

December 2015

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Texas Fast Fact



Laredo is the world's largest inland port.

From the Executive Director:

Dear Friends,
2015 has been a successful year for TALA. We added two new full-time staff positions in January, doubling our staff, and the results have been very rewarding. We had a very successful legislative session earlier this year. In April we hosted the largest annual conference we've had in over eight years and our manager's classes set a new attendance record in 2015. Membership in TALA is at an all-time high and continues to grow. A strong

membership is critical to our mission and we look forward to adding members in 2016. Our vendor partners have increased in number as well and we are grateful for their support. In addition to all of this, our TALAPAC had a very successful 2015 campaign, positioning TALA to continue our strong public policy efforts. Our commitment to all of our stakeholders remains strong. We look forward to working alongside all of you throughout 2016 and building new partnerships.

Please don't hesitate to reach out to us at any time with questions or concerns. We have been assisted living's voice in Texas for over 18 years and we look forward to many more. On behalf of the TALA staff, volunteers and the Board of Directors we would like to extend our sincere wishes for a very happy and peaceful holiday season.

Gail

Gail A. Harmon
TALA President/CEO

Under the Dome

I get asked a lot about what goes on during the interim. The Texas legislature won't convene until January of 2017 so many folks think there is a lot of down time. That is not the case. The legislative interim, the period between sessions, is jammed packed with legislative visits, interim hearings, stakeholder meetings to develop the regulatory rules around new statutes, and developing legislative ideas for the next session. Interim charges are given to legislative committees by the head of their respective legislative body to direct the work and research that committees will do in preparation for the next session. Committees then hold hearings on the interim charge issues and submit a report of their findings prior to next session. Much of the legislation that will be filed

next session comes from information obtained during the interim by the various committees. TALA successfully worked with the House and the Senate to develop interim charges related to senior living issues. The House has two charges that pertain to senior living: 1) study the ten year anticipated growth, the geographic distribution, and the projected economic impact of aging Texans. Review state services and programs available to seniors, including independent living services, and determine the capacity and effectiveness of the programs. Determine if Texas is prepared for the increased demands of aging Texans; and 2) investi-

gate the operation and regulation, including a review of standards, monitoring, and enforcement, of boarding homes in municipalities and unincorporated areas of counties. Identify communities that have adopted local standards, and review proce-



dures for investigating and closing unlicensed facilities that are providing services which require state licensure.

The Senate has the following healthy aging charge that is broken into two parts:

Upcoming Assisted Living Managers Courses

2016

24-Hour ALM Training Courses Now Open for Registration:

January 19-21, 2016

The Laurels and Havens at Stone Oak
San Antonio, TX

February 16-18, 2016

Atria Willow Park
Tyler, TX

March 8-10, 2016

Forum at Memorial Woods
Houston, TX

For more information or to reserve a seat, head to TALA.org and sign up now!

Cntd. From Page 1.

1) study and make recommendations on innovative methods and best practices to promote healthy aging for the state's population and reduce chronic medical and behavioral health conditions. Identify opportunities for improved collaboration to promote healthy aging in the health and human services system at the state, regional and local levels; and 2) examine and recommend ways to improve quality and oversight in long-term care settings, including nursing homes and ICF/HCS programs. Monitor the implementation of legislation addressed by the Senate Com-

mittee on Health and Human Services during the 84th Regular Session related to the revocation of nursing home licenses for repeated serious violations. Additionally, the Senate will be studying financial elder abuse.

Almost all laws passed during the 84th have already taken effect according to the effective date on the legislation. However, most of the laws that impact ALFs have to have changes made to the Texas Administration Code. That process takes time. First, the agency has to develop the new

policies and present them to the DADS council. Then the suggested change is posted to the Texas Registry for public comment. And finally, the change is signed off on by the HHSC commissioner. TALA is monitoring implementation of significant legislation from the 84th. We are on various DADS' work groups to provide input, submit testimony, and testify as needed. Expect to see regulatory code changes beginning in March.

If you have any questions please contact TALA's VP of Public Policy [Diana Martinez](#).

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Texas based Senior Risk is recognized as the leading risk management consulting group in the nation with a track record of saving senior living providers money. A consulting package may include one or more of the following services;

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- Claims consulting
- TX nonsubscription implementation and administration
- Senior Risk University (caregiver training & reference library)
- Senior Risk Hotline
- Quality assessments (onsite or phone)
- Policy/procedure development & review
- Program development for specialty care including dementia
- Survey response and preparedness
- Consultation on specific residents at risk
- Review of community design/site plans
- QAFI/QA/QI program development and analysis
- Past incident report analysis (tracking & trending)
- Residence level presentations & in-services
- Web based training and webinars



Please contact Jay Stowers, CPCU, ARM @ 214-287-9827 or jstowers@srisk.com.

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New Members in 2015

TALA Welcomes the
following new
members :

Industry Partners

Senior Risk

Richard Cheng

Holmes Murphy &
Associates

Provider Members

Avanti Senior Living

Thank you for your
support!

Financial Regulatory Body Proposes Rules to Protect Seniors

The Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, which has a mission to protect the investing public against fraud and best practices, has just wrapped up a comment period on [proposed rules addressing the financial exploitation of seniors](#) and other potentially vulnerable adults.

FINRA is proposing amendments to a rule to require firms to make “reasonable efforts” to obtain the name and contact information for a trusted contact person for a customer’s account and the

adoption of a new rule to permit qualified persons to place temporary holds on releasing funds or securities from accounts of specified customers where there is reasonable belief that they are being financially exploited.

FINRA outlined in its proposal that its experience with its Securities Helpline for Seniors has highlighted issues relating to financial exploitation of older adults. Among those issues is a firm’s ability to quickly and effectively address suspected financial abuse.

The toll-free number that seniors investors can call to get assistance from FINRA or raise concerns about issues with brokerage accounts and investments is available Monday through Friday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. ET, 844-57-HELPS, or 844-574-3577.

For more information on preventing financial elder abuse, peruse Argentum’s [free Tool Kit on Protecting Older Americans from Financial Abuse](#) with supporting information from the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, available in the [Argentum online store](#).

TMHP Provider Outreach

Attention:

Texas Medicaid direct submitters or providers using third-party software to submit Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) X12 270/271

Eligibility Inquiry/Response transactions.

It is important that you review upcoming changes to these eligibility transactions by visiting the EDI page of

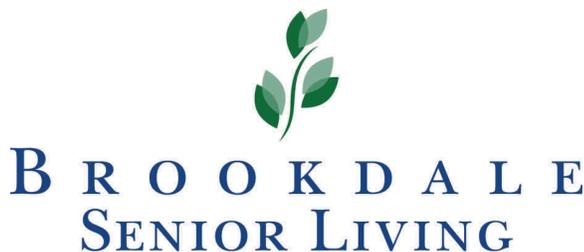
TMHP.com (http://www.tmhp.com/Pages/EDI/EDI_Home.aspx) and continue to monitor notifications up until the effective date of January 29, 2016 for any additional information.

Save the Date!

It's not too early to start your planning for next year's Annual TALA Conference. Please plan to join us in Frisco April 18th – 21st. Speakers will include HHSC Executive Commissioner Chris Traylor and keynoter Jonathon Fanning, speaking on *"Who Are You Becoming as a Leader?"*

We have expanded the nursing portion of the conference this year, opening with a full day for nurses on Monday the 18th and continuing through Tuesday. We are offering a Pre-conference session again this year for nurses and managers, and the full conference kicks off Tuesday afternoon. The full program will be out right after the first of the year and Early Bird registration starts soon. Please let us know if you have any questions and we look forward to seeing you!

We are happy to recognize our current sponsors:



**Keep an eye out for our Exhibit and Sponsor information
and Attendee Registration at TALA.org**