



Treasures Found: MAHC Annual Conference Highlights

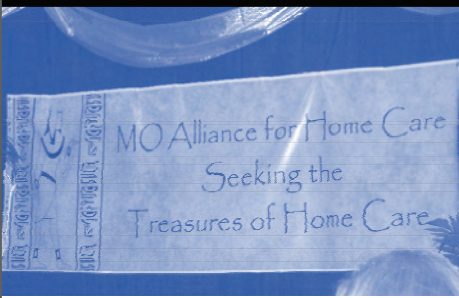
The 2008 MAHC Annual Conference and Home Care Exhibition wrapped up on Wednesday, April 30th after three days of events, workshops and general sessions. This year's conference attracted many first timers and yet appealed to seasoned conference goers, all expressing positive opinions about the workshops, the speakers, the timeliness of the subjects and overall quality of the conference. It would be impossible to describe every event and workshop in a newsletter but a few of the highlights included sessions from the Bureau of Home Care and Rehab Standards, the Division of Senior and Disability Services and the State Emergency Planning Team.

Lisa Coats, Administrator of the Bureau of Home Care and Rehab Standards, outlined the top ten (10) cited deficiencies for home health providers over the past year, giving helpful insights about how to avoid the common mistakes that lead to these deficiencies. According to Lisa the top ten are: G165 – Conformance with Physician Orders; G158 – Acceptance of Patients, Plan of Care, and Medical Supervision; G118 – Compliance with Federal, State and Local Laws and Regulations; G236 – Clinical Records; G108 – Right to be informed and to participate in planning care and treatment; G229 – Supervision of the Home Health Aide; G159 – Plan of Care; G116 – Home Health Hotline; G337 – Drug Regimen Review; and, G145 – Coordination of Patient Services. Giving many tips and resources for each of these top deficiencies, Lisa also stressed, **“If it’s not documented, it’s not done.”** (Continued on page 3)

MoHealth Net (Medicaid) Home Care Rates Increase

The Missouri General Assembly passed an \$.88 an hour rate increase for home care programs funded through MoHealth Net (Medicaid). If Governor Blunt signs the appropriations bill, the increase will go into effect on July 1, 2008. In addition, changes to the wording in the bill, should resolve some of the issues and problems that providers have been experiencing when making referrals for services that include a nurse assessment and plan of care. MAHC is working with the Division on specific policy clarifications. More on this as the policy revisions are made.

In the end, therapy services for MoHealth Net participants were not restored. There was bi-partisan support to restore therapy services in the House of Representatives, but in the final days restoring therapy was eliminated during the conference committee process with the Senate.



Education Opportunities:

- May 13—A look at Normal Aging Issues—Aide In-Service Phone Conference.
- May 14-Lessons Learned from PPS Revisions: What You Should Have Done, What Can Still Be Fixed and How to Avoid Future Problems. Phone Conference
- May 29—Curing the Epidemic of Blame, Complaining and Excuses. Phone Conference
- June 10—Employers and the Law: Is it Time for Your Check-Up? Phone Conference.

Contact the MAHC office for details on all of these phone conferences.

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The *Mystical* Sphinx

Critical Care Systems Wins the Prize



Scott Maddock, David Horst and other team members from Critical Care Systems kept their eyes on the prize this year. David's spooky Mummy costume had everyone talking about his early demise, while Scott braved head gear, eye liner and more to get into the theme of this year's Annual Conference. Congratulations on winning this year's exhibit theme prize.

Home Care Research and Education Foundation Scholarships Awarded Cash Prizes

The Home Care Research and Education Foundation presented the 2008 scholarship winners with a \$1,000 scholarship each. This year's winners included a nursing student and a therapy student.

Danielle Monroe, nominated by St. Anthony's Home Care, St. Louis, works at St. Anthony's Home Care part time as an office assistant while going to school full time. Danielle attends Goldfarb College of Nursing at Barnes Jewish College.

Nicholas Spencer, nominated by Comfort Care Home Health Agency, Doniphan, works full time as a PT assistant while attending Arkansas State University – Jonesboro pursuing a registered physical therapy degree.

There were many lucky attendees at the MAHC Annual Conference last week. Vendors gave nice prizes as did MAHC and the Home Care Research and Education Foundation.

On the last day of the conference MAHC held a drawing for cash prizes of \$750, \$150 and \$100. Carol Ray, Pike County Home Care & Hospice, won the big prize with Terry Brown, St. John's – Mountain View, and Christy Langford, Johnson County Community Health Services Home Care and Hospice, winning the other prizes.

For the second year a 50/50 drawing was held to raise money for the Foundation. This year's winner was Sue Thomure, Pyramid Home Health Services. Sue generously donated half of her winnings back to the Foundation

MAHC Committees

Now is the time to get involved!

MAHC committees make us strong as an association and as an industry. Your voice, talent and time are needed to keep the MAHC committees on the cutting edge of today's home care world.

Consider joining one of MAHC's many committees and next year you may be the lucky winner of the "Volunteer of the Year" award given at the annual conference.

There is a committee for everyone: Education planning for clinicians, administrators, aides, therapists, social workers, research, advocacy, membership, nominating, annual conference, and awards.

Call the MAHC office to sign up or for more details.



Trudia Azotea, with NECAC in Bowling Green, was the lucky winner of the Tan Tar A weekend as this year's Volunteer of the Year Awardee.



With Egyptian music playing, Lisa Coots danced and wiggled her way to the stage for her presentation. Seen here as she was posing for camera's after her presentation. (Left)
Division of Senior and Disability Staff, Sallianne, Mary, Rita and Kathryn prepare for their workshop "Discovering the Truths of the In-Home Program". (above)

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Compliance with federal, state and local laws and regulations is one area of difficulty for providers. Lisa handed out a "cheat sheet" outlining many of the laws that are mandated for home health and hospice providers. This document is included with the Bureau Talk, Volume 8, Issue 2 for April 2008 and is available at: www.dhss.mo.gov/HomeCare

In-Home Programs

Division of Senior and Disability staff Sallianne Thompson, Mary Wehrle, Rita Summers and Kathryn Sapp presented in-home and consumer directed service providers with updates and information about the programs and services. Much of the workshop was spent addressing specific questions that had been submitted to the Division in advance by home care providers. Some of the major points highlighted included the fact that there are about 1,700 more referrals for home care this year than last and 589 fewer "pending" cases. This would suggest that last year's House Bill 10 changes authorizing in-home providers to make initial assessments and develop plans of care has, in fact, been successful. Referrals coming into the system from providers using the new system take an average of 20 days to complete compared to 45 days for referrals received through the DA-1 process (old way). The Division is in the process of upgrading their computer systems and scanning equipment which should result in better quality documents and, ultimately, a faster and better way to make initial assessments and develop plans of care.

Providers need to use the optional HIPAA Authorization for Release form when submitting a CPR referral packet. Using this form allows the Division to let you know the final disposition of the client's case. Without the form, the Division's hands are tied due to HIPAA law.

The presenters discussed numerous other topics including Spenddown and the problems providers and consumers have when they get caught in the Spenddown system. The panel answered questions from the audience about specific issues and problems providers were experiencing.

Emergency Readiness

Emergency Planning and Preparedness are important issues all home care providers face. Paula Woodsmall, Lisa Coots and Cindy Jobe with the Department of Health and Senior Services presented their workshop attendees with important information and updates that the department, federal and state emergency agencies are working on. Members of the MAHC Emergency Preparedness Task Force were in attendance to hear the presentation and a meeting of the Task Force has been scheduled for Monday, September 8th. All MAHC members are welcome to attend. Contact the MAHC office for details.

Great Conference Overall

In addition to Medicare and In-Home updates, conference participants selected workshops on topics including financial management, PPS updates, clinical topics and self-improvement. As well as learning opportunities, time was spent networking and catching up on new products and services in the exhibit hall.