

Perspectives

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AHCA/NCAL Elects New Board Members

The American Health Care Association and National Center for Assisted Living (AHCA/NCAL) elected AHCA's Board of Governors and NCAL's Board of Directors for the 2013-2014 term at their annual convention in October, 2013. Both boards selected new chairs for the coming year: Leonard Russ of New York for the AHCA Board, and Patricia Giorgio of Iowa for the NCAL Board. In addition, Michele DeClemente-Hughes of Emeritus Senior Living was elected to the NCAL Board as an At-Large Representative. She joins Steven Heaney of Brandywine Senior Living, another New Jersey representative on the Board. Congratulations, Michele!



NCAL Awards Presented

In 2004, NCAL embarked on a national initiative called Caring for our Caregivers. The mission of this initiative was to increase recognition of direct care staff in the assisted living setting and honor the value that direct caregivers bring to their profession every day.

This year, HCANJ is proud to announce that the NCAL Noble Caregiver in Assisted Living was awarded to Robin Moran from The Chelsea at Tinton Falls, NJ. Congratulations, Robin!



HCANJ Annual Convention

The 65th Annual HCANJ Convention and Trade Show was once again a success. Held every year in October, the event hosts over 2,500 attendees and over 250 vendors. The HCANJ Foundation golf outing was held the day before convention on an absolutely gorgeous day. Attendees were treated to a fun day of golfing and networking. Be sure to join us next year for both golf and convention!



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Advanced Standing PSO Requirement

To date, all facilities participating in the HCANJ Foundation Advanced Standing program have been required to participate in the collection of Tier I data through the National Center for Assisted Living (NCAL) Performance Measures Survey. Yearly, a Peer Review Panel selects a few of those measures that all facilities must meet to comply with the quality requirements of Advanced Standing. Currently, those requirements include:

- a family council that meets at least quarterly and encourages family participation,
- community leadership who meet regularly with the leaders of the family council,
- a formal on-going training program for all employees; and,
- measurement of, and action on, the results of resident and family satisfaction surveys.

In 2014, all facilities participating in Advanced Standing will also be required to participate in the collection of Tier II data through a Patient Safety Organization (PSO). Examples of Tier II measures include falls, medication management, hospitalizations, etc.

NCAL, after a year of research and negotiations, announced that they have partnered with the New Jersey Hospital Association's (NJHA) Institute for Quality and Patient Safety, a federally certified Patient Safety Organization (PSO), to collect Tier II Clinical Performance Measures. Data collected by a PSO is protected and is not subject to legal discovery. The HCANJ Foundation chose to work with the NJHA PSO not because of NCAL, but because it is the most affordable way for Advanced Standing program participants to engage the services of a PSO.

There are additional costs to participate in the PSO and there are additional benefits. Among them, the ability for a community to benchmark their data against other communities in New Jersey as well as across the country. More importantly, a community will have the opportunity to improve safety and quality, leading to better resident outcomes.

In early October, the HCANJ Foundation Peer Review Panel voted to keep the current quality measures and added the Tier II measures of advanced care planning and re-hospitalizations. In addition, all participating facilities will be required to use the Disclosure Statement that was created by the DOH, HCANJ and other involved associations and interested parties.

Anyone with questions about the PSO requirement, Disclosure Statement requirement and/or the Advanced Standing program should contact Kathy Fiery at HCANJ.