

Perspectives

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DOH Staff Changes

It is with mixed feelings that HCANJ bids a happy retirement to Barbara Goldman. Barbara was a tireless advocate for long term care residents and served in various and numerous roles during her tenure with DOH. Most recently, Barbara served as Assistant Director, Office of CN and Healthcare Facility Licensure and as the Executive Director of the Nursing Home Administrators Licensing Board (NHALB). She was also responsible for the Assisted Living Licensing Workgroup (ALLWG) and was the DOH representative on the HCANJ Foundation Advanced Standing Peer Review Panel.

As anyone who knew her would tell you, Barbara represented DOH quite admirably. She was always approachable and willing to hear another viewpoint before she made up her mind on an issue. Although we did not always agree, we knew that her decisions were based on what she believed was best for the residents.

HCANJ wishes Barbara only the best in her retirement. We will miss her.

And, we are pleased to announce that Cheri Stephenson joined DOH in January as a Program Specialist 3 overseeing the Administrator In Training program for individuals that wish to pursue the career of being LNHAs. She is also responsible for all functions related to assisted living, and is also the Executive Director of the Nursing Home Administrators Licensing Board.

Cheri studied gerontology and business at the City University of New York and received her Bachelors of Science degree in Long Term Care Management. She worked in several long term care facilities, in the roles of Director of Social Services, Administrator, Memory Care Director and Assisted Living Manager in an Assisted Living community, where she was also the administrator of record. Cheri is also a certified assisted living administrator (CALA).

Please join HCANJ is welcoming Cheri to her new role!



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Legislation Acted
Upon by the
Governor

S2160, Vitale (D19); Sweeney (D3); Quijano (D20); DeAngelo (D14); Giblin (D34); Benson (D14); Zwicker (D16); Danielsen (D17); Houghtaling (D11); Sumter (D35) concerns unemployment compensation and labor disputes.

On November 14, 2016 the Governor's conditional veto was received in the Senate. HCANJ continues to monitor this legislation.

S976, Gordon (D38); Beck (R11); Benson (D14); Downey (D11); Eustace (D38) requires the Public Health Council to promulgate rules and regulations for use of quality control programs in bio-analytical and clinical laboratories.

This bill was signed by the Governor on January 9, 2017 as *P.L.2016, c.86*.



ALLWG Meets

The Assisted Living Licensing Workgroup (ALLWG) met on January 27, 2017. This group, convened by DOH, has been meeting quarterly since before the NJ assisted living regulations were promulgated. The workgroup discusses issues of import to the assisted living profession and is an opportunity for open dialogue between the department and the profession.

At this meeting, results of the 2016 complaint surveys performed by DOH on non-Advanced Standing buildings were compared to results of complaint surveys on Advanced Standing surveys during the same timeframe. Those buildings in Advanced Standing performed better than buildings not in Advanced Standing. Although the total number of deficiencies were roughly the same, the type and magnitude of those deficiencies were lower for Advanced Standing buildings.

Advanced Standing buildings receive an annual Compliance Visit from the HCANJ Foundation to determine conformity with all pertinent regulations. They also must meet certain quality measurement performance criteria as set forth by the HCANJ Foundation Peer Review Panel, which is comprised of providers as well as a representative of DOH and the Office of the Ombudsman for the Institutionalized Elderly.

Advanced Standing is in its 6th successful year and has 91 voluntary participants.