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**From:** Nikki Wegner  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 2, 2024 9:48 AM  
**Subject:** NDLTCA Weekly Newsletter 1-2-2024

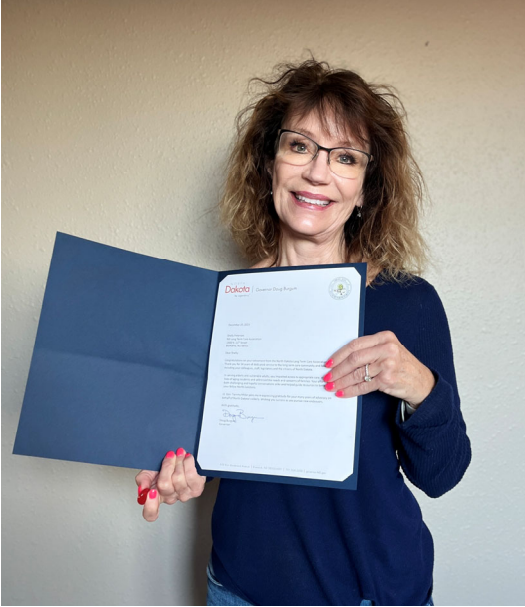


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# NDLTCA Newsletter

## January 2, 2024

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Shelly received a warm congratulations letter from Governor Burgum and Lt. Governor Miller for her retirement. They express gratitude for her many years of advocacy on behalf of ND's elderly and wish her success as she pursues new endeavors. Such an honor and well deserved!

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## Message from Shelly

*All Members*

*"Thank you for the past 34 years!"*

*How do you say good-bye to the people and work you love? I don't know, it will be a process for sure. A road I have not traveled before but will attack with the enthusiasm of a new challenge. I feel so blessed to have known you. I look forward to seeing you in a different capacity this next year. I will work "a little" in long term care, attend some conferences as a participant and spouse, and look forward to our paths crossing. Thank you for the past 34 years. God Bless you and your family and goodbye for now."*

**All Members - *All Members***  
**Assisted Living - *AL***  
**Basic Care - *BC***  
**Nursing Facilities - *NF***

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## **NDLTCA Updates**

### **Frank L. Wedge Memorial**

*NF*

All NDLTCA non-profit nursing facility members are eligible and encouraged to apply. Nonprofit nursing facilities can apply for up to \$10,000.00. The money is to be used to enhance and improve long term care services within your facility.

Taking applications now and must be postmarked by March 31, 2024.

[Click Here for Application](#)

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## **Nursing Facilities Survey Dates**

NF

Carol keeps track of your survey dates so that you can estimate when you might be due for your next one.

See her updated spreadsheet here: <https://ndltca.org/2024/01/02/nf-survey-dates/>

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## Facility Water Testing-Shared by a member

*All Members*

*"For our federal POC we have added annual testing within our building to our water management plan as that was what the surveyor was really hung up on. I am using a lab out of MN, (Jon 612.804.2411). The cost is roughly \$150 per sample (we did 6 per this contacts recommendation) so roughly \$900 annual expense. The other thing that was imperative was to creating documentation for running faucets flushing toilets and running shower heads in vacant rooms, along with documentation of running eye wash stations." This member is willing to share the forms they use to comply. If interested, email Nikki [nikki@ndltca.org](mailto:nikki@ndltca.org)*

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## Education

### KEPRO Training – NDLTCA

*All Members*

**January 10, 2024, 10:30 a.m. Central Time**

Presented by Nancy Jobe, KEPRO Outreach Specialist

Microsoft Teams meeting

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 268 681 340 397

Passcode: bmCENT

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## 2024 Webinars

*All Members*

We have once again partnered with Proactive to bring you educational webinars in 2024. We have two 12-month webinar series starting in January and one 5-week series starting in February.

- Deconstructing Immediate Jeopardy & High-Risk Tags
- Documentation in Depth
- The Impact of the MDS

For more information and how to register, please visit our [website](#)

[More Education on our Website](#)

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## Quality



## 2024 Bronze Quality Award Workshop

*All Members*

Wednesday, January 10, 2024, at 2pm EST.

[2024 Bronze Quality Award Workshop on  
January 10 \(ahcancal.org\)](https://www.ahcancal.org/2024-Bronze-Quality-Award-Workshop-on-January-10)

REMINDER-APPLICATIONS DUE JANUARY 25, 2024

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## Advocacy

### Human Services Committee Discusses Geriatric Psychiatric Services

*All Members*

On December 18, 2023 the Interim Human Services Committee met and discussed the current state of geriatric psychiatric care services. Dr. Yabut, Medical Director at the ND State Hospital discussed the current availability across the state. He said they have a 24 bed unit that provides geriatric psychiatric services and they continually operate at near or over-capacity every day. The median age of the current patients in this unit is 65. The average daily rate is \$968. Dr. Yabut's testimony can be viewed here: [Dr. Yabut @1:39:27pm](#)

Pam Sagness, Executive Director of Behavioral Health with DHHS provided testimony regarding

services available through the human service centers. Pam's testimony can be viewed here:

[Pam Sagness @2:06:56pm](#)

Shelly Peterson of the Association, provided comments regarding services available through the three geropsychiatric nursing facilities and the need for greater access to psychiatric inpatient care for residents residing in basic care, assisted living, and nursing facilities. Shelly's testimony can be viewed here:

[Shelly Peterson @2:12:17pm](#)

Travis Booke, a physician assistant with CHI Health Dickinson, provided testimony regarding the lack of services for this population and the struggles a critical access hospital goes through to try and find services for older adults with behavioral health issues. Travis' testimony can be viewed here:

[Travis Booke @2:30:48pm](#)

The legislative interim committee is studying this issue and at this point is still gathering information. The North Dakota Long Term Care Association has reached out to the North Dakota Hospital Association regarding a meeting with them, including hospitals and long term care providers, to examine this issue and suggest solutions for better addressing the behavioral health needs of our older population.

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## **ND Department of Health and Human Services**

## Activity Directors:

### F680 please refer to and review the regulation

NF

F680 is an absolute tag, meaning a facility must have a qualified activities professional or F680 will be cited, whether or not there have been negative outcomes to residents. When asked how a facility could correct the non-compliance when it is difficult for rural areas to hire qualified activities professionals, especially when a state training course takes six to 12 months to complete.

The SA asked the CMS Regional location about this and a SNF could use a consultant. The guidance we received was facilities could utilize a qualified professional (i.e., consultant, OT, or OTA) to **direct** the “development, implementation, supervision and ongoing evaluation of the activities program” until their employee completes the state training course.

The qualified professional meet the regulation by:

- “ ... the completion and/or directing/delegating the completion of the activities component of the comprehensive assessment; and contributing to and/or directing/delegating the contribution to the comprehensive care plan goals and approaches that are individualized to match the skills, abilities, and interests/preferences of each resident.”
- “ ... scheduling of activities, both individual and groups, implementing and/or delegating the implementation of the programs, monitoring the response and/or reviewing/evaluating the response to the programs to determine if the activities meet the assessed needs of the resident, and making revisions as necessary.”

As you can see, the language in the guidance allows for delegation. The facility should provide surveyors with the evidence of how the qualified “consultant” will be directing the program, what they will be delegating and how they will be monitoring/reviewing/evaluating the program to ensure resident’s needs are met.

*Kathy Laxdal, LBSW*

*Long Term Care Program Manager*

*Health Facilities*



## AHCA/NCAL Updates

### New Member Resources: Tips Toolkits for Providers on Civil Money Penalty Reinvestment Program

*NF*

As you know on September 25, 2023, CMS released QSO-23-23 [Civil Money Penalty Reinvestment Program \(CMPRP\) Revisions | CMS](#) which outlined the revised use of federally imposed civil money penalty (CMP) funds by states. AHCA has provided us with a toolkit to assist us in applying for funding. Interested in learning more? Contact Nikki at [nikki@ndltca.org](mailto:nikki@ndltca.org) or her direct line 701.354.9773.

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## Partners

[Mental Health First Aid Training for Rural North Dakota Communities – Quality Health Associates of North Dakota \(qualityhealthnd.org\)](#)

*All Members*

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# Career Opportunities

[North Dakota Long Term Care Association | Career Opportunities \(ndltca.org\)](https://www.ndltca.org/career-opportunities)

If you would like to post a job opening for your facility, please contact Casidie Fladeland at 701-354-9775 or email [casidie@ndltca.org](mailto:casidie@ndltca.org)



Contact us at 701-222-0660 or email Nikki at [nikki@ndltca.org](mailto:nikki@ndltca.org) or Peggy at [peggy@ndltca.org](mailto:peggy@ndltca.org).