

ACTION ALERT

To: MHHA Certified and Hospice Members
From: Harvey Zuckerberg, Executive Director
Re: Criminal Background Check Bills Signed by Governor
Date: March 29, 2006

The Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) late last week sent the attached letter to hospice and certified home health agencies, as well as certain other long term care providers, announcing implementation of the criminal background check law that goes into effect April 1, 2006 for all new hires. (Michigan does not license Private Duty home care agencies and so they are not covered under the Act.) With the letter is a brochure that outlines highlights of the background check process. You will also find another document which lists recent and future orientation sessions, several of which were co-sponsored and previously announced by MHHA.

The MDCH letter identifies a web-site of the Michigan Long Term Care Partnership (of which MHHA is a member) at www.miltcpartnership.org with a tutorial link to a draft background check user manual including detailed step-by-step instructions on how to use the web-based application to conduct background checks. A support services button is also provided to pursue additional questions, along with a Users Guide.

Today (March 29, 2006), the Department followed up with another letter to providers with an individual access code for each. However, if you are a multi-site organization, you will be able to create additional user codes for your sites, according to one of our state association partners, the Michigan Association of Homes & Services for the Aging (MAHSA). Providers which have not received their March 29, 2006 letter and need to make a hire may contact MDCH at 877/718-5547.