



# Direct Connect



## Annual AHFSA Conference Held in Williamsburg, VA

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**A**HFSA's annual meeting was held October 20-23 in Williamsburg, VA. Representatives from States and Regions participated in panels and the plenary sessions.

The Keynote Address was given by Richard Gregory who gave a 3 hour session on investigative techniques. Mr. Gregory, who has experience as a criminal investigator, gave participants some tips on how to tell if someone is trying to hide the truth. He also emphasized the importance of making the interviewee comfortable, good eye contact, positive body language, etc.

The afternoon breakout sessions include sessions on:

- Survey and Certification Issues in Hospitals (Frank Sokolik and Melissa Hulbert presenting)
- Bio-Terrorism
- Best Practices
- Implementation of QIES
- Decision Making for End of Life

Tuesday's meeting included morning and afternoon sessions

including:

- Defending Your Deficiencies
- Federal Oversight (Cindy Graunke)
- Quality Improvement Initiative
- The Treatment of Pain in the Older Adult
- ACTS

Smith, Director, CMSO, and an update from Steve Pelovitz on CMS issues. Mr. Pelovitz talked about:

- Budget Issues
- Feeding Assistant Regulation
- Organizational changes at CMS.



**Carol Benner, Maryland Outgoing President**

- Emerging ESRD Issues
- Assisted Living
- Adverse Medication Events

Wednesday concluded the AHFSA conference with an introductory commnets from Dennis

Fred Gladden spoke about the ACTS system and discussed CMS's future plans.

Following the AHFSA meeting, regional and central office survey and certification managers met. RO participants included: Rosanne Egan, Gene Grasser, Calvin Cline, Walt Kummer, David Dupre, Caroline Krewson, Dan Dolan, Paul Long and David Krushner. CO participants included Steve Pelovitz, Angela Brice-Smith, Frank Sokolik, Pam Vocke, Cindy Graunke, Fred Gladden, Melissa Hulbert and Todd Lawson.

Some of the topics discussed included the State performance standards for FY'2002, binding arbitration letter, data consistency, and communication strategies.

## New Officers for AHFSA

**President**—Rick Harris (Alabama)

**President Elect**—Marvin Tooman (Iowa)

**Vice President**—Phyllis Daw (North Carolina)

**Treasurer**—Dick Nelson (Nebraska)

**Corresponding Secretary**—Ray Rusin (New Hampshire)

**Recording Secretary**—Susan Schroeder (Wisconsin)

**Past President**— Carol Benner (Maryland)

DIVISION OF NURSING HOMES

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**Survey & Cert  
Letters on the  
Web— [www.cms.gov](http://www.cms.gov)**

**Recent Survey & Certification  
Letters Related to Nursing  
Homes**

**S&C-03-01:** Policy and Procedures for Conducting the Federal Comparative Survey, FY 2003

**S&C 03-02:** Change in Requirement for Signed Physician's Order for Influenza and Pneumonia

**S&C 03-03:** BIPA 941 Nursing Home Requirement Effective January 1, 2003

Web Address

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/medicaid/lcsp/lcsmemos.asp>



## Helene Fredeking to Retire

On January 3rd, Helene Fredeking plans to retire from CMS. Helene has been instrumental in many of the programs in place today both in long term care and non-long term care.

We are collecting personal letters, etc. for a memory book to give Helene. If you'd like to contribute, please contact Jeane Nitsch at [jnitsch@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:jnitsch@cms.hhs.gov). So that we can put it together we've set a deadline of November 29th.

## Highlights & Upcoming Events

### October Highlights

- **AHSA Conference—**  
October 20-23; Williamsburg, VA

### November

- **Survey & Certification Group Call**  
—November 6  
—November 20
- **Nursing Home Quality Initiative National Roll-Out —**  
November 12
- **Seattle RO/SA Meeting**  
tentatively planned the Week of November 11th.
- **Denver RO/SA Meeting—**  
November 19, 20 & 21
- **Nursing Home Open Door Call—**November 26, 6-7 pm

### December

- **Survey & Certification G-5 Meeting—**  
December 10-11; Baltimore, MD