



# Communicator

## ASSISTED LIVING ASSOCIATION

### It Just Might be SPRING!!!

Despite the weird weather pattern this winter, it sure is looking a lot like spring.

One sure sign is the emergence of a little green in the lawn and the announcement of the ALAA Spring Conference Agenda!

Included in this edition you will find the complete Spring Conference Agenda BUT remember, the agenda and all program handouts will NOT be printed. So be sure to go to [www.alaaweb.org](http://www.alaaweb.org) and download your personal copy.

ALAA is experiencing terrific growth in membership—both Regular members and Associate Members.

Due to some shuffling of communities through acquisition and a spurt in new construction we are seeing more added units than in the past several years.

The expansion rule for SCALF allowing communities with high occupancy has steadily added beds.

In addition, nearly two hundred new SCALF beds have been authorized by the SHCC since last summer.

This trend is good news for our Association because all of the added units have joined us.

As we enter 2017, ALAA is stronger and better than ever. You can take pride in what we have accomplished together.



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## Progress!

**A**s you see from the front page, we are watching a growth trend not seen in several years.

Most of this new growth is in Specialty Care Assisted Living.

Just My Opinion

Frank Holden

While there are numerous new developments—particularly in Madison County—there has been significant uptick in new construction around the state.

One interesting new trend is the somewhat surprising number of applications to the Statewide Healthcare Coordinating Committee (SHCC) to modify the State Health Plan in four counties, allowing additional SCALF beds to be authorized.

Tuscaloosa, Mobile, Montgomery, and Madison counties have all been granted a plan adjustment to add memory care or dementia beds.

The State Health Plan sets the “bed need” at four beds per thousand population over the age of sixty-five in any county. These modifications authorize additional beds over that amount.

In order to adjust the need in a county, a provider or developer must go before the SHCC and present a case for the additional beds.

The SHCC then considers and votes to approve or not. When a adjustment is approved, the governor must sign the order.

Once that happens anyone may apply for those beds—not just the provider or developer who made the case.

One very obvious “take-away” from this is that the market is pushing dementia care.

Anyone who observes senior residential care markets nationally understands this phenomenon. Its not just in Alabama.

No doubt all of us are aware of the ageing of our residents. The national average age of ALF residents has advanced more than ten years in the last decade.

Our average resident is now more likely to be in her mid-eighties than her mid-seventies.

With this aging and increased medical issues and what we are learning generally about Alzheimer’s disease and dementia it is easy to see why the demand is growing for SCALF.

These recent plan adjustments by the SHCC and the fact that the applications were not challenged probably means that all providers are recognizing the need for more SCALF inventory.

## Educational and Operational Resources

**Available from ALAA Website or Order by Telephone/Fax**

**Policy and Procedure Manual:** Includes Resident Record, Employee Record, Employee Training Manual, and P&P. Plus many forms to help organize the information. \$240.00

**Annual/New Employee In-service Training Manual** \$100.00

**You remember ALAA is going GREEN, right?  
Don't forget to download the Spring Conference Agenda and hand-outs.  
We wont be printing them!!**

The Conference Agenda and all handouts will be available to download to your electronic devices or to print out on your own.

[www.alaaweb.org](http://www.alaaweb.org)

