

CARE Newsletter

COALITION OF ADVOCATES FOR RESPONSIBLE ELDERCARE

GOV. HENRY GIVES STATE OF STATE ADDRESS

The economy, energy, education, and healthcare topped the governor's priorities when he delivered his State of the State address. The state of the nation, as well as Oklahoma, was of great concern for the



governor. He reminded the members of both the House and the Senate of their responsibility to take action to move the state forward. "Now,

more than ever, it is time for all of us to put aside partisan differences and petty squabbles," Henry said. "The stakes are too high, the consequences are too great to surrender to the divisiveness of partisan games."

Among the priorities topping the governor's agenda, he began with the state's budget:

BUDGET

The responsibilities before the Legislature come at a time when Oklahoma families and state government face difficult economic times. This year, the Oklahoma State Board of Equalization stated that the state faces a budget hole of nearly \$600 million. Therefore, the state government, much like Oklahoma families must make cuts where it can.

"As Oklahoma families take a hard look at their own expenses, we must do the same," Henry said. "State agencies must

tighten their budgets and some projects must be put on hold." However, Henry went on to say "a lack of funding is no excuse for lack of vision, and so this year we must continue building the foundation for a brighter future."

HEALTH CARE

The governor applauded the success of Insure Oklahoma, a premium assistance program designed to help provide health insurance to more Oklahoma families. Henry proposed expanding a pilot program currently operating in Tulsa that targets point-of-service enrollment to help provide health care coverage to tens of thousands of Oklahomans.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Henry also offered his plans for boosting economic development in the state. "The gateways to a thriving economy in the global age are biotechnology, aerospace, renewable energies and knowledge-based industries," Henry said.

ENERGY & CONSERVATION

The governor also urged the Legislature to pursue policies that promote the growth of renewable energy and the conservation of energy.

"Through our state's abundant resources and hard-earned expertise, Oklahoma is uniquely positioned to be at the forefront of a dynamic new age, an era that demands sustainable energy sources and commonsense conservation," he said.

MARCH 2009

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Featured Stories

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Capitol News

For the first time in Oklahoma history, the Republicans have control of both the House and the Senate. With the 2009 legislative session only a month in, the Republicans have already set the tone for their agenda. On the House side, measures dealing with lawsuit reform, voter identification, streamlining government purchasing, and alternative energy sources are the big-ticket items for the Republicans. Speaker Chris Benge, R-Tulsa, said he is very pleased bills pertaining to these issues made it out of the House before the deadline.

As for the Senate Republicans, bills on voter identification, government efficiency, tax cuts, and worker's compensation were at the top of the list.

For the Democrats in both the House and the Senate, they continue to fight for increased health insurance coverage and jobs. However, this year minority leaders argue they are spending far too much of their time on issues that do not effect the residence of Oklahoma.



Soul Fest 2009

Once again Grace NE 21st hosted their annual Soul Fest.

This celebration began several years ago as an opportunity for the staff and residents to welcome the community into the facility for food, music, and fellowship. The staff not only helped the residents enjoy the party, they also served food to anyone who walked in.

For the second year in row, Rep. Anastasia Pittman (pictured at top) attended the celebration. Despite her hectic schedule at the state Capitol, she spent several hours visiting with the residents, staff members, and locals.

For the first time, local media came to cover Soul Fest. Three newscasters and two newspapers covered the event. They were amazed by the hundreds of people who came to the facility for the festivities.

A local musician provided the entertainment for the day. Residents, staffers, visitors and even Rep. Pittman made it on to the dance floor. With the warm sunshine, delicious food, and great music, it was a perfect day for a celebration.



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CARE TEAM

Claremore Nursing Home
Chandler Nursing Home
Grace Living Centers
Inola Nursing Home
Lakeland Manor



Oklahoma Association of Health Care Providers

“Driving *dramatic* improvement in long term care.”

The OAHCP is Oklahoma’s long-term care trade association. Their mission is to dramatically improve long term care in Oklahoma. The association believes Oklahoma can do better in providing for its parents, grandparents, and disabled. As a party who actually provides care to Oklahoma’s elderly and disabled, the OAHCP wants to make investments by upgrading the facilities and equipment, providing raises and benefits for the staff, and shaping a brighter future for Oklahoma’s long-term care population. In order to achieve this goal, the OAHCP works with advocates, rate-setters, and policy makers.

Each year the OAHCP increases its membership, thereby increasing its efforts to improve the quality of care in long-term healthcare. CARE would like to personally thank the OAHCP for being a corporate sponsor and for all it does for the long-term care industry. Without it, who would represent the profession?



2009 Annual Spring Convention & Trade Show— May 18-20, 2009 at the Cox Convention Center—Oklahoma City

SAVE THE DATE—2009 CAPITOL DAY



“Senior Care Day
at the Capitol”

**2009
CAPITOL DAY**



Tuesday, April 7, 2009
1:30—3:30 pm

Governor’s Blue Room

OAHCP and **OKALA** invite you to join them for “Senior Care Day at the Capitol”. For the first time, the Oklahoma Association of Health Care Providers and the Oklahoma Assisted Living Association are joining forces at the state Capitol.

Mark your calendars for Tuesday, April 7, 2009, and join us at 1:30 pm in the Governor’s Blue Room. Representative Doug Cox will be welcoming participants to the Capitol. Our lobbying team, FKG will also be giving a legislative update before we meet with legislators.

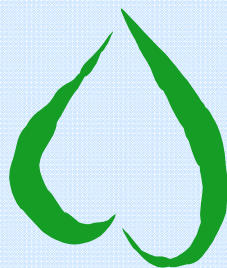
If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Kassie McCoy by email at kassie@careoklahoma.com or by phone at (405) 524-8338.

Hope to see you there!

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