



2025 Spring Conference

April 28 – 30th

Penn Stater Hotel & Conference Center

CONFERENCE AGENDA

Monday, April 28, 2025

Noon - 4 p.m. – Registration

10 - noon – PACAH Board Meeting (Private)

1 – 4:15 p.m. – PELICAN Training (3 CEUS)

PELICAN TRAINING: Regulatory Roundup: What's New and Now in Healthcare and Employment Law.

This session will discuss recent regulatory issues pertaining to Skilled Nursing Facilities that affect facilities over the coming year and provide strategies and guidance as to how to defuse these issues.

Topics will include:

- Recent Changes to the CMS 855A
- Survey Trends and Enforcement Efforts
- Changes to Compliance Programs that Make them a Second QAPI Program
- Current State of Staffing Litigation
- Changes to CMP Enforcement
- Updates to SOM
- Employment Update
- OSHA Investigations
- ICE Enforcement Guidance

Mark L. Mattioli, Esq, Principal
Post & Schell P.C.

Angela H. Sanders, Esq, Principal
Post & Schell P.C.

2 – 4 p.m. – PACAH Fiscal Committee Meeting (Private)

4:30 - 6 p.m. – Happy Hour/Trivia Reception

Tuesday, April 29, 2025

8 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. – Registration

8 – 9 a.m. – Continental Breakfast

8 – 9 a.m. - General Session (1 CEU)

Transitions of Care

In this session, the speaker will identify opportunities for improvement of transitions of care, identify several successful interventions which have been demonstrated to improve transitions between the hospital and the skilled nursing facility, and identify potential quality evaluation tools relating to transitions of care.

Tricia Whaley, Senior Director Provider Relations
CHR Consulting Services, Inc

9:15 – 10:15 a.m. – General Session (1 CEU)

Seamless Transitions: Navigating the Post Acute Ecosystem

This session will explore the critical journey patients undertake through the post-acute continuum of care, encompassing transitions between skilled nursing facilities, home health services and hospice care. Attendees will gain insights into the challenges and best practices for ensuring seamless transitions, maintaining high-quality care, and supporting patients and their families at each stage.

Nichole Shadle, Regional Director of Operations
Advantage

Austin Hancock, VP of Operations
Advantage Home Health

Tommi Burchfield, VP of Operations, Hospice Services at Transitions Care
Advantage

10:30 – 11:30 a.m. - General Session (1 CEU)

Designing Activities that Celebrate Life: Person-Centered Approaches to Dementia Care

This session focuses on how to design meaningful activities that not only engage individuals living with dementia but also celebrate their unique identities. By reflecting each person's personal interests, hobbies, and life experiences, we can create opportunities for joy, fulfillment, and a sense of accomplishment. The goal is to craft activities that provide enrichment and dignity while fostering an environment where individuals feel seen, respected, and valued.

Key Concepts:

- The importance of gathering and using a detailed social history to design person-centered activities
- Designing activities that honor the individual's past, passions, and interests
- Ensuring activities are accessible and adaptable to different stages of dementia
- Fostering a sense of purpose and meaning through activities that resonate with the individual
- Training staff to understand and implement person-centered care approaches effectively
- Creating a conducive environment that supports enrichment and enhances the overall experience for individuals with dementia.

Reyd Martin, Director of CORE Services
The Rouse Estate

11:45 a.m. – 12:45 p.m. – Lunch

1 - 2 p.m. – General Session (1 CEU)

Having the Difficult Conversations – What to Say to a Bully

Bullying, defined as “a distinctive pattern of deliberately harming and humiliating others,” is an increasingly common problem among seniors. While the communal-living nature of senior living communities can open the door for socialization and friendship, it can also be the location of cliques, gossip, abuse and bullying behavior. It is estimated that between 10 and 20 percent of older adults living in senior living communities are mistreated by their peers, and often the behavior goes unreported or unnoticed by staff. Unfortunately, bullying is not just exhibited on the playground – it is a behavior that spans multiple demographics and age groups.

In this session, participants will learn the definition and incidence of bullying in adult living communities and day centers including what older adult bullying looks like in this population. Characteristics of older adult bullies as well as their targets and gender differences will be explored. The reasons why bullying occurs as well as the five different types of bullies are defined.

The impact of bullying is detrimental to the health and well-being of our seniors. Even one instance can have a lasting impact! Therefore, it is not enough just to define bullying – communities need to know how to address bullying when they see it and stop it before it becomes a problem. In this interactive session, participants will learn key evidence-based strategies for confronting and communicating with a bully. Approaches include empathy, questioning, confrontation, deontology, acknowledgement, and others.

Several case examples will be offered with opportunities for participants to brainstorm approaches and dialogue about the advantages and disadvantages of each approach. Many people struggle with what to say to a bully to stop their behavior. There is no one “right” answer to this issue. But at the conclusion of the session, participants will have additional tools in their communication toolbox.

Learning Outcomes

- Describe the incidence and characteristics of bullying behaviors.
- Describe the impact of bullying on older adults
- Identify communication and intervention strategies to prevent or cease bullying behavior

Dr. Kathleen Weissberg MS, OTD, OTR/L, CMDCP, CDP, CFPS, National Director of Education
Select Rehabilitation

2:15 – 3:15 p.m. – General Session (1 CEU)

Enhancing Care Coordination: Strategies for Nursing and Therapy Collaboration in SNFs

In the dynamic healthcare landscape, the pivotal elements of effective communication and collaboration are crucial pillars for maintaining care quality, elevating patient outcomes, and developing a team culture. Within skilled nursing facilities, the relationship between nursing and therapists assumes paramount importance in delivering comprehensive and patient-centered care. Addressing unique patient needs, therapists make substantial contributions to overall well-being, while nursing assesses and provides essential care, including administering medications, monitoring residents’

health, and ensuring their well-being. The objectives of this course encompass an in-depth exploration of the dimensions inherent in nursing and therapy roles. Emphasis is placed on underscoring the significance of collaboration, identifying potential barriers, proposing effective communication strategies, and presenting ideas to foster successful interdisciplinary collaboration within healthcare facilities.

Julie Bellucci, MS, CCC-SLP/Director of Clinical Development
Premier Therapy

Heather Meadows, CCC/SLP/Director of Operations, CDP
Premier Therapy

3:30 – 5 p.m. – Vendor Reception

Wednesday, April 30, 2025

8 – 11 a.m. – Registration

8 – 9 a.m. – Breakfast

8 – 9 a.m. - General Session (1 CEU)

Section GG - an Important Section of the MDS

Section GG is an important section of the MDS that not only impacts reimbursement but is used in Quality Measure calculations, SNF Quality Reporting program and Value Based Purchasing. During this session, we will discuss those functional abilities that provide the data to determine reimbursement as well as the quality measures and best practices for supporting documentation.

Heather McGowan, RN, BSN, RAC-CT, Director of Clinical Reimbursement
CHR Consulting Services, Inc

Christine White, RAC-CT, RAC-CTA, Director of Clinical Reimbursement
CHR Consulting Services, Inc

9:15 – 10:15 a.m. – General Session (1 CEU)

Understanding New Medicare Enrollment, Revalidation, and CHOW Requirements

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has updated the reporting requirements for skilled nursing facilities to improve transparency regarding ownership and operations. Additionally, all Medicare providers must revalidate their information according to the new standards by no later than May 1, 2025, under current CMS guidelines.

In this session, you will stay informed about the latest Medicare enrollment, revalidation, and Change of Ownership (CHOW) requirements to ensure your organization remains compliant. The session will review these updates and guide providers through the revalidation process.

David C. Marshall, Esq, Attorney & Managing Shareholder
Latsha Davis & Marshall, P.C.

10:30 – 11:30 a.m. - General Session (1 CEU)

Alternatives to Guardianship and Act 61: What You Need to Know

Legislation and grant funded projects have helped Pennsylvania Courts improve the guardianship process, access to due process, and promote the use of alternatives to guardianship. It is important that guardianship of an individual only be sought as a last resort. This session will highlight all the alternatives to guardianship named in Act 61 of 2023 and inform you on how an alternative to guardianship can allow a person to get the help they need while maintaining as much autonomy and decision-making ability as possible.

Objectives:

- Participants will be able to define the different alternatives to guardianship.
- Participants will be able to determine which alternative to guardianship is most applicable when a person needs assistance but still retains capacity to make decisions.
- Participants will learn about new legislation in Pennsylvania (Act 61 of 2023) that requires the appointment of counsel for a person with a guardian or alleged to need a guardian in all guardianship proceedings, promotion of alternatives to guardianship, and more.

Keith Hinkel Jr., Assistant Director
Office of Elder Justice in the Courts (OEJC)

John Kennedy, Esq., Founder & President/CEO
Kennedy, PC Law Offices

Honorable Richard M. Hughes, III, Judge
Court of Common Pleas, Luzerne County

Honorable Frank J. Ruggiero, Judge
Court of Common Pleas, Lackawanna County
Office of Elder Justice in the Courts and the Advisory Council on Elder Justice