

The Academy Weekly

News & Information for LTC Providers



The Academy of Senior Health Sciences, Inc.

www.seniorhealthsciences.org

Week of 26 February 2023

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HB 45 portal to open March 7

The Office of Budget and Management informed the nursing home associations that the portal to request the ARPA workforce relief funds allocated in H.B. 45 will open tomorrow, on March 7. A notice will be sent to eligible providers based on contact information provided by Medicaid. OBM also released a [guidance and FAQ document, available by clicking here](#), that outlines how to access the funds, what are allowable expenses, and reporting requirements. Providers should note that the following information will be required to apply: Medicaid provider number, NPI, Medicare ID number, TIN, and an active Unique Entity Identifier registered with SAM.gov (System for Award Management.) There is also a [Program Beneficiary Agreement - available by clicking here](#) - that will need to be included with the application. OBM provided a [walk through document that outlines the application process](#). OBM also provided a list of the eligible providers and their respective award amount. ([Click here for the list.](#)) Please note that the eligible provider is not by

facility name. Finally, [OBM provided a template](#) for reporting the necessary data to document the funds were spent appropriately.

OBM will be hosting a Microsoft Teams meeting webinar on **March 14 at 11 AM** to review the information in the guidance and FAQ document and how to apply for the funds. Here is the information to join the webinar:

Join on your computer, mobile app or room device

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 298 967 481 78

Passcode: pgpBNt

[Download Teams](#) | [Join on the web](#)

Join with a video conferencing device

682042763@t.plcm.vc

Video Conference ID: 116 517 439 5

[Alternate VTC instructions](#)

Or call in (audio only)

[+1 614-721-2972,,281063077#](tel:+16147212972,281063077#) United States, Columbus

Phone Conference ID: 281 063 077#

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NH task force holds first meeting

The [Ohio Governor's Nursing Home Quality and Accountability Task Force](#) held its first meeting last week. The inaugural meeting began with introductions of the task force members and what made them excited about being a part of the group.

Governor DeWine addressed the task force, noting its important role and the need to improve Ohio's nursing homes. Ohio Department of Aging Director Ursel McElroy provided background information on Ohio's nursing homes, including the number of "yo-yo" providers; those that were considered repeat offenders based on survey results. It was clear from the initial discussion among members that defining quality was a concern, as was the usefulness of rankings and data. Director McElroy also outlined Finally, Director McElroy outlined areas the task force will be focusing on including critical access facilities and equity, workforce resiliency, and elder justice. The goal is to have a comprehensive report to the Governor with actionable items by the end of May. Next up is a listening session in Youngstown on Tuesday followed by the next task force meeting on Thursday. [\(Back to top.\)](#)

BELTSS two year renewal, all online CEs option, rule review

At the March Board meeting, the Board voted to extend the all-online CE waiver until such time as an updated rule making the all-online CE allowance **permanent**

can take effect. **You may now obtain all of your CEs online provided they are NAB or BELTSS approved.** There is still no limit to the amount of in-person CEs you may obtain. Additionally, **due to a legislative change, the Board is now required to move from 1 year renewals to 2 year renewals.** In order to make it fair to everyone and divide the workload for staff appropriately, the Board is enacting the following procedure:

- In **2023**, everyone renews as normal for a 1 year period with 1 fee and 20 CEs.
- In **2024**, those who have a last name beginning with A-L will renew with a \$600 fee and 20 CEs for a 2 year period. You will not renew again until **2026**.
- In **2024**, those who have a last name beginning with M-Z will renew with \$300 and 20 CEs for a 1 year period. You will renew again in **2025**.
- In **2025**, those who have a last name beginning with M-Z will renew with a \$600 fee and 20 CEs for a 2 year period. You will not renew again until **2027**.
- As of **2026**, everyone will be on the “new normal” renewal cycle: A-L renewing in even years, and M-Z renewing in odd years, with a \$600 fee and 40 CEs.
- If you are an **HSE**, you will need 8 CEs to renew as of **2026**.

BELTSS know this is a complex procedure, so if you have any questions, please call the Board for clarification.

Also due to a statutory change, **there will no longer be a “temporary” license for individuals as of January 1, 2025.** The **owner/operator** of the facility must request a 180 day license from the Board for cases of emergency, and the individual will have to provide proof to the Board of passing the licensure exams no later than 180 days after this license is issued, or the license becomes void. Please read the pertinent rules described below for more information. The rules will also be posted on the Board’s website under “News and Events”.

Due to the legislative changes, the Board needs to revise many of its rules to comply. Section 119.032 of the Ohio Revised Code requires the Board of Executives of Long-Term Services and Supports (BELTSS) to review the rules of Chapter 4751 of the Ohio Administrative Code no later than the rules’ assigned review dates. The rules regulate BELTSS. BELTSS is proposing to modify OAC 4751-1-02, 03, 04, 05, 09, 10, 10.1, 10.2, 10.3, 12, 13, 14, 16, and add a new rule concerning Chapter 119 hearing procedures, 4751-1-12.2:

4751-1-02: Revised to eliminate the “temporary” license language as per statute

4751-1-03: Revised to remove the word “all” to allow the board secretary flexibility for emergencies

4751-1-04: Revised to allow for individuals to request approved meeting minutes by phone or email

4751-1-05: Revised to eliminate unnecessary language, e.g. “if the board approves a fourth time”

4751-1-09: Revised to update language to match current practice, allow the board more time to process applications before a meeting, update where AITs can find a required form, include attendance at a new board AIT/Preceptor training course, remove unnecessary language

4751-1-10: Revised to reflect a statute change eliminating the board’s temporary license and enacting a new provision, and a statute change of the license renewal period from 1 year to every 2 years

4751-1-10.1: Revised to update language to match current practice, a statute change of the license renewal requirement from every year to every 2 years, and removal of a notary requirement

4751-1-10.2: Revised to implement a statutory change of license renewal periods from every year to every 2 years

4751-1-10.3: Revised to implement a statutory change eliminating the board’s temporary license and reflect every 2-year renewal

4751-1-12: Revised to eliminate language referring to a temporary license and every 2 year renewal

4751-1-12.2: New rule to outline the prehearing process

4751-1-13: Revised to implement a statutory change from every year license renewal to every 2 year renewal and update language to reflect current practice

4751-1-14: Revised to comply with statutory change on recognizing an out-of-state license and granting a license to practice in Ohio

4751-1-16: Revised to comply with statutory changes to remove the temporary license fee and change the annual license renewal fee to a biennial license renewal fee

Any person may direct written comments or requests for information concerning BELTSS' rule proposals to Deborah Velej, Executive Director of BELTSS on or before March 27, 2023 by writing to dvelej@age.ohio.gov.

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ODM provides update on HCBS PHE waivers

The Ohio Department of Medicaid provided the following update on HCBS waivers related to the public health emergency (PHE):

"As part of the federal COVID-19 public health emergency (PHE), the Ohio

Department of Medicaid (ODM) made changes to its Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) 1915(c) waivers through Appendix K flexibilities. [A full list of these flexibilities is on the ODM website.](#)

The recently passed Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023 (CAA) and the return to routine eligibility operations did not impact these HCBS Waiver Appendix K flexibilities. These flexibilities will expire six months after the PHE's end. With President Biden's [recent announcement](#) that the PHE will end on May 11, 2023, **HCBS Waiver Appendix K Flexibilities will not expire until November 2023.**

The Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD), the Department of Aging (ODA), and ODM are working together to identify which flexibilities will continue past November 2023. For the flexibilities that will expire in November, the agencies are developing a plan for resuming routine operations.

In the coming weeks we will continue to provide opportunities for partners, providers, and members to provide input on this process. We want to hear about your experiences and recommendations for potential ongoing changes to waiver programs, including topics such as family members serving as a direct care worker through agency employment. We will host webinars in March. More information on these webinars, including dates, times and registration, will be shared via email.

Stakeholders can also provide feedback through public comment periods for any waiver amendments or Ohio Administrative Code (OAC) rule updates that may occur. As more information on the Appendix K flexibilities becomes available, it will be posted on the [ODM webpage.](#)" ([Back to top.](#))



National News

MLN Connects Newsletter

[News](#)

- [The Future of Medicare Enrollment: Save Time with PECOS's Consolidated Application](#)

- [Voluntary Prior Authorization Process for Certain Power Mobility Device Accessory Items](#)
- [Expanded Home Health Value-Based Purchasing Model: February Newsletter](#)

Events

- [ICD-10 Coordination & Maintenance Committee Meeting — March 7–8](#)
- [Medicare Home Health Prospective Payment System CY 2023 Webinar — March 29](#)
- [Medicare Cost Report E-Filing System Webinar — March 30](#)

Multimedia

- [Shared Savings Program & Community-Based Organization Collaboration Webinar Materials](#)

From Our Federal Partners

- [Cannabidiol: Discuss Potential Harms with Your Patients](#)
- [Increase in Extensively Drug-Resistant Shigellosis in the U.S.](#)

[To view MLN Connects online, click here.](#)

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ODDS AND ENDS

BELTSS: Ethics course requirement 2024

The BELTSS Board will be requiring all Ohio LNHA's to submit one course of an Ethics course, effective with their 2024 renewal. Courses offering approved as meeting the BELTSS ethics requirement must have the word "Ethics" in the title or put the word "Ethics" in parentheses after the title. Courses

NOTABLE DATES OR EVENTS

[PHE ends](#)
11 May 2023

[Click here for QIO Complex Care.](#)

[Click here for QIO Booster](#)

must be related to the BELTSS Code of Conduct or be approved as ethics offerings from another licensed or certified profession and be NAB or BELTSS approved.

BELTSS: Admin hiring/licensure requirements

The BELTSS Board is reminding employers/HR managers when posting job vacancies for administrator level positions, to be sure to take into consideration ORC 4751.10. Ohio law requires any individual working in an “Administrator” or “Assistant Administrator” capacity, or any title given where the individual would be performing the duties of an Administrator, to be licensed. Job posting ads are being sent to the Board clearly indicating “exam eligible” as a qualification which is in direct violation of ORC 4751.10. In an effort to avoid potential candidates who are not yet licensed by the Board potentially facing sanctions and/or discipline as a result of applying and accepting a position they are not licensed to hold, we wanted to provide this information in advance. In the event you need or want additional information pertaining to hiring candidates for Administration roles in Ohio, please do not hesitate to reach out to BELTSS at 614.466.5114 or at <https://beltss.ohio.gov/board-info/contact-us>

[Blitz series.](#)

[Click here for CMS NH COVID-19 Training Modules](#)

[Click here to view CGS Part A training events](#)

[Click here to view CGS Part B training events](#)

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The Academy of Senior Health Sciences, Inc. is a preferred provider of BELTSS continuing education units.
