



**NDLTCA Newsletter**  
**August 6, 2024**

All Members - All Members

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

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## Workforce Development

### 2024 NurseHack4Health Pitch-A-Thon - Grant Funding Opportunity

**2024 NurseHack4Health Pitch-A-Thon**, presented by Johnson & Johnson, Microsoft, and the Society of Nurses Scientists, Innovators, Entrepreneurs & Leaders (SONSIEL). This is an opportunity to receive up to \$150,000 in grant funding for innovative solutions that create systemic and sustainable change for a thriving workforce and healthier work environments. **Applications are due by August 9.**

A NurseHack4Health Pitch-A-Thon is a virtual event that enables health systems to take direct action in the nursing workforce crisis by empowering nurse-led interdisciplinary teams to ideate, create solutions, and pitch ideas that directly address workplace and well-being challenges with the goal of receiving grant funding to bring ideas to life.

The NurseHack4Health Pitch-A-Thon Take it Apart | Fix it | Build it Better is free and open globally to non-profit/501c3 designation health systems, or those with a fiscal partner. Nurse-led teams should be interdisciplinary – collaborating across professions, departments and the health system maximizes creativity and innovation in problem-solving. Teams will receive coaching support throughout the process. This request for proposals seeks innovative solutions that create systemic and sustainable change for a thriving workforce and healthier work environments.

Learn more at <https://nursehack4health.org/>.

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## Work-based learning, CTE, Internships, and Apprenticeships

*All Members*

To learn more about work-based learning, [click here](#).

To find a work-based learning coordinator in your area, [see this list](#).

Learn how to connect with schools and students, [click here](#).

See below for the difference between internships and apprenticeships. To learn more about nursing apprenticeships, [click here](#).

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## NDLTCA Workforce Committee

*All Members*

Would you like to participate in the NDLTCA Workforce Committee? Email [nikki@ndltca.org](mailto:nikki@ndltca.org) and I'll send you an invite. The first meeting is scheduled for Aug. 21 at 9 am.

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## NDLTCA Update

### Keep It Local - Opposing the Elimination of Property Tax

*All Members*

Thank you to everyone who provided feedback in the member survey on the crucial issue of property tax reform. The NDLTCA Board of Directors, along with the majority of respondents, agreed for the NDLTCA to join the Keep It Local Coalition, which includes 73 other organizations such as the ND Hospital Association and the ND Medical Association and many other non-profits. While there is broad agreement on the need for property tax reform, eliminating it altogether this next session would have a significant impact on the vital services we offer and the community services we depend on.

[See more about the coalition here.](#)

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## **Regulatory**

### **Hot beverages and F689**

*NF*

The State Agency (SA) has received questions and understands there has been discussion regarding the temperatures of hot beverages served in skilled nursing facilities. The regulations at F689 require the facility to ensure that the resident environment remains as free of accident hazards as is possible and that each resident receives adequate supervision and assistance devices to prevent accidents.

The CMS regulations and guidance do not specifically provide a temperature for hot beverages; however, CMS does provide information related to time and temperature relationship to serious burns. See table from F689 Free of Accidents Hazards/Supervision/Devices:



The following are points to consider:

- Know what the serving temperature is as it may be different from the brewing temperature.
- Has your facility assessed each resident's ability to handle hot beverages and their individual safety needs?
- Does the resident have a diagnosis or condition that may put them at an increased risk for burns due to scalding?
- What type of cups is the facility using and are they easy for residents to handle? Do they need lids? Does a certain resident receive half a cup full? Where is the resident seated while drinking? What is the level of supervision?

As with many things that involve resident care, each situation can be different depending on the resident's medical condition, abilities, and functional status. CMS expects facilities to identify, evaluate, and analyze hazards and risks, implement interventions to reduce hazards and risks, monitor for effectiveness, and modify interventions when necessary.

Questions? Contact Kathy Laxdal [klaxdal@nd.gov](mailto:klaxdal@nd.gov) or 701.328.2352

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## Education

### Modular Education Program for Activity Professionals MEPAP

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The [MEPAP \(Modular Education Program for Activity Professionals\) course](#) offered through NCCAP (National Certification Council for Activity Professionals) is designed to prepare individuals for the Activity Professional Certification (APC). This program adheres to CMS F680 federal requirements for life-enriching activity programs.

This training is available as an on-demand course through the Ohio Health Care Association. The comprehensive program equips participants with the necessary skills and knowledge to excel in the field of activity programming in healthcare settings.

The \$650 fee includes access to the online course book, complete training, test fees, and the first two years of certification. This all-inclusive package ensures that aspiring activity professionals receive the education and credentials needed to enhance the quality of life for those they serve.

Discounts may be available for your members. **For questions about this program and member discounts, please email Mandy Smith at the Ohio Health Care Association at [msmith@ohca.org](mailto:msmith@ohca.org)**

For registration, please follow the link: [Modular Education Program for Activity Professionals: MEPAP | SeminarWeb Catalog \(ohca.org\)](#)

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## **NCAL Update**

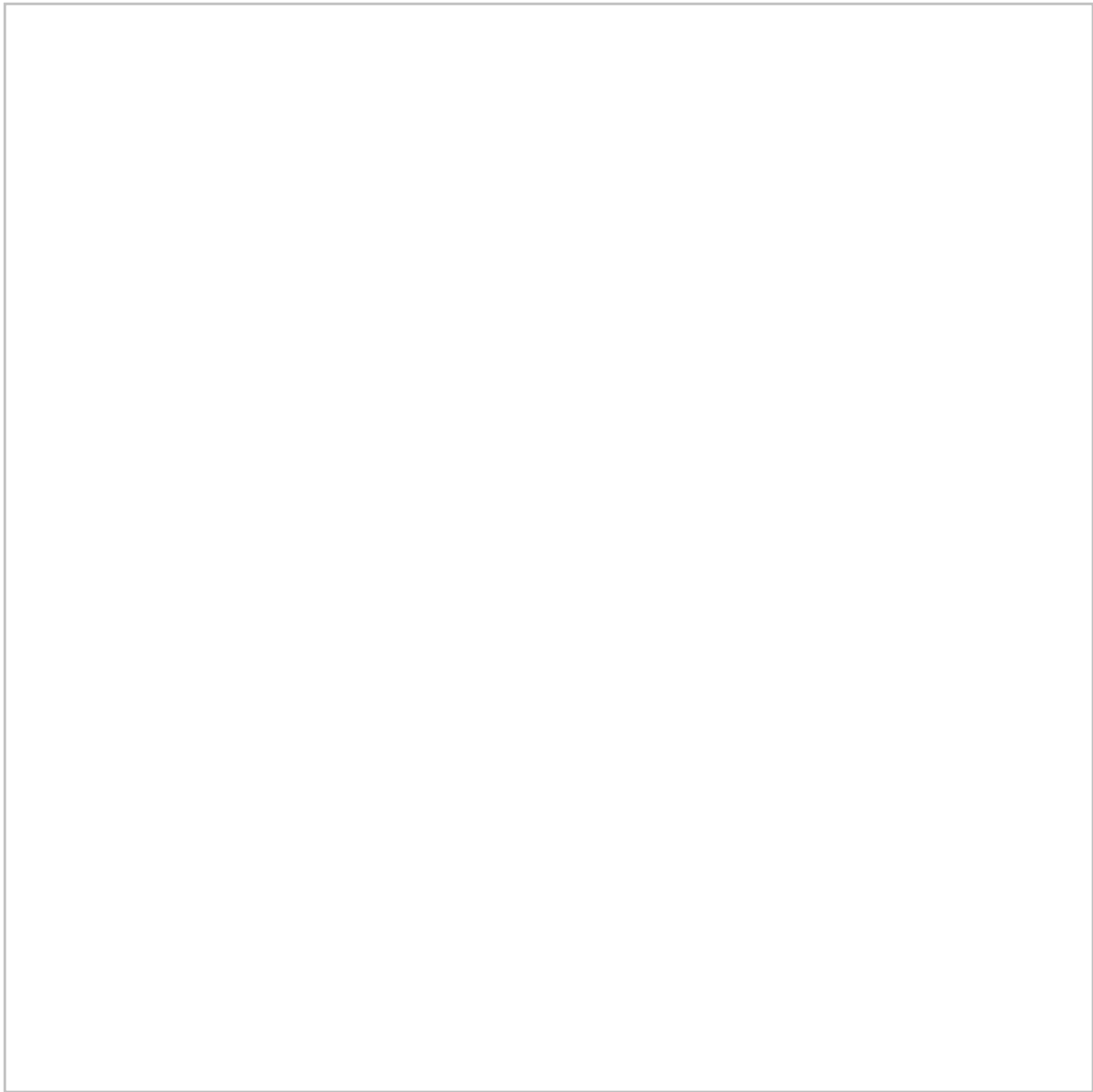
### **The Long Term Care Data Cooperative with LaShuan Bethea**

*AL*

The Long Term Data Cooperative is free to join and can help providers to leverage business insights like never before. Now available for assisted living providers, hear more from NCAL's Executive Director about what the Data Cooperative has to offer.

[Read more...](#)

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Thank you to our Gold Sponsor, HTG Architects!

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## **Media**

**Long-term care facilities worry about closing due to new federal mandate**

*All Members*



Shout out to Reier Thompson for another great interview!

By Elizabeth Shores

Published: Jul. 31, 2024 at 5:54 PM CDT

BISMARCK, N.D. (KFYR) - A new federal mandate will require nursing homes to have a registered nurse, or an RN, on-site at Medicare- and Medicaid-certified long-term care facilities 24/7 beginning in 2026. The new mandate is meant to increase the quality of care, but nursing homes are saying it could do the opposite. [Read more...](#)

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## Biden CMS Imposes 'Unachievable' Staffing Standards on Nursing Homes

*All Members*

Includes quotes from Chris Jones, former Executive Director of ND Human Services.

By Bonner R Cohen

May 21, 2024

Health Care News - ...The new rules are aimed at increasing union membership among nursing home employees, not improving quality, says Chris Jones, vice president for health care policy at the Texas-based Cicero Institute.

“The Biden administration is less interested in the well-being of nursing home residents and more interested in protecting a unionized workforce,” said Jones. “The administration focuses on inputs, not resident satisfaction.

“Not only will this drive up the cost of care and reduce the supply of nursing home beds, but residents want quality care, not ‘hours,’” said Jones. “Their family members want to know that their loved ones have needs met and are not needlessly having to have direct care staff checking a box because the government thinks they know better.” [Read more...](#)

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# CMS Finalizes 4.2% Skilled Nursing Medicare Increase, Expanded Penalties

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By Amy Stulick | July 31, 2024

SKILLED NURSING NEWS - The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) late Wednesday finalized its 2025 Skilled Nursing Facility Prospective Payment System (SNF PPS) rule, approving a net increase of 4.2%, or approximately \$1.4 billion in Medicare Part A payments for next year. [Read more...](#)

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While we are pleased to see Medicare rates increasing by more than four percent this coming fiscal year, we are extremely disappointed that CMS enhanced its enforcement provisions surrounding civil monetary penalties. Read AHCA's full reaction [statement](#).

AHCA has developed a [summary](#) of the final rule. Please note that a member log-in is required to view the summary. **These enforcement updates go into effect October 5, 2024** (60-days after it is published in the Federal Register, scheduled to be published on August 6, 2024). However, CMS will operationalize these requirements beginning March 3, 2025.

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# Chevron Fallout Could Create 'Regulatory Flux' for Nursing Home Sector

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By Amy Stulick | July 31, 2024

SKILLED NURSING NEWS - While [hopeful](#) that the Supreme Court's recent [Chevron decision](#) will undermine the federal staffing mandate and lead to a more rational regulatory environment, leaders in the nursing home sector also

are warning that the ruling could create a period of uncertainty and tumult. [Read more...](#)

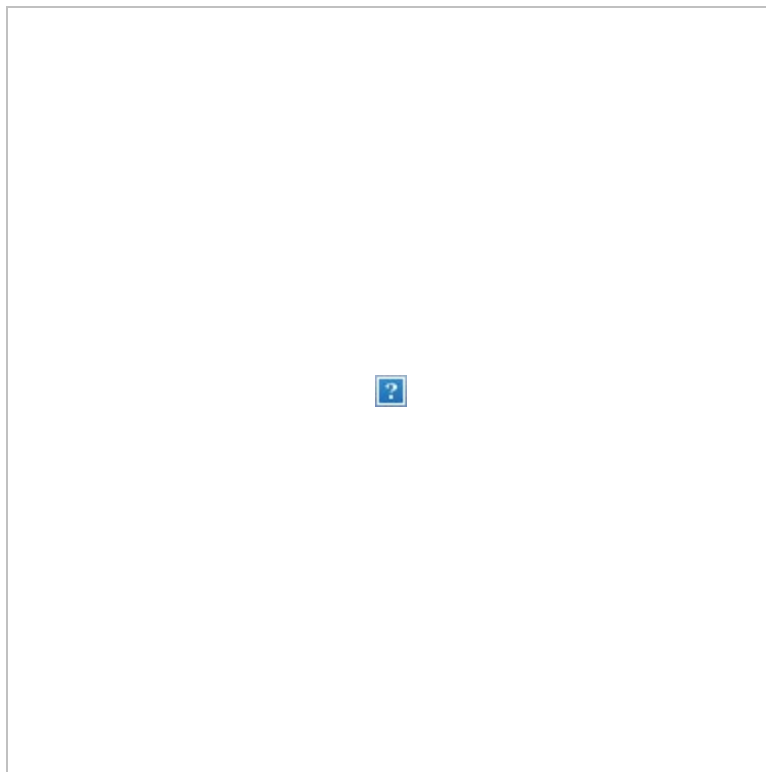
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## Post a Job on Our Website

*All Members*

[North Dakota Long Term Care Association | Career Opportunities \(ndltca.org\)](#)

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)



Thank you to our Bronze sponsor Infinity Rehab!

