

THCA Notes

Monthly Newsletter of the Texas Health Care Association

Volume XXX, Number 5,
May 2015

President's Report

Make the Call

"Let your tongue speak what your heart thinks." (Davy Crockett)

Members of THCA, we are at an important and critical juncture in this 84th Legislative Session. In the past two weeks, the 10 members of the Budget Conference Committee were appointed to draft the 2016-2017 Budget. The members of the Conference Committee are:



Senate

Jane Nelson (R-Flower Mound), Chair
Juan "Chuy" Hinojosa (D-McAllen)
Joan Huffman (R-Houston)
Lois Kolkhorst (R-Brenham)
Charles Schwertner (R-Georgetown)

House

John Otto (R-Dayton), Chair
Trent Ashby (R-Lufkin)
Sarah Davis (R-West University Place)
Larry Gonzales (R-Round Rock)
Sylvester Turner (D-Houston)

Over the next couple of weeks, the men and women listed above will be involved in critical decisions regarding how state funds should be spent over the next two years. There is currently no provision in the budget to increase Medicaid rates.

As representatives and leaders who serve long term care residents and their families across the state, you can help play a critical role in to influence the decision process. No one knows better than you all, what can be done and how far we can go, with the funding necessary to make Texas a leader in long term care quality.

Take 10 minutes.....Take 10 minutes out of the next seven days to contact your state Representative and State Senator (<http://www.fyi.legis.state.tx.us/Home.aspx>) and tell them about how important increased Medicaid rates are to you, your families and the communities you serve. Urge them to speak to their colleagues on the Budget Conference Committee on your behalf.

Your message is important and it needs to be heard.

Onward and Upward

Legislative Update

STATE BUDGET MOVES TO CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

The ten legislators who will write the final budget were named last week to set in motion a busy final six weeks of the 84th Legislative Session.

The members of the Conference Committee on House Bill 1 were named by the presiding officer in each chamber—House Speaker Joe Straus and Lieutenant Governor Dan Patrick.

Considered to be one of the most coveted assignments at the Capitol, conferees will begin meeting this week to reconcile the differences between the budgets passed in the two chambers. They are also expected to take up issues the budgets did not address, such as provider rates.

The members of the Conference Committee are:

Senate

Jane Nelson (R-Flower Mound), Chair
Juan “Chuy” Hinojosa (D-McAllen)
Joan Huffman (R-Houston)
Lois Kolkhorst (R-Brenham)
Charles Schwertner (R-Georgetown)

House

John Otto (R-Dayton), Chair
Trent Ashby (R-Lufkin)
Sarah Davis (R-West University Place)
Larry Gonzales (R-Round Rock)
Sylvester Turner (D-Houston)

THCA is urging all our members to contact their legislators and ask them to make a fully funded Medicaid base rate a priority. You can find who your state senator and state representative are at:

TO SEE WHO REPRESENTS YOU IN THE TEXAS LEGISLATURE, GO TO:
<http://www.fyi.legis.state.tx.us/>

It is especially important that the conferees listed above hear from their constituents. Use the link to see if your company has any facilities or if you have any associates in these districts and ask them to call their legislator today.

BILL CALLS FOR STATE REVIEW OF SURVEY AND IDR PROCESS

Legislation that would create a council to study and make recommendations regarding the survey and Informal Dispute Resolution (IDR) process unanimously passed the Senate last week and is head to the House.

Senate Bill 914 establishes the Long-Term Care Facility Survey and Informal Dispute Resolution Council. It will consist of members on both the regulatory and provider side of long term care. They will be charged with studying and making recommendations for how the Legislature can help create a more consistent and less burdensome survey and IDR process. Their report will be presented to the next Legislature, which convenes in January, 2017.

THCA supports the legislation and testified in favor of the bill when it was heard by the committee on April 1.

TO VIEW SB 914, GO TO: <http://www.capitol.state.tx.us/tlodocs/84R/billtext/pdf/SB00914I.pdf>

MANAGED CARE PROTECTIONS SOUGHT

Two bills that would extend protections for nursing facilities under Medicaid managed care are currently being considered by the Legislature.

HB 3523 by Human Services Committee Chairman Rep. Richard Raymond (D-Laredo) would ensure that the state continues to set the payment rate for nursing facilities. Under current law, rate setting would be turned over to insurers after September 1, 2019.

TO READ HB 3523, GO TO <http://www.capitol.state.tx.us/tlodocs/84R/billtext/pdf/HB03523H.pdf>

Current law will also let managed care organizations choose which facilities to contract with after September 1, 2017. SB 1602 by Sen. Lois Kolkhorst (R-Brenham) would require they work with any Medicaid provider until September 1, 2019. It would also ensure that facilities approved to accept Medicaid patients before September 1, 2015 would be afforded this “any willing provider” protection. This provision currently applied only to facilities that could accept Medicaid before September 1, 2013.

TO READ SB 1602, GO TO: <http://www.capitol.state.tx.us/tlodocs/84R/billtext/pdf/SB01602I.pdf>

HB 3523 passed the House Human Services Committee unanimously and is headed to the House floor. SB 1602 was heard by the Senate Health and Human Services committee on Wednesday, April 22. The committee has not voted on it yet.

Commitment to Care



THCA Welcomes Texas Long Term Care Stakeholders to First Commitment to Care Quarterly Committee Meeting

On Friday April 17th, 2015 THCA, as part of the Commitment to Care (C to C) initiative, convened the first meeting of the Commitment to Care Stakeholder Committee. The committee is tasked with meeting the objectives outlined in the four core principles of the C to C. The Commitment to Care represents a unified effort among THCA and other Texas senior care stakeholders to collaboratively chart a strategic course to improve care quality for Texas seniors, promote transparency and establish Texas as a leader in eldercare.

The four core principles of the C to C are:

- Improve workforce stability
- Improve clinical outcomes and care coordination
- Improve survey performance results
- Promote policies that enhance the quality care needs of the frail and elderly.

Commitment to Care committee members include:

- Amanda Fredriksen, Associate State Director of Advocacy, AARP
- Liam M. Fry, M.D., Medical Director, Texas Medical Directors Association
- Barbara Aydlott, Chair, Health and Human Resources Committee for the Texas Silver Hair Legislature
- Patty Ducayet, Texas State Long Term Care Ombudsman
- Susan Purcell, R.N., Project Director, TX QIO TMF Health Quality Institute\
- Robin Hayes, R.N., Regional Nurse for Touchstone Communities, Nurse Council Chair for THCA
- John Berkley, Director, Texas State Veterans Homes, VLB
- Kevin Warren, President and CEO, THCA
- Gloria Bean-Williams, R.N., Director of Clinical and Quality Services, THCA
- Dorothy Crawford, Director of Policy and Regulatory Analysis, THCA

Mr. Warren shared responses from the first Commitment to Care survey taken by THCA members indicating successes, challenges and priorities in areas of quality improvement. To see a brief summary of the C to C 1st Quarter Survey, go to: https://txhca.org/app/uploads/2015/04/CtoC-Survey_updated428.pdf. Ms. Bean-Williams reviewed data from across the state compared with national statistics on topic areas the C to C indicated were priorities for Texas providers. Ms. Purcell also reviewed Texas data on the publicly reported quality measures and the initiatives on which TMF works with providers.

Survey responses indicated that reducing staff turnover is the biggest barrier to providers' ability to achieve improvement. To that, meeting attendees discussed the possibility of developing a CNA Career Ladder, examining best practices in attracting and retaining direct care staff and recommended an increased focus on providing resources to stabilize the workforce in the long term care setting. Members also discussed the need to include a representative from the Alzheimer's Association, a Family Council Member and a Department of Aging and Disability Services – Quality Representative. THCA continues to advocate before the state legislature for closing the gap in Medicaid funding for skilled nursing care. The state's own numbers indicate a \$343 million shortfall in funding long term care for Texas' frail elderly.

Since the launch of Commitment to Care, the initiative has featured monthly quality topics offered on the C to C landing page (<https://txhca.org/quality-care/commitment-to-care/>) of the THCA website. May's Quality Topic is Workforce and Retention. Keep an eye out for it and other upcoming

monthly quality topics to stay abreast of the latest trends and care strategies to elevate the quality of long term care delivery in Texas.

The next Commitment to Care meeting with senior care advocates will be held in July.

State News

MCO Complaints handled by HHSC Command Center and HPM Complaints Box

HHSC established a command center to quickly address issues resulting from the transition to managed care. The purpose of the command center is to resolve eligibility, enrollment, technical, or policy issues. For Nursing Facility implementation, the command center is comprised of HHSC and DADS staff, and it will run through May 2015. The address is ManagedCareExpansion2015@hhsc.state.tx.us

In addition to the command center, starting March 1st and ongoing, providers serving STAR+PLUS managed care members will have access to HHSC's Health Plan Management (HPM) complaints box. Among other things, HPM complaints handles questions related to claims adjudication, appeals, grievances, or dispute resolution.

Under managed care, providers must first exhaust the complaints or grievance process with their managed care organization (MCO) before filing a complaint with HHSC. If after completing the MCO process, the provider believes they did not receive full due process from the respective managed care health plan, they may file a complaint or inquiry at HPM_complaints@hhsc.state.tx.us

Once the transition to managed care is complete and the command center is no longer operational, the HPM complaints box will be the primary mechanism for providers and members to submit complaints to HHSC.

Final Automated External Defibrillator (AED) Requirements

DADS issued Provider Letter 15-13 outlining the new Automated External Defibrillator Requirements. This letter clarifies the effective date of April 29 and that surveys will begin on July 29, 2015. This provides for a three month timeframe for nursing facilities to allow for installation of the devices and completion of any requisite training.

The provider letter states:

A new rule about AEDs in nursing facilities took effect on April 29, 2015. It requires a nursing facility to:

- have at least one AED in a single story building, on each floor of a multiple story building, and in each house of a multiple small house model;
- have at least one staff person with current training in cardiopulmonary resuscitation and AED operation onsite at all times in a single story building, on each floor of a multiple story building, and in each house of a multiple small house model;
- place the AED in an easily accessible location for trained staff;

- have a licensed physician provide medical consultation or general oversight of the staff training on AED operation;
- test and maintain the AED according to manufacturer's guidelines;
- maintain AED testing and maintenance records;
- ensure the AED use is consistent with a resident's advance directive;
- notify the local emergency medical services provider of the location and type of AED in the facility; and
- call 911 when an AED is used.

The new rule —Texas Administrative Code, Title 40, Chapter 19, Nursing Facility Requirements for Licensure and Medicaid Certification, §19.1935, Automated External Defibrillators — implements Texas Health and Safety Code, §242.159 that was added in 2009 and required NFs to have AEDs by September 1, 2014.

When deciding the placement of an AED so that staff can easily access it, please note that 40 TAC §19.301 requires a nursing facility to follow the 2000 edition of the Life Safety Code. In addition, the provisions of the Life Safety Code that govern projections into a corridor and mounted items on corridor walls apply to the placement of an AED.

Although the new rules are effective on April 29, 2015, DADS surveyors will not begin to survey for the new requirements until July 29, 2015.

Distribution of Resident Days by RUG Level Report No Longer Available

For the past several years THCA has included in each month's issue of *THCA Notes* a distribution of nursing facility resident days by RUG level, reflective of the claims submission activity of the prior twelve months. THCA previously obtained this information from the Department of Aging and Disability Services (DADS), based upon the number of Medicaid days billed to the agency by nursing facilities. With the implementation of Medicaid Managed Care, however, almost all claims are now submitted to the various Managed Care Organizations (MCOs) participating in the Star+Plus program. Subsequently, there is currently no reporting mechanism with which to obtain comparable data.

In its meetings with the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC), THCA has communicated that it would like to continue to obtain this information as we move forward with managed care, and the agency has indicated that this information should once again be available in the future. We will continue to share that and other pertinent information with you as it becomes available. If you have any questions regarding the information, contact Tom Plowman at the THCA office.

President Signs into Law Permanent Solution to SGR

On April 16, President Obama signed the bi-partisan, bi-cameral Medicare Access & CHIP Reauthorization (MACRA) Act into law. The new law repeals the flawed formula known as the Sustainable Growth Rate (SGR) that forced deep rate cuts to reimbursement of physician and other practitioner services. The legislation will eliminate the perennial threat of providers paying for a "Doc Fix" and inject much-needed stability for the long term and post-acute care sector.

In a message to membership, American Health Care Association (AHCA) President and CEO Mark Parkinson stated that "This is a historic victory for our profession. The annual routine of fixing the flawed SGR formula was always a billion-dollar risk for skilled nursing providers. Though the bill does contain a cut to our profession, it is a fraction of what we would have faced if we continued the risk of being a pay-for year after year. In addition, the law provides important therapy relief which AHCA sought for many years."

According to AHCA, key components of the legislation include:

- **Stability** - A permanent fix to the annual SGR battle. The doc-fix limped along year-to-year for a total of 17 patches since 2003. It is estimated that skilled nursing has been cut by more than \$27 billion to pay for those short-term SGR fixes.
- **Therapy Reforms** - The bill includes a 33-month extension of the therapy cap exceptions process (through December 31, 2017). This allows providers to continue delivering therapy above the current \$1,940 threshold as long as supporting coding and documentation show the services were medically necessary.
- The legislation also mandates a new therapy review process to take the place of current manual medical review (MMR). The new structure will be in place within 90 days of enactment of the bill. It will target providers with high denial rates and outlier billing patterns as well as new providers, certain medical conditions and certain group practices. It also takes RACs out of the review process.
- **1 Percent Market Basket Update** - Skilled nursing is part of the pay-for in this bill. AHCA/NCAL staff worked closely with Congressional leadership to push the cut back to FY 2018 with the understanding that the cut can be avoided if a better alternative can be identified in the interim.

Additional information regarding this issue can be found on AHCA's web site, <http://www.ahcancal.org>.

CMS Releases SNF PPS Proposed Rule for FY 2016

On Wednesday, April 15, 2015 the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) issued the proposed rule for the skilled nursing facility (SNF) prospective payment system (PPS) fiscal year (FY) 2016 update. Highlights of the proposed rule include:

- The proposed rule provides for a net market basket increase for SNFs of 1.4% beginning October 1, 2015.

- The establishment of a Skilled Nursing Facility Value-Based Purchasing Program (SNF VBP), which implements a 2% withhold to SNF Part A payments that can be earned back based on a SNF's rehospitalization rate and level of improvement, as is required by the Protecting Access to Medicare Act of 2014 (PAMA).
- SNF Quality Reporting Program (SNF QRP): New data reporting and measurement requirements for this program, established by the IMPACT Act of 2014, are proposed. The three measures being proposed are (1) new or worsened pressure ulcers, (2) falls with major injury, and (3) assessment and care planning for functional status. The data reporting requirements to implement these measures are specified in the proposed rule as well as the imposition of 2% penalty for failure to report.
- Electronic reporting of staffing data: CMS proposes steps for implementation of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) requirement for electronic reporting of staffing data. Proposed data submission requirements include hours worked, hire and termination dates and a standardized occupation category for all employees and contract staff, to be reported into a CMS data system on a quarterly schedule starting July 2016.

The American Health Care Association (AHCA) has prepared a summary of the 150-plus page rule. To view the summary, which includes staff contacts by section, go to http://www.ahcancal.org/facility_operations/medicare/Documents/SNF%20PPS%20Proposed%20Rule%20for%20FY%202016%20Final%20Version.pdf (if you would like to request a username and password for AHCA's members are, email dwright@txhca.org). Additionally, AHCA/NCAL has updated its SNF PPS Medicare rate calculator based on the FY 2016 NPRM. To view and utilize the calculator, go to

http://www.ahcancal.org/research_data/funding/Pages/MedicareRateCalculator.aspx.

Staffing Data Submission Payroll Based Journal (PBJ)

CMS has long identified staffing as one of the vital components of a nursing home's ability to provide quality care. Over time, CMS has utilized staffing data for a myriad of purposes in an effort to more accurately and effectively gauge its impact on quality of care in nursing homes. Staffing information is also posted on the CMS Nursing Home Compare website, and it is used in the Nursing Home Five Star Quality Rating System to help consumers understand the level and differences of staffing in nursing homes.

Section 6106 of the Affordable Care Act requires facilities to electronically submit direct care staffing information (including agency and contract staff) based on payroll and other auditable data. The data, when combined with census information, can then be used to not only report on the level of staff in each nursing home, but also to report on employee turnover and tenure, which can impact the quality of care delivered.

Therefore, CMS has developed a system for facilities to submit staffing and census information – Payroll-Based Journal (PBJ). This system will allow staffing and census information to be collected on a regular and more frequent basis than currently collected. It will also be auditable to ensure accuracy. All long term care facilities will have access to this system at no cost to facilities.

CMS intends to collect staffing and census data through the PBJ system on a voluntary basis beginning on October 1, 2015, and on a mandatory basis beginning on July 1, 2016. Registration for voluntary submission will begin in August 2015, and CMS will communicate more information at that time. Training will also be provided on registration and for both voluntary and mandatory submissions.

Go to CMS' website and view detailed CMS information,
<http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Quality-Initiatives-Patient-Assessment-Instruments/NursingHomeQualityInits/Staffing-Data-Submission-PBJ.html>

Announcements & Recognitions

National Nursing Home Week, May 10-15, 2015, “BRING ON THE FIESTA!”

National Nursing Home Week, May 10-15, 2015, “**BRING ON THE FIESTA!**” is a great opportunity to include and educate your community about long term care while celebrating and recognizing your residents, resident family members, staff, etc. Invite new guests, infrequent visitors and local VIPs to see and appreciate all you do and the importance of a kind word, a personal touch and being connected to the residents.

Use the AHCA Planning Guide for Tips, Activities, Music, Crafts, Food Event Products, Social Media and PR Downloads. Sample Communication pieces (Press Release, Proclamation and Letter to TV & Radio media) are all available in the planning guide. Visit the National Nursing Home Week website to download the Planning Guide today,
[http://www.ahcancal.org/events/national_nursing_home_week/Pages/default.aspx!](http://www.ahcancal.org/events/national_nursing_home_week/Pages/default.aspx)

2015 THCA Award Nominations are Now Open!

Award Nominations for the THCA 2015 Awards Program are now open! This is the optimal opportunity to recognize individuals and the facilities that they work for who greatly represent Long Term Care!

All nominations will be accepted electronically. Complete the Nomination Questionnaires on the writable PDF files and submit, along with all necessary supporting documents, to THCA via e-mail at 2015awards@txhca.org on or before July 31, 2015. Nominations are now being accepted for the following Awards (click on award to access/download the nomination form and criteria information):

- **Outstanding Administrator -**
https://txhca.org/app/uploads/2015/04/2015_THCA_Administrator_of_the_Year_Award_Nomination_Form.pdf
- **Outstanding Assisted Living Administrator -**
https://txhca.org/app/uploads/2015/04/2015_THCA_Assisted_Living_Administrator_of_the_Year_Nomination_Form.pdf

- **Ombudsman of the Year -**
https://txhca.org/app/uploads/2015/04/2015_THCA_Ombudsman_of_the_Year_Award_Nomination_Form.pdf
- **PIE Media Relations Award -**
https://txhca.org/app/uploads/2015/04/2015_THCA_PIE_Award_Nomination_Form.pdf
- **PIE Community Education Award -**
https://txhca.org/app/uploads/2015/04/2015_THCA_PIE_Award_Nomination_Form.pdf
- **DON of the Year -**
https://txhca.org/app/uploads/2015/04/2015_THCA_DON_of_the_Year_Nomination_Form.pdf
- **Nurse of the Year (per region) -**
https://txhca.org/app/uploads/2015/04/2015_THCA_Nurse_of_the_Year_Nomination_Form.pdf
- **Nurse Aide of the Year (per region) -**
https://txhca.org/app/uploads/2015/04/2015_THCA_Nurse_Aide_of_the_Year_Nomination_Form.pdf
- **Nursing Scholarships for *CMA, LVN, RN & Advanced Degree – *New This Year! -**
https://txhca.org/app/uploads/2015/04/2015_THCA_Nurse_Scholarship_Award_Nomination_Form.pdf

Award recipients will be recognized at the 2015 THCA Annual Convention & Trade Show in Grapevine, Texas, September 21-24, 2015.

Welcome THCA’s Newest Board Member, Cassandra Mistretta, VP of Operations with Genesis HealthCare

On Monday, April 20, 2015, the THCA Board of Directors approved the appointment of Ms. Mistretta as Director at Large. We are excited to have her join the leadership in representing long term care in Texas for the betterment of all members of THCA and the residents we serve.



THCA Provider Membership is Growing

This month we are happy to welcome **Crown Point Health Suites** in Lubbock to the THCA membership. THCA is currently working with several soon-to-be new provider members. If you know of a provider who is or may be interested in learning about the benefits of THCA membership, please refer them to your THCA membership staff, Gina Muniz at the THCA office, gmuniz@txhca.org; (512) 458-1257.

THCA facility contact information sheet

Administrators: Please complete the THCA Facility Contact Information Sheet,

MICROSOFT WORD VERSION – .DOC -

<https://txhca.org/app/uploads/2015/04/FACILITYCONTACTSHEET.doc>

PORTABLE DOCUMENT FORMAT – .PDF

<https://txhca.org/app/uploads/2015/04/FACILITYCONTACTSHEET.pdf>

and return it to THCA. This will ensure we have your current contact information in our membership database and that of your D.O.N. This will enable you both to receive, as quickly as possible, important information we send electronically to THCA members. This information will also be used to assign you each your personal/unique User Name and Password to access the Members Only information on the THCA Website, www.txhca.org. If you have any questions, please contact Gina Muniz at the THCA office, gmuniz@txhca.org.

Activity Professional award winners and nominees recognized at the THCA Spring Conference

Award Winners and nominees were recognized on April 20th at the Activity Professionals' Awards Luncheon during the THCA 2015 Spring Conference and Resource Fair held in Austin, Texas. A wonderful crowd was on hand to enjoy the fiesta celebration and applaud activity professionals! Please help recognize all the winners and nominees.

“Activity Professional of the Year”

Mark Harris

*Wellness and Life Enrichment Director
The Vintage Health Care Center
Denton, Texas*

“You Make a Difference”

Eve Dueser

Certified Dietary Manager

Yorktown Nursing and Rehabilitation Center

Yorktown, Texas

“Volunteer of the Year”

Cindy Cozart

The Heights on Huebner

San Antonio, Texas

Nominees for Activity Professional of the Year!

Meagan Arrington

Activity Director

Pecan Tree Rehabilitation & Healthcare Center

Gainesville, Texas

Yvonne Castro

Activity Director

Retama Manor Raymondville

Raymondville, Texas

Nora Ramirez

Activity Director

Valley Grande Manor

Weslaco, Texas

Kathy Schiller

Life Enrichment Director

Senior Care Health and Rehabilitation of San Angelo

San Angelo, Texas

Kristi Stehling, LVN

Activity Director

Yorktown Nursing and Rehabilitation Center

Yorktown, Texas

Coletha Terrell

Activity Director

Millbrook Healthcare and Rehabilitation Center

Lancaster, Texas

Karen Thompson

Activity Director

Park Manor of McKinney

McKinney, Texas

Debra Woody
Wellness and Life Enrichment Director
Senior Care Health and Rehabilitation – Dallas
Dallas, Texas

Liz Young
Activity Director
Senior Care of Round Rock
Round Rock, Texas

THCA Facebook & Twitter pages

 "Like" & "Share" the THCA Facebook page
<https://www.facebook.com/TexasHealthCareAssociation>

 Follow the THCA Twitter page
<https://twitter.com/TXHCA>

THCAPAC

THCAPAC 500 Club & Recognitions

Please take a moment to recognize contributors since our last writing:

**Cheryl Killian,
Legacy Care Centers**

**Kelly Stanley,
Community Portable X-Ray**

**Alamo Heights Health and Rehabilitation Center,
Fundamental**

**Corinth Rehabilitation Suites,
Fundamental**

**Golden Creek,
Nexion Health**

**Green Acres of Center,
Nexion Health**

**Park Manor of CyFair,
HMG Healthcare**

**Retama Manor Nursing Center/Victoria,
Fundamental**

**Valley Grande Manor Harlingen,
Eldercare Properties**

**Winterhaven Healthcare Center,
Fundamental**

Thank You!!!

\$500 Club Fundraising Goals:

- Owners/Operators & Administrators: All member facilities are asked to participate in the “500 Club” by raising at least \$500 per year. When sending in your facility fundraising contributions, please ensure it includes the name of your facility and the name of your facility’s administrator.
- THCA Owners/CEO’s, corporate staff, business members, and others are asked to make a personal contribution towards a goal of \$500 per person. Please be sure to include the name of your company with your contribution.

All contributions must be Personal Check, Money Order or Cashiers Check (Company/Corporate checks cannot be accepted) Payable and Mailed as follows: THCAPAC, P.O. Box 4554, Austin, TX 78765. For information on making your personal contribution by personal credit card, contact Gina Muniz gmuniz@txhca.org; (512) 458-1257.

**Thank you Spring “Golf Fore PAC”
Tournament Sponsors, Players & Volunteers**

THCAPAC 2015 Spring “Golf Fore PAC” Tournament was held on Monday April 20th at the Beautiful Crenshaw Cliffside Golf Course in Austin. Long term care advocates thoroughly enjoyed a great round of golf while supporting our fundraising efforts. Thank you to all tournament sponsors, golfers & volunteers!

Official Tournament Sponsor

CMMS X-Ray

Birdie Sponsors

Community Portable X-Ray

Dynaflow

Galloway, Johnson, Tompkins, Burr & Smith

Medicine Chest Institutional Pharmacy

Omnicare, Inc

Synergy Care, Inc.

The Underwood Law Firm

Par Sponsors

McKesson Medical-Surgical

Select Rehabilitation

TOURNAMENT RESULTS

1st Place Team

S. Ferguson

B. Mask

T. Helmcamp

S. Pack

2nd Place Team

K. Stanley

M. Dorrow

M. Thompson

R. Shropshire

3rd Place Team

B. Lowe

L. Serna

B. Mitchell

S. Shed

Most Honest Team

T. Plowman

M. Capone

C. Sanders

M. Bolloto

Closest to Pin #8:

T. Helmcamp

Closest to Pin #11:

B. Mask

Closest to Pin #17:

J. Culp

Longest Drive:

T. Helmcamp

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

GOLF "FORE" PAC TOURNAMENT

Monday, September 21, 2015

1600 Fairway Dr., Grapevine, TX

(in conjunction with THCA's 2015 Annual Convention & Trade Show)



?’s About THCAPAC...Here’s How To Contact Us

Ron Payne, THCAPAC Co-Chair

rpayne@swltc.com

Mark McKenzie, THCAPAC Co-Chair

mmckenzie@seniorcarecentersltc.com

Gina Muniz, THCAPAC Liaison

gmuniz@txhca.org

THCAPAC • P. O. Box 4554, Austin, TX 78765 • 512.458.1257

Region News

“Region Chairs Need You!”

– *Jodi Scarbro, THCA Region 8 Chair; Chair of the Region Chairs Council*

THCA Member Administrators, D.O.N.'s and Business Members – THCA Region Chairs Need You! Your involvement, support and expertise are vital to the successes of our profession. I know we all have a lot on our plates, but if we make the time to come together, we all benefit. Region Chairs are always in need of Guest Speakers with presentations that provide CE's for attendees; Sponsors to host the meeting location and/or help with expenses associated with the meetings; and attendees ready to share, learn and receive and provide peer support. Please plan to regularly attend Region Meetings in your area. If your region is currently without representation, step-up and become a candidate for the Chair position! If your region currently has a Region Chair, contact them to let them know you are ready to help in any way possible to make the region more successful. Region Meetings are open to Providers (nursing & assisted living) and current THCA Associate Business Members. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact any Region Chair and/or our THCA staff representative, Gina Muniz, gmuniz@txhca.org

THCA facility contact information sheet

Administrators: If you have not already done so, please complete and return your THCA Facility Contact Information sheet to THCA.

MICROSOFT WORD VERSION – .DOC -

<https://txhca.org/app/uploads/2015/04/FACILITYCONTACTSHEET.doc>

PORTABLE DOCUMENT FORMAT – .PDF

<https://txhca.org/app/uploads/2015/04/FACILITYCONTACTSHEET.pdf>

THCA is vigorously working to update all THCA-member Administrator and Director of Nursing contact information in the membership database to ensure we each receive the important, and sometimes vital, information disseminated as quickly as possible. This is also helpful to have for Region reach-out and meeting purposes. Thank you so much!

Region Updates & Meeting Information

(Note: Region Meetings are open to Providers of nursing and assisted living facilities and current THCA Associate Business Members):

THCA Region 3 (San Antonio & surrounding)

is scheduled to meet on **May 14** with Guest Speaker Felicia Washington presenting on Anti-psychotics. Gathering starts with social mixer, followed by dinner and presentation at Earl Ables Restaurant in San Antonio. R.S.V.P. is necessary so if you do not currently receive meeting notices from Region 3 and would like to, please e-mail THCA Region 3 Chair Raul Espinosa respinosa@swltc.com and our regions meeting notice distributor, Richard Dunk rdunk@cpxray.com with a request to be added.

THCA Region 7 (Houston and surrounding)

Mark your calendar for the next THCA Region 7 meeting scheduled on **June 3rd** in Houston at Pappasitos on Richmond. Meeting notices with more specifics will be disseminated to those currently on our meeting distribution e-mail group. If you are not currently on our distribution list, please send a request to be added to THCA Region 7 Chair, John Ballard jballard@regencyhealthcare.com and our regions meeting notice distributor, Rodney Biggs rbiggs@cpxray.com

THCA Regions 8 & 9 (Fort Worth, Dallas & surrounding)

is scheduled to meet jointly over lunch on **May 21st** at Pappasito's in Arlington. Meeting notices will be disseminated to those currently on our meeting distribution e-mail group. If you are not currently on our distribution list and would like to be added, please send your request THCA Region 9 Chair, James Culp james.culp@fundltc.com and our meeting notice distributor, Kelly Stanley kstanley@cpxray.com. In addition, Regions 8 & 9 would like to recognize and thank THCA Associate Business Members, Community Portable X-Ray and MetroStat Diagnostic Services and Clinical Laboratory for providing silent auction items for our PAC fundraising event at Spring Conference!

THCA Region 10 (Corpus Christi/Rio Grande Valley)

Mark your calendar for **May 21st**. With the support of THCA Business Member PharmcareUSA, THCA Region 10 is finalizing details for a May 21st meeting to be held in the valley area. Meeting notices will be disseminated once details have been confirmed.

Education



Join us as we celebrate 65 years of promoting and supporting providers' commitment and devotion to the delivery of quality care. Online pre-registration will open July 27th.

DADS Provider Joint Training Opportunities

Topics Include

- Dehydration and Weight Management
- Alzheimer's Disease and Dementia Care Seminar
- Culture Change: Transforming Care within the Regulations
- Infection Control
- Regulatory Requirements for Drug Therapy in the Nursing Facility
- Pressure Ulcers
- Restraints in Long Term Care Facilities
- Detecting and Preventing Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation in Nursing Facilities: A Proactive Approach
- Understanding the Survey and Enforcement Processes for Nursing Facilities

For more information and to register for DADS Provider Joint Training Opportunities, go to: <http://www.dads.state.tx.us/providers/training/jointtraining.cfm>

THCA Calendar May 2015

- 5**
AHCA Finance Committee Meeting, Atlanta, GA
- 7**
AHCA Legal Committee Meeting, DFW Airport, TX
- 8**
ALL ABOARD THE T.R.A.I.N! Webinar
- 10-13**
LTC 100, White Sulfur Springs, WV
- 13**
AHCA Current “Best Practice for Dysphagia and Nutrition” Webinar
- 14**
THCA Region 3 Meeting, San Antonio, TX
- 20**
THCA Blood Pressure Screening at the Capitol
- 21**
THCA Region 8 and 9 Meeting, Arlington, TX
THCA Region 10 Meeting, Location being Finalized
- 27**
THCA Advocacy/Legal Meeting, Austin, TX
THCA Region Chairs Meeting, Austin, TX
THCA Executive Committee Meeting, Austin, TX
THCA Board of Directors Meeting, Austin, TX

THCA Calendar June 2015

3

AHCA Region 7 Meeting, Houston, TX

8-10

AHCA/NCAL 2015 Quality Award Senior Examiner Review Session, Austin, TX

14

AHCA Board of Governors Dinner & Meeting, Washington, DC

15

ASHCAE Membership Meeting, Washington, DC

15-16

AHCA/NCAL Congressional Briefing, Washington, DC

16

NCAL Executive Committee Meeting, Washington, DC

17

NCAL Board of Directors Meeting, Washington, DC

17-18

National Association of Health Care Assistants (NAHCA), Des Moines, IA

22-25

National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), Chicago, IL

29 – 1

American Health Lawyers Association (AHLA) Annual Meeting, Washington, DC