

Long Term Care NEWSLETTER

Indiana State Department of Health

**ISDH Long Term Care
Newsletter Issue # 08-12
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Consistent Assignment Teleconference

Advancing Excellence in America's Nursing Homes is sponsoring a teleconference on consistent assignments. The program will inform participants about consistent assignments, why it works, and how to do it. Steve Levenson, M.D., and Jennylynde Renteria-Packman, R.N., will serve as faculty. The program will include speakers from nursing homes in Pennsylvania and Washington that have successfully implemented consistent assignments.

The teleconference will be Tuesday, June 3, 2008, from 2:00 - 3:30 p.m. Eastern Time. Attached is [registration information](#) on the teleconference. For further information, contact Linda Woolley at lwoolley@iahsa.com.

Increase in Thefts

In reviewing incidents reported to the Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH) Division of Long Term Care, the Division has noted a recent increase in the number of thefts reported. Theft reports are now running a very close second to resident to resident abuse reports. Theft reports have included cash, credit cards, and jewelry.

The Division encourages facilities to report all thefts to the local law enforcement agencies for criminal investigation. Our reports indicate that there has been more police involvement and catching of these individuals. By being vigilant in protecting against theft and reporting all thefts to law enforcement, facilities can assist in reducing criminal activity in health care facilities.

Mailing Address for the Division of Long Term Care

The Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH) recently changed its mail service to an outside vendor. To assist in prompt delivery, any mail sent to the Division of Long Term Care needs to have a complete mailing address. Please include "4B" to denote the location within the ISDH. The mailing address for the Division of Long Term Care is:

Indiana State Department of Health
Division of Long Term Care
2 North Meridian Street - 4B
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Tax Stimulus Package

The Indiana State Department of Health has received inquiries from a few facilities concerning the role of the facility in assisting residents obtain an Economic Stimulus Payment. Beginning in May 2008, the United States Treasury will begin sending Economic Stimulus Payments to more than 130 million American households. Individuals who have little or no tax liability may qualify for a minimum payment of \$300 if their tax return reflects \$3,000 or more in qualifying income.

Individuals who do not have a federal tax filing requirement and do not usually file an income tax return may be eligible for a rebate. These individuals will need to file a 2007 Income Tax Return to be eligible for the rebate. The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) has extended the deadline to file IRS Form 1040A so eligible individuals may qualify for a rebate. The deadline for filing is October 15, 2008.

Long term care facilities have no regulatory responsibility to file this information for their residents. The responsibility lies with the resident or the resident's designated representative. Facilities and their social service teams are encouraged however to communicate this opportunity to residents, legal guardians, families, and designated representatives.

The Internal Revenue Service began mailing information to Social Security and Veterans Affairs recipients beginning the week of March 24, 2008. Specific information on the Economic Stimulus Package, including eligibility requirements, frequently asked questions, forms and instructions can be found at:

IRS Stimulus Payments-Rebate Guide: <http://www.uwnu.org/files/file/IRS%20Information.pdf>

Document for those with no tax filing requirement: <http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/k1040a3.pdf>

Additional assistance for completion of the IRS Form 1040 A can be obtained by contacting the following toll-free numbers:

Tax Rebate Hotline at 1-866-234-2942

IRS Volunteer Assistance at 1-800-906-9887

AARP members only assistance at 1-888-227-7669

Public Health Essential # 8

Essential Service # 8: Assure a Competent Public Health and Personal Health Care Workforce

In 1988 the Institute of Medicine identified three core functions of public health - assessment, policy development, and assurance. In 1994 the Core Public Health Functions Steering Committee expanded the core functions and identified ten public health essentials. The essentials describe public health activities that should be undertaken in all communities. The ten essential services provide a working definition of public health and a guiding framework for the responsibilities of local and state public health systems.

The concept of public health accreditation is now being developed as a means for improving public health. The essential services are a foundation for the National Public Health Performance Standards Program (NPHPSP) instruments and public health activities.

Each month in 2008 the ISDH will be highlighting one of the ten public health essentials. This month the ISDH highlights essential number eight: assure competent public health and personal health care workforce.

Under this essential, public health agencies and providers will develop and promote initiatives using health education and communication sciences to:

- Educate, train, and assess health professionals - including partners, volunteers and other lay community health workers - to meet statewide needs for public and personal health services.
- Establish an efficient process for credentialing technical and professional health personnel.
- Adopt continuous quality improvement and life-long learning programs.
- Partner with professional workplace development programs to assure relevant learning experiences for all participants.
- Provide continuing education in management, cultural competence, and leadership development programs.

The following are recommendations from the Institute of Medicine Report on the Future of Public Health for the 21st Century:

Leadership training, support, and development should be a high priority for government public health agencies and other organizations in the public health system.

Designate funds to support periodic assessment of workforce preparedness, and the provision of needed training.

Public health workers who are involved in the provision of essential public health services should be able to demonstrate mastery of the core public health competencies appropriate to their jobs.

Over the next month, consider how your health care facility can promote attainment of this essential. For further information, visit the [CDC National Public Health Performance Standards Program and Ten Essential Services of Public Health](#) Web site.



That is all for this week. Best wishes for the coming week.

Terry Whitson
Assistant Commissioner
Indiana State Department of Health