Dominant the long term care needs of Mississippi since 1953~

Mississippi Health Care Association

Deadline Nears for Quality Award Applications:

- Applications for the 2004 AHCA/NCAL Quality Award are due March 31. The information needed to apply is available online at: www.ahca.org/quality/awardinfo.htm. The annual award recognizes significant achievements in quality improvement in AHCA/NCAL-member long term care facilities and is modeled after criteria for the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award, which is the nation’s premier recognition for quality achievement. AHCA/NCAL strongly encourages members to review the award criteria and submit applications where appropriate. Recipients of the Quality Award reflect the long term care profession’s commitment to meeting customer’s needs through sophisticated quality improvement efforts.

Please join the Mississippi Health Care Association in welcoming Heather Bradley to our staff as Education Coordinator. Heather joins MHCA from Beth Israel Congregation in Jackson where she served 4 years as Administrative Assistant. Her background includes office management, community outreach through publications, customer service, and staff support. A graduate of Belhaven College, Heather received a Bachelor of Arts in history with an emphasis in political science and english.

Inside this issue:

- Provider Enrollment 2
- Ms Legislature Healthcare issues 2
- Steve McAllisy Honored 2
- Criminal History Update 2
- Nurse-Aide Reports 3
- Nurse-Aide Registry System 3
- Nurse-Aide Re-certification/Renewal 3
- Healthcare Bulletin Board 3
- Calendar of Events 3
- January and February New Members 4

Mardi Gras Columbia Style

Laissze les bon temps rouler at The Myrtles;
Residents participate in Mardi Gras parade in downtown Columbia, MS.

The Myrtles Nursing Center is a skilled facility located in Columbia. The facility was originally a 60-bed facility and has since grown to a bed capacity of 120, of which 98 are certified. The Myrtles was originally built and opened by Jeanne H. Jones in 1979. The current administrator is Jeanette M. Crain, one of the first employees of the facility; she has served as administrator since 1984.

The activity department, directed by Martha McKenzie, strives to help the residents remain an active part of the community. Some highlights have been the residents baking cookies and sending them to U.S. troops, and having a food a food drive for the local animal shelter. Most recently, the resident council voted to assist with the fund raising efforts of Pearl River Community College to build a chapel on the campus at Poplarville. This was accomplished by a garage sale with items donated by family members, selling chances on an oil painting done by a resident, and selling raffle tickets on Easter baskets. In excess of $2500 was raised. This money will be used to decorate the brides room of the chapel. A plaque honoring the residents of The Myrtles will be placed on the door.

So not to be all work and no play, the staff and residents celebrate Mardi Gras in a big way. The Myrtles originated the Columbia Mardi Gras Parade. The parade began with decorated wheelchairs in the hallways. The following year, the parade expanded to the parking lot and then to the surrounding neighborhood. With community support, the parade was moved downtown. Each year the entries are more elaborate with more participants. The crowds are large and fun loving. The residents love all the excitement and consider it an added plus to get to ride downtown and see all the changes in the area.

New National Nursing Home & Assisted Living/Residential Care Investigation

The U.S. Department of Labor’s Wage and Hour Division (DOL) announced plans to conduct a “statistically valid investigation-based national compliance survey of nursing homes and residential care facilities,” which will include assisted living facilities and other types of residential care settings. The nationwide survey will determine long term care employers’ compliance with the minimum wage, overtime, and child labor requirements of the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA), beginning in mid-March and continuing through the end of May. An outside contractor will tally the results and investigation findings may be released as soon as late July. Investigators will measure both the number of FLSA violations and the severity of those violations, including examining whether an employer is in or out of compliance, and to the degree of non-compliance (e.g. number and amount of back pay awards). SNFs and PC/ALs are part of a multi-year DOL initiative targeting industries with low-wage workers and also includes the garment industry and agriculture. This new investigation will mark DOL’s third investigation of SNFs and PC/ALs since the investigations began in 1997. The 2004 investigative survey is designed to measure what affect DOL’s educational and compliance efforts have had on FLSA compliance levels in SNFs and PC/ALs since the last surveys were conducted in 2000 and 2001. Unlike past DOL investigations where SNFs and PC/ALs were examined separately, DOL will conduct a single, simultaneous investigation of both professions, including the same industrial classifications or “SIC codes.” However, there will be no recidivism study (reexamining those found out of compliance in previous investigations), and the sample size will be smaller for SNFs and PC/ALs when compared to previous surveys when each was examined independently. In 1997 and 2000, DOL found FLSA compliance levels in SNFs of 70% and 40% respectively. For PC/ALs, DOL found compliance levels of 57% in 1998 and 60% in 2001.

2004 Convention Keynote Speakers Announced:

Mark your calendars! The AHCA/NCAL 55th Annual Convention & Exposition will be held Oct. 3-6, 2004, in Miami Beach, Fla. This year’s theme, Quality First: Excellence in Long Term Care, will be the focus of all educational programs and activities. Just confirmed are two exceptional keynote speakers for the 2004 event. Attendees will hear from Tom Peters, a bestselling author and co-author of “In Search of Excellence,” which was named one of the Top Three Business Books of the Century by National Public Radio. Horst Schulze, founding president and former chief operating officer of The Ritz-Carlton Hotel Co., is the keynote speaker for the closing general session. Watch for more details on the 2004 convention in the spring. AHCA/NCAL appreciate the participation of First Quality Products as the official convention sponsor.
On November 3, 2003, CMS’ Medicare carriers began using a new electronic fingerprint system and returning criminal background screening results. This electronic database contains information related to crime and is used by law enforcement agencies to identify offenders. The PECOS system has replaced the Medical Care Inquiry Center (MCIC) and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). As a result of this new system, fingerprint checks for licensed healthcare applicants and two (2) were approved. Combined, the MCIC, MSDH, and law enforcement staff have fingerprinted approximately 200 licensed healthcare providers and 625 applicants for licensed childcare facilities. The new mandate has presented several challenges during the implementation phase, recent statistics prove the invaluable benefit of this process in assuring safety for your facilities and for the patients/residents in Mississippi. From August 11, 2003 until January 31, 2004, the MSDH processed 21,800 criminal history record check (CHRC) fingerprint submissions. In conjunction with AD&S, Inc., has upgraded our software to include an image scanning software upgrade and to meet the acceptable MCIC/FBI fingerprint format. This software is designed to prevent acceptance of the fingerprint at the entry level until the fingerprint meets the quality and format acceptable for processing. Fingerprints cards not meeting the print format and quality will be returned prior to electronic submission through the MCIC/FBI, thus preventing charges for repeat submission. Facilities are encouraged to be extremely conscientious to detail in fingerprinting applicants and to initially fingerprint the applicant on several cards, should one or more batches be rejected. This has been very effective so far.

In accordance with Section 43-11-13 and 43-230-8, criminal history record checks for licensed healthcare employees are required. Although this new mandate has presented challenges, the fingerprinting process has been successful. New fingerprinting technology has allowed for processing of fingerprint cards not meeting the print format and quality. Fingerprint cards not meeting the print format and quality will be returned prior to electronic submission through the MCIC/FBI. Fingerprint checks for licensed healthcare applicants and two (2) were approved. Combined, the MCIC, MSDH, and law enforcement staff have fingerprinted 200 licensed healthcare providers and 625 applicants for licensed childcare facilities. The new mandate has presented several challenges during the implementation phase, recent statistics prove the invaluable benefit of this process in assuring safety for your facilities and for the patients/residents in Mississippi. From August 11, 2003 until January 31, 2004, the MSDH processed 21,800 criminal history record check (CHRC) fingerprint submissions. In conjunction with AD&S, Inc., has upgraded our software to include an image scanning software upgrade and to meet the acceptable MCIC/FBI fingerprint format. This software is designed to prevent acceptance of the fingerprint at the entry level until the fingerprint meets the quality and format acceptable for processing. Fingerprints cards not meeting the print format and quality will be returned prior to electronic submission through the MCIC/FBI, thus preventing charges for repeat submission. Facilities are encouraged to be extremely conscientious to detail in fingerprinting applicants and to initially fingerprint the applicant on several cards, should one or more batches be rejected. This has been very effective so far.

In accordance with Section 43-11-13 and 43-230-8, criminal history record checks for licensed healthcare employees are required. Although this new mandate has presented challenges, the fingerprinting process has been successful. New fingerprinting technology has allowed for processing of fingerprint cards not meeting the print format and quality. Fingerprint cards not meeting the print format and quality will be returned prior to electronic submission through the MCIC/FBI. Fingerprint checks for licensed healthcare applicants and two (2) were approved. Combined, the MCIC, MSDH, and law enforcement staff have fingerprinted 200 licensed healthcare providers and 625 applicants for licensed childcare facilities. The new mandate has presented several challenges during the implementation phase, recent statistics prove the invaluable benefit of this process in assuring safety for your facilities and for the patients/residents in Mississippi. From August 11, 2003 until January 31, 2004, the MSDH processed 21,800 criminal history record check (CHRC) fingerprint submissions. In conjunction with AD&S, Inc., has upgraded our software to include an image scanning software upgrade and to meet the acceptable MCIC/FBI fingerprint format. This software is designed to prevent acceptance of the fingerprint at the entry level until the fingerprint meets the quality and format acceptable for processing. Fingerprints cards not meeting the print format and quality will be returned prior to electronic submission through the MCIC/FBI, thus preventing charges for repeat submission. Facilities are encouraged to be extremely conscientious to detail in fingerprinting applicants and to initially fingerprint the applicant on several cards, should one or more batches be rejected. This has been very effective so far.

In accordance with Section 43-11-13 and 43-230-8, criminal history record checks for licensed healthcare employees are required. Although this new mandate has presented challenges, the fingerprinting process has been successful. New fingerprinting technology has allowed for processing of fingerprint cards not meeting the print format and quality. Fingerprint cards not meeting the print format and quality will be returned prior to electronic submission through the MCIC/FBI. Fingerprint checks for licensed healthcare applicants and two (2) were approved. Combined, the MCIC, MSDH, and law enforcement staff have fingerprinted 200 licensed healthcare providers and 625 applicants for licensed childcare facilities. The new mandate has presented several challenges during the implementation phase, recent statistics prove the invaluable benefit of this process in assuring safety for your facilities and for the patients/residents in Mississippi. From August 11, 2003 until January 31, 2004, the MSDH processed 21,800 criminal history record check (CHRC) fingerprint submissions. In conjunction with AD&S, Inc., has upgraded our software to include an image scanning software upgrade and to meet the acceptable MCIC/FBI fingerprint format. This software is designed to prevent acceptance of the fingerprint at the entry level until the fingerprint meets the quality and format acceptable for processing. Fingerprints cards not meeting the print format and quality will be returned prior to electronic submission through the MCIC/FBI, thus preventing charges for repeat submission. Facilities are encouraged to be extremely conscientious to detail in fingerprinting applicants and to initially fingerprint the applicant on several cards, should one or more batches be rejected. This has been very effective so far.

In accordance with Section 43-11-13 and 43-230-8, criminal history record checks for licensed healthcare employees are required. Although this new mandate has presented challenges, the fingerprinting process has been successful. New fingerprinting technology has allowed for processing of fingerprint cards not meeting the print format and quality. Fingerprint cards not meeting the print format and quality will be returned prior to electronic submission through the MCIC/FBI. Fingerprint checks for licensed healthcare applicants and two (2) were approved. Combined, the MCIC, MSDH, and law enforcement staff have fingerprinted 200 licensed healthcare providers and 625 applicants for licensed childcare facilities. The new mandate has presented several challenges during the implementation phase, recent statistics prove the invaluable benefit of this process in assuring safety for your facilities and for the patients/residents in Mississippi. From August 11, 2003 until January 31, 2004, the MSDH processed 21,800 criminal history record check (CHRC) fingerprint submissions. In conjunction with AD&S, Inc., has upgraded our software to include an image scanning software upgrade and to meet the acceptable MCIC/FBI fingerprint format. This software is designed to prevent acceptance of the fingerprint at the entry level until the fingerprint meets the quality and format acceptable for processing. Fingerprints cards not meeting the print format and quality will be returned prior to electronic submission through the MCIC/FBI, thus preventing charges for repeat submission. Facilities are encouraged to be extremely conscientious to detail in fingerprinting applicants and to initially fingerprint the applicant on several cards, should one or more batches be rejected. This has been very effective so far.
**Nurse Aide Pass/Fail Score Reports**

It is mandatory that nurse aides provide facilities that trains and pays for their testing with a Pass/Fail Score Report when taking the nurse aide competency examination. Pass/Fail Score Reports are given to the nurse aide candidates upon successful completion of the examination. These reports are needed by the nursing facility in order to get reimbursed for the testing fees from the Division of Medicaid. Nursing Facilities must submit the paperwork for reimbursement for testing fees within thirty (30) days from the date tested. 

Promissor sends facilities a monthly pass/fail competency evaluation status report but this report might not be received by the facility within thirty days of the testing date. Also, facilities are not reimbursed when the aide is coded “Absent”. Due to infrequent technical difficulties, Pass/Fail Score Reports may not be received at the test center on the day of testing. If this happens, the aide should wait until the next business day to be reimbursed. Facilities have a tracking system in place to remind the aides to bring in their paperwork as soon as possible. 

Promissor recommends that facilities act as the workplace’s point of contact for arranging your aides’ renewal. If the aide does not receive a renewal notice, the aide’s address has not changed and the aide did not respond to Promissor’s reminder notice, the aide should contact Promissor at 1-888-204-6213. If an aide’s renewal notice is not received and an aide does not respond, the aide’s renewal fee is a processing fee and is non-refundable. The facility should then take the renewal form to his/her nursing home employer. The employer is responsible for submitting the renewal form. If an aide does not receive a renewal notice, the aide’s address has not changed and the aide did not respond to Promissor’s reminder notice, the aide should contact Promissor at 1-888-204-6213. Cancellation/Reschedule - If an aide is unable to attend scheduled examination, he/she should contact NACES by 12 noon 5 (five) business days before the examination date to reschedule. Saturday and Sunday and national holidays are not business days. If you do not call in advance to re-schedule and do not show up for scheduled examination, fees will not be refunded and cannot be transferred to a new examination date. 

**Nurse Aide Re-certification/Renewal**

The Mississippi State Department of Health, Bureau of Health Facilities, Licensure and Certification receives calls daily regarding expired nurse aide certifications. The original nurse aide certificate is valid for twenty-four (24) months from the date of issue. Approximately sixty (60) days before the expiration of the aide’s certificate, Promissor sends a reminder notice (known as the aide’s verification call) to the aide’s mailing address listed on the Registry. The aide’s certificate will expire on its expiration date. The renewal notice will be processed by Promissor only if all information is complete and correct. If the renewal is received by Promissor on or before the expiration date. It is essential for aides to update their mailing address with Promissor. This can be done by calling Promissor at 1-888-204-6213. If an aide’s address has not changed and he/ she does not receive a renewal notice, the aide should contact Promissor immediately and request that a renewal notice be sent to him/her. Renewal notices can only be obtained from Promissor. It is also recommended that all Mississippi nurse aide facilities have a tracking system in place to remind the aides to bring in their renewal notices. To be eligible for re-certification, an aide must have worked as a nurse aide performing nurse aide services for monetary compensation for at least eight (8) hours in a nursing home or other health care setting during the previous twenty-four (24) month certification period. The aide should take the renewal form to his/her nursing home employer. The employer is responsible for submitting the renewal form. If an aide’s certificate expires, the aide must re-test in order to become active on the Registry. If the aide fails either part of the competency evaluation (the written/oral examination or the clinical skills examination) on the first try, the aide will be required to complete a Mississippi-approved nurse aide training program before being allowed to re-test under Eligibility Route E1 as a new nurse aide. Also, a nurse aide whose certification has expired is not eligible to continue working as a nurse aide in a nursing facility that participates in medicare/medicaid programs unless the aide is enrolled in that facility’s State Approved Nurse Aide Training Program.

**Change to Mississippi’s Nurse Aide Registry Verification System:**

Please be advised that effective April 1, 2004, the Mississippi Nurse Aide Registry Verification System will no longer be available via Promissor’s Integrated Voice Response System. As of April 1, 2004, Mississippi nurse aide registry verifications must be obtained via Promissor’s Internet web site, available at: www.promissor.com. Once on the Promissor web site, select “Registry Services” and follow the prompts to reach the Mississippi Nurse Aide Registry. It is recommended that you search the registry using the individual’s social security number, not by name, since the registry contains numerous aides with the same name. You can check as many as ten (10) social security numbers at one time. Once the information appears on the screen, you can click on the certificate number for each individual and a page like the page that you are currently receiving via FAX or mail from the IVR System will appear. The website also contains information about testing, application forms, etc. If you do not have access to the Internet, you may contact Promissor’s Customer Service Department at 1-888-204-6213 for further assistance. Registry verification calls to Promissor’s Customer Service Department will be given the option of receiving a printed copy of requested verification information either by fax or by mail. The Customer Service Department will query the Mississippi Nurse Aide Registry using the Internet access and print a paper copy of the results of the registry search. We do not anticipate that this change will cause any disruption of services to Mississippi long-term care facilities or nurse aides.

**Calendar for March, April, May 2004**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Events</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3/16</td>
<td>MHCA Board Meeting</td>
<td>Executive Zer/Tupelo</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/18</td>
<td>MHCA Seminar &quot;Prevention &amp; Treatment of Malnutrition &amp; Dehydration - A team approach&quot;</td>
<td>MHCA Boardroom/Ridgeland</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/23</td>
<td>MHCA Seminar &quot;Prevention &amp; Treatment of Malnutrition &amp; Dehydration - A team approach&quot;</td>
<td>MHCA Boardroom/Ridgeland</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/25</td>
<td>MHCA Social Worker Council Meeting</td>
<td>MHCA Boardroom/Ridgeland</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/28</td>
<td>Beginners Activity Directors Course</td>
<td>MHCA Boardroom/Ridgeland</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4/6</td>
<td>MHCA Seminar “I’m Losing My Brain”</td>
<td>Cabot Lodge- Millsaps/Jackson</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4/7</td>
<td>MHCA Dearth Council Meeting</td>
<td>MHCA Boardroom/Ridgeland</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4/9-13</td>
<td>National Nursing Home Week</td>
<td>Medicaid Offices/Jackson</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4/20</td>
<td>MHCA Board Meeting</td>
<td>Medicaid Offices/Jackson</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4/27</td>
<td>Medicaid Liaison committee Meeting (Commit/Hex Members, only)</td>
<td>Medicaid Offices/Jackson</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/3-7</td>
<td>Beginners Activity Directors Course (2nd half)</td>
<td>MHCA Boardroom/Ridgeland</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/9-13</td>
<td>Notmand Nursing Home Week</td>
<td>Medicaid Offices/Jackson</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/12</td>
<td>MHCA Seminar &quot;MDS 2.0, The Crucial Link to Resources And Reimbursement!&quot;</td>
<td>Medicaid Offices/Jackson</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/13</td>
<td>MHCA Seminar &quot;MDS 2.0, The Crucial Link to Resources And Reimbursement!&quot;</td>
<td>Medicaid Offices/Jackson</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/26</td>
<td>MDSh/Liaison committee Meeting (Commit/Hex Members, only)</td>
<td>Medicaid Boardroom/Ridgeland</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/31</td>
<td>Memorial Day: MHCA Offices Closed</td>
<td>Medicaid Boardroom/Ridgeland</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**CMIS Clarification on Nursing Home Admission Deposits**

On January 8, 2004, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) issued a letter to state survey agency directors to address nursing homes requiring promissory notes or deposits as a condition of admission and the implications of deposit fees as a condition of admission and the implications of deposit fees as a condition of admission and the implications of deposit fees as a condition of admission and the implications of deposit fees as a condition of admission. For more information on the DAVE initiative, providers can go to the CMS Website at: www.cms.hhs.gov/.
JANUARY/FEBRUARY NEW MEMBERS

Dixie White House Nursing Home
Pass Christian, Mississippi

Greenbough Nursing Center
Clarksdale, Mississippi

Lakeside Living Center
Quitman, Mississippi

Magnolia Gardens
Assisted Living
Seminary, Mississippi

Miramar Lodge
Pass Christian, Mississippi

Ocean Springs Nursing Home
Ocean Springs, Mississippi

Pine View Health Care Center
Waynesboro, Mississippi

Shelby Nursing & Rehabilitation Center
Shelby, Mississippi

Singing River Rehabilitation & Nursing Center
Moss Point, Mississippi

The Boyington
Gulfport, Mississippi

Mark Your Calendars!!!
MHCA Annual Convention and Tradeshow
June 15, 16, 17 2004
Beau Rivage, Biloxi!

MHCA Board of Governors

- Thomas E. Hill, President
- Tripp Francis, First Vice President
- Eric Holland, Treasurer
- Chance Becnel, Secretary
- Stanley C. Maynard, Area I Vice-President
- Marvell Morgan, Area II Vice-President
- Bruce Kelly, Area III Vice-President
- Gary Pace, Area IV Vice-President
- Byron Hooppaw, Area V Vice President
- Steve Delaney, Area VI Vice President
- Ken Beebe, Past President
- Roy A. Dumas, Past President
- Hugh Franklin, Past President

Personal Care/ Assisted Living Board

- Greg McKissick, President
- Sue Windham, Vice President
- Becky Adams, Secretary/Past President
- Don Turner, Area I Representatives
- Joy Allen, Area II Representative, & Region X NCAL Representative
- Kay Higginbotham, Area III Representative
- Johnnie Walters, Area V Representative
- Presant Desai, Area VI Representative
- Jay Shannon, Past President
- Eleta Grimmett, Past President

Check out our website for updates:
www.mshca.com