, visit the CDC [website](#).

FDA Announces Voluntary Recall of Certain Liquid Docusate Products

U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has released a statement below regarding a voluntary recall of certain liquid docusate products. The extent of this issue remains under investigation; therefore, both FDA and CDC continue to recommend that clinicians and patients not use any liquid docusate sodium product as a stool softener or for any other medical purpose.

U.S. Food and Drug Administration is alerting health care professionals that PharmaTech LLC, Davie, Florida, is voluntarily recalling all non-expired lots of Diocto Liquid, a docusate sodium solution distributed by [Rugby Laboratories](#), Livonia, Michigan. The agency confirmed the product has been contaminated with *Burkholderia cepacia*, a bacteria linked to an outbreak in five states. PharmaTech manufactures the oral liquid docusate sodium, which is distributed nationwide by Rugby with a Rugby label in one pint (473 mL) bottles.

In addition, FDA has received several adverse event reports of *B. cepacia* infections in patients. Some of these reports identify liquid docusate sodium products manufactured by companies other than PharmaTech. FDA and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention continue to investigate the extent of this issue in order to identify other potentially contaminated liquid docusate sodium products.

Patient safety is top priority. **FDA joins CDC in recommending that clinicians not use any liquid docusate sodium product as a stool softener or for any other medical purpose.** FDA and CDC will provide additional information when it is available.

FDA encourages health care professionals and patients to report adverse events or quality problems experienced with the use of oral liquid docusate sodium products to FDA's MedWatch Adverse Event Reporting program. Complete and submit the report online [here](#) or download and complete the form, then submit it via fax at 1.800.FDA.0178.

The End of Alzheimer's Starts with You: Walk to End Alzheimer's

Alzheimer's is an epidemic devastating our families, our residents and our future. The disease is all around us — but the power to stop it is within us. Held annually in more than 600 communities nationwide, Walk to End Alzheimer's is the world's largest event to raise awareness and funds for Alzheimer's care, support and research. Participate in the Alzheimer's Association Walk to End Alzheimer's® and be inspired by all the footsteps that fall into place behind yours. Together, we can end Alzheimer's. Click [here](#) to find a walk in your community. LNHA encourages you to register several of your nursing facility staff as a team to support this great cause. For the Baton Rouge walk, André Moreau, news anchor at WAFB-TV, is the M.C. and Representative Ted James is the Walk Ambassador. View the Louisiana Chapter's web page [here](#).

Below are the walk dates across Louisiana:

September 10: Baton Rouge
October 8: Lake Charles, Mandeville and Ponchatoula
October 29: Lafayette

September 24: Alexandria
October 22: Bossier City and Houma
November 5: Monroe and New Orleans

AHCA/NCAL Convention & Expo

If you have not registered for the AHCA/NCAL Convention, register today. There are many exciting things planned for attendees including 14 tracks of learning and more than 75 education sessions. Find out about all the AHCA/NCAL Convention & Expo [registration packages](#) and choose the one that best meets your needs.



Education tracks include:

- Staff Stability
- Risk Management
- Quality
- Leadership
- Dementia Care
- Improving Post-acute Care
- The Customer Experience

[Get all the details](#) and make your plans now. [Register today!](#)

Upcoming LNHA Events: Register Today!

LNHA invites you to join us at our upcoming education events. View the event calendar [here](#).

D.O.N. Boot Camp: August 23-24, Paragon Casino Resort, Marksville

This two-day seminar is designed to provide a Registered Nurse with the information and knowledge needed to serve as an effective Director of Nursing in a nursing facility. For more information and to view an agenda, click [here](#).

Annual Convention & Trade Show: September 7-9, New Orleans Marriott

LNHA's Convention provides attendees with the perfect balance of educational and networking opportunities. With the new quality initiatives and regulations, all disciplines need education on these topics. This year's theme for the Annual Convention & Trade Show is "All Aboard for Quality Health Care." View the [brochure](#) for more information including CEUs, special hotel rates and an agenda.

Resident Activity Director Certification Workshop: October 18-21, DoubleTree by Hilton, Baton Rouge

Attendees who complete this four-day seminar will become certified Resident Activity Directors. For more information, click [here](#).

MDS/Resident Assessment Instrument (RAI) Coding and Interpretation: October 25-26, Paragon Casino Resort, Marksville

This two-day seminar is presented by LNHA and Myers and Stauffer with a guest speaker from the Louisiana Department of Health. This seminar will include a basic overview with coding instructions for all sections of MDS 3.0. This workshop is ideal for beginners and also serves as an excellent refresher course for those who want to expand and clarify their working knowledge. For more information including CEUs and an agenda, click [here](#).

LNHA Facilities Receive Positive Press

In July, two local papers touted the recent achievements of several LNHA member facilities for being recipients of the Bronze and Silver AHCA Quality Awards. Congratulations on the positive press received this past month. It is certainly well-deserved.

[*The Advocate*](#) reported the American Health Care Association and National Center for Assisted Living has selected Zachary Manor Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Louisiana for one of its 2016 Silver Achievement in Quality Awards. Zachary Manor administrator Joy Russo said, “We are extremely honored to receive the Silver Award from AHCA in recognition of our deeply rooted passion for person-centered care.”

[*The Shreveport Times*](#) reported that Garden Park, Magnolia Manor, Harmony House, Roseview and Southern Oaks have all been recognized as 2016 recipients of the Bronze – Commitment to Quality Award for their dedication to improving the lives of residents through quality care.



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