



Georgia Association of Homes & Services for the Aging (GAHSA)

GAHSA Coffey-Break

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A mission of caring ... A commitment to quality

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The Georgia Association of Homes and Services for the Aging is the statewide association of key not-for-profit and other mission-focused organizations dedicated to providing quality housing, health care, community based and other related services for older Georgians. GAHSA's mission is to represent and promote the common interests of its members through leadership, advocacy, education and other services in order to enhance each member's ability to serve older Georgians.

General Notes of Interest

August is here!

This is an abbreviated newsletter because we are preparing for the next wave of events beginning the middle of August and running through October. Please pay close attention to registration information and important deadlines.

The Power of Community – September 7th

Everyone should have received this information by now – please contact the gahsa office if you need a registration brochure. This is a wonderful opportunity for staff in any position to meet AAHSA Medicaid expert, Barbara Manard Ph.D (Vice President Long-Term Care/Health Strategies) and hear her present

Financing Aging Services: “A Framework for America”

This will be the first public presentation of this material from AAHSA, as it has just been approved to be presented. This information will begin a national dialogue with stakeholders in all fields. Legislators, government officials, and leaders in Georgia aging services organizations will be attending.

As a follow-up from last year's INNOVATIONS event, the first part of the morning is for networking with gahsa provider and business members. Please come at 8:30am and begin experiencing the POWER OF COMMUNITY!

Following the Expo at 8:30am is the Summit...

Topic: The current system for financing long-term care presents serious financial barriers for the elderly and others. As the baby-boomers age into retirement, the need for long-term care will double over the next three decades, turning current problems into a far greater national crisis. Dr. Manard shares the Facts, Challenges and the Opportunities.

Technology Tip from TechBridge

I hope you've had a great month! Summer in Georgia is by far my favorite time of year. But enough about me, let's talk technology tips. Last month we talked about making files smaller using the Remove Hidden Data feature available from Microsoft. This month, we are going to stay with the theme of files, but we are going to talk about file sharing and collaboration.

One of the most useful tools an organization can utilize is an Intranet; also know as a portal. An Intranet or web portal has been defined as "a private version of the Internet". Basically, it is a web site internal to your organization for you to display information that is useful to your staff, or your board. It is also a great place to store and share files. Among the items that get shared on an Intranet are phone lists, human resources forms, announcements, pictures from events, calendars for events, vacation schedules, and so forth.

Here at TechBridge, we use, and have made available to our clients, a Microsoft SharePoint portal that we call EasyWorkspace. We use it for all of the items mentioned in the last paragraph, and in addition to that, we use it for document collaboration and storage. While we are working on a document, instead of emailing the changes between us, we make use of the document collaboration functionality by "checking-in" the document on the portal. The next person in the editing queue checks it out to make their changes. The beauty of this check-in/check-out feature is that EasyWorkspace actually shows who has checked out the document, and EasyWorkspace can update you when it gets checked back in. Once we have completed our edits and the document is ready for delivery, the latest version exists in EasyWorkspace where it is stored. When the backups run, the files on EasyWorkspace are backed up so if anything ever happens the documents can be retrieved from the backup tape.

What I have just described for you is just some of the basic functionality available in EasyWorkspace. There is much more that can be done with an Intranet. There are some organizations that do not have office space, yet they use EasyWorkspace for communications with their boards and staff. The next time you are emailing documents back and forth with your staff, think about using a portal instead. It's made writing and editing easier for us! If you have any questions, give me call!

Happy Technology,
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