

The Advocate

Governor Signs Budget—\$12.4 Million Increase for Provider Rates

For the second consecutive year, nursing homes will receive a much needed increase for provider rates. Last year the nursing homes received a \$20.4 million increase and this year they will receive an additional \$12.4 million.

After vetoing the first budget proposal submitted by the legislature a few months ago, Governor Henry presented a new budget and with the approval from Speaker Lance Cargill, Co-President Pro Tempores of the Senate Mike Morgan and Glenn Coffee, and members of the legislature, minutes before the midnight deadline the new budget was signed.

“This budget agreement is the result of hard work and bipartisan cooperation, and I thank legislative leaders of both parties for finding consensus on important issues. It hasn’t always been an easy process, but lawmakers ultimately came together to do significant things for Okla-

homa. This bipartisan budget addresses a number of priorities... In all it marks a win-win for Oklahoma,” Governor Henry stated.



The \$7.1 billion state budget includes important funds for critical state services such as public safety, state prisons, the Department of Health and others. It also includes a boost in teacher’s pay, an increase for CareerTech and speeds up tax cuts for working Oklahomans.

“The noise of democracy sometimes means a lot of sound and fury, and this legislative session certainly had its share of both, but ultimately lawmakers of both parties found common ground on behalf of the people of Oklahoma,” Governor Henry said.

2007 OAHCP Fall Health Fair

The 8th Annual OAHCP Fall Health Fair will be held this year September 11– 12 at the Renaissance Hotel and Convention Center in Tulsa. This will be a tabletop show only. Exhibits will be held on Tuesday, September 11th . Set up will be available on Monday, September 10 at 4:00 pm if needed. Remember if it won’t fit on a tabletop, don’t bring it.

Classes will be held on September 11 and 12 (Tuesday and Wednesday). The education agenda includes classes on Activities/Social Services, Dietary, ServSafe Certification and others. Be looking for your registration packet in the mail.

For prices and more information, please contact Crystal Mappes at (405) 524-8338.

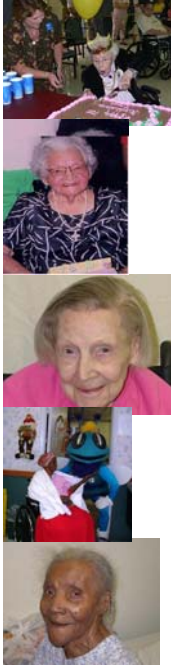
Inside this Issue:

- GOVERNOR SIGNS BUDGET
- 2007 OAHCP FALL HEALTH FAIR
- 2007 CONVENTION AND TRADE SHOW
- 2007 CARE PREFERRED VENDORS
- 2007 LEGISLATIVE SESSION
- JUNE FEATURED VENDOR: GOOD SHEPHERD HOSPICE
- JUNE FEATURED FACILITY: BAPTIST VILLAGE OF OKLAHOMA CITY

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Reflections

2007 Capitol Day, Convention and Trade Show

Capitol Day

This year over 150 people showed up to rally at the capitol in support of the issues pressing the nursing home industry. Most of the participants were able to meet with their legislators and express the importance of such issues as provider rate increases, unfunded mandates, and health care coverage.

Because of your participation and dedication, the nursing home industry experienced great success this year.

Convention and Trade Show

The 2007 Annual Convention and Trade show was a huge success this year bringing in over 100 vendors and many participants for the educational classes.

This year the tradition of a President's Banquet returned. OAHCP President Brett Lessley hosted the banquet which featured keynote speaker Rep. Doug Cox. The banquet also featured a legislative update by Bryan Fried of FKG Consulting, a

presentation given by Gary Porter of the nominees and winners for the Outstanding Administrator, Director of Nurses Award and CNA of the Year, a presentation by Don Greiner and Kassie McCoy of CARE's Convention Sponsors, an honorary slideshow of Oklahoma's 13 Centurions, and concluded with dancers from Oklahoma's Native American tribe.

Congratulations to our winners: Angela York, Angela Bradway and Alice Newman. Also a special thanks to the OAHCP staff for their great work.

CARE'S PREFERRED VENDORS

 Pat Cosentino (405) 475-4633	 Jason DeLester (405) 943-0903	 Ron Howe (405) 232-3131
 Bobby Noon (405) 826-1662	 Frank Schulz (918) 250-0199	 Barry Wade (405) 948-2813

2007 Legislative Update

Countless hours went in to preparing for the 2007 legislative session. The Senate being evenly divided 24-24 for the first time in history added an interesting twist. However, overall the session went remarkably smooth even in light of the Governor's veto pen. Some of the major issues addressed this session include:

Budget— This year the nursing homes received an additional \$12.4 million for a 7% rate increase.

Health Care—Several measures passed this session that addressed the uninsured and the rising costs of health care:

- *O-EPIC premium assistance program* will expand eligibility to individuals with incomes up to 250% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) and employee groups up to 250 instead of the current 50 employee limit. This health care plan should become available in the spring of 2008
- *"All Kids" program* will provide a premium assistance voucher system for children in families with incomes up to 300% of the FPL
- *Increasing Medicaid payment rates* to doctors, hospitals, and nursing homes to ensure greater participation in the program

Tort Reform—Governor Henry vetoed the initial Tort Reform bill that came to his desk on April 20th, citing concerns with the cap on non-economic damages and the changes to the law governing class actions. On May 23rd, Republican leaders submitted a proposed compromise but the Governor's office rejected this plan as well.

Overall the 2007 legislative session was a victory for nursing homes. We gained more Medicaid funding and were able to direct the focus to health care.

A special thanks to the lobbying team of FKG, Scott Adkins, and the Board members for all their hard work and dedication.

June Featured Sponsor — Good Shepherd Hospice



Established in 1995, Good Shepherd Hospice provides hospice care to patients that are facing a terminal condition by offering professional medical care, one patient at a time, in the patients home or at a nursing home or assisted living facility.

Whether the Good Shepherd Hospice team provides care in the patients home or in a long-term care facility, the goal of their treatment plan is always the same: ensure the highest level of overall care by expertly addressing the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of patients and their families. Good Shepherd Hospice stands apart as the compassionate choice in quality hospice care.

One of the things Good Shepherd Hospice is known for is their resident makeovers. The makeovers began when the team at Good Shepherd realized how much the residents enjoyed being pampered with make-up and new hair styles by Janice Dalton, HHA and Cleta Cole, HHA. Seeing this, Good Shepherd decided to take the makeovers to the next level by adding hats and boas and fancy material to simulate a ball gown before taking the resident's picture. Although the women and staff seem to enjoy it the most, even the men occasionally strike a pose with a cowboy hat.

"It's amazing to watch their posture and demeanor change when they are posing for a pic-

ture. We bring snacks and play music and are always looking for new ideas to keep it fresh and fun," said Ann Scharff of Good Shepherd Hospice.

The word has spread and now many facilities are requesting the makeover team of Good Shepherd Hospice.

While the Good Shepherd Hospice corporate office is located in Oklahoma City, they also have 8 additional offices located throughout Oklahoma, Texas and Kansas.

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June Featured Facility — Baptist Village, OKC



Baptist Village Retirement Communities of Oklahoma offer compassionate care and quality living in a Christian environment for many Oklahomans in 8 different communities. They are proudly serving more than 1800 people everyday.

Baptist Village provides communities and services which emphasize positive aging in an environment that encourages and celebrates life long learning, fellowship, relationship with God and others, preventative health and positive well being.

Nestled in a residential neighborhood, Baptist Village of Oklahoma City is a continuum of care community. Baptist Village offers residential living homes and apartments, assisted living suites, a health care center, Alzheimer's special care and skilled nursing. Other amenities include activity programs, computers, library, choir, recreation and fitness, indoor swimming pool and a full time chaplain.

Recently Baptist Village of Oklahoma City was visited by the makeover team from Good Shepherd Hospice. Both residents and staff alike participated and enjoyed having their picture taken.



Lackey Manor



COALITION OF ADVOCATES FOR RESPONSIBLE ELDERCARE



Coalition of Advocates for Responsible Eldercare

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