

A SPECIAL PARTNERSHIP

[Provider Magazine](#) reported that a skilled nursing facility in Missouri, the Tri-County Care Center, has “participated in a work release program with the Missouri Department of Corrections (MDOC), Women’s Eastern Reception, and the Diagnostic and Correctional Center.” Penny Kampeter, the administrator of the facility, said that non-violent inmates have worked as certified nurse assistants for approximately 18 years.

The inmates must go through a complex process in order to work at the facility, this includes having previous work experience with jobs at the correctional center and a background check. Kampeter said that the program has been successful because residents have been receptive and the program helps the inmates with reentry to society.

MANAGEMENT OF MEDIA REPORTS

By CaraLee Starnes, CNA State Liaison

- A nursing home technician on probation for using a deceased patient's banking card was arrested again on suspicion that she stole the identity of another nursing home resident.
- When a family sought help in caring for an ailing family member, they did not expect him to become the next victim of a thief with a long criminal history.

Stories like these inundate headlines across the country sparking fear in the public and reflecting negatively on the long term care industry. We know, as health care professionals and representatives of government agencies, there is a great deal of good in the field of long term care; not to mention efforts by State agencies to balance laws to safeguard vulnerable populations while avoiding the unintended consequences. How do States turn the tables and use negative incidents to their advantage? No one answer works across the board, but there are several concepts that have proven successful by many States.

Be Proactive – Find the Loophole. Avoid being on the defensive by strengthening your offense. When the media report an incident of abuse, neglect, or exploitation of a long term care resident, research the event and consider the role of background screening. Did the person have a prior criminal history? Would a State and/or national fingerprint check have revealed more information about the abuser? Use negative headlines to strengthen or address loopholes in existing laws. If appropriate, highlight the issues in a response to the media to raise awareness. Keep a notebook of these events and prepare language or process changes. When the time comes and you are asked, you will be prepared to provide justification and proposed action.

Ask New Questions. Stories can uncover or highlight critical gaps. A recent article underlining abuse in nursing homes cited numerous incidents of abuse across the country. Upon further research it was found that several of the abusers did not have criminal records but did have multiple State abuse investigations. Reviewing the criminal history would not have prevented their employment; however, the knowledge of prior investigations could generate concern. Unfortunately, this information is not available in most States until after the case is substantiated. This prompts the question – where do you draw the line regarding the right of an individual to work versus the necessity to protect the safety and welfare of residents? Should multiple allegations of abuse raise a flag? Can States take action, or at least take notice, when there are multiple complaints?

This topic will be explored further during the next NBCP Quarterly Webinar on Thursday, May 25, 2017.

GRANTEE STATE HIGHLIGHTS

KENTUCKY

The Office of the Inspector General in the Cabinet for Health and Family Service has doubled the number of live scan fingerprint devices, from 35 to 70, for NBCP use through a CMP grant approved by CMS. This will allow the Kentucky Applicant Registry and Employment Screening (KARES) program to give applicants easier access to fingerprinting across the State.

NEVADA

Nevada continues to make progress in development of the Nevada Automated Background Check system (NABS), including creation of and implementation of State rap back. In addition, Nevada is incorporating child care licensing into NABS and hopes to have development completed by September 2017.



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The National Forum for Background Check Programs (the Forum) is collaborating with the Association of Health Facility Survey Agencies (AHFSA)

In February 2017, the Forum took steps to increase ties to AHFSA. The Forum and AHFSA are planning for a Forum-organized track on background screening to be added to the upcoming AHFSA Annual Training Conference. The conference will be held in Orlando, FL, on August 21-23, 2017. Travel reimbursement options are available. Please send an email to background-checkforum@gmail.com for more information.

Forum Webpage Adds Information

The following information is now available on the Forum page of [BGCheckInfo](#):

- Forum meeting slides and summary notes.
- State profiles of NBCP States (being added State-by-State)
- List of web and/or phone contacts for court records in all 50 States plus District of Columbia.

The Forum is developing an Incident Response Kit for current and graduated NBCP States. The kit will include suggestions on how to react and manage situations such as those mentioned in *Management of Media Reports*. The Incident Response Kit is still in development; however, the Forum is looking for NBCP States to provide feedback on the current work. If you are interested in spending a few minutes to give your thoughts about the Incident Response Kit, please send an email to backgroundcheckforum@gmail.com.

For more information about the NFBCP, please visit the [Forum's website](#).

QUARTERLY REPORT FILE TEMPLATE UPDATED

CNA has updated the NBCP Quarterly Report data file in three ways:

- We made revisions to the document text to reflect our current understanding of the data files. The updated text is a more accurate description of the program elements data file.
- We recently added three new data elements to the data file that help us clarify the results of rap back and re-fingerprinting. The updated template defines these data elements.
- We have also added some information to the file, including a new tab that provides instructions for how to generate the data file for States that use the TA-developed background check system.

Please note that the new template does not require States to take any action to change their reporting. States with a TA-developed background check system will automatically include the new program data elements in their report once the State has updated their system to the December 2016 build. The updated template is available on the NBCP [BGCheckInfo website](#). Additions and clarifications are marked with "[new]" or "[updated]" and highlighted in red.

COLORADO BACKGROUND CHECK PROPOSAL

[The Denver Post](#) reported that legislators are deliberating whether to propose a bill that would authorize fingerprint-based background checks for health-care professionals before they are licensed, bringing Colorado into the fold with many other States that already have this requirement. State Representative Janet Buckner is sponsoring the Colorado Department of Regulatory Agencies' proposed legislation.

The system suggested in the bill would also send "automatic alerts to State health-care licensing boards whenever a licensee is arrested. Those boards would have the power to revoke an existing license based on those alerts if a transgression is identified that's a revocable offense, such as rapes or violent felonies." This new system would impact as many as 160,000 health-care professionals, including those who apply for a new license to practice in the State.

QUARTERLY REPORTS DUE APRIL 28, 2017

Reports for the quarter ending March 31, 2017, are due by close of business on **April 28, 2017**. Please be sure to use the new Cost Report that includes your State's name. The report templates are available on the [NBCP BGCheckInfo website](#). Requests for extensions should be submitted to your CMS project officer at least **two weeks** before the due date.

Reminder!
Graduating States must submit a final Quarterly Report to complete the closeout process!

NBCP RESOURCES

The newly designed [BGCheckInfo Website](#) provides access to a comprehensive collection of original resource documents written specifically for existing and prospective NBCP States. These documents provide detailed information on a number of background check issues, including information on current standards of practice in the field of background checks. Please contact your CNA State Liaison if you have any questions about the new website or email stateliasion@cna.org.

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

- Association for Health Facility Survey Agencies Annual Conference, Orlando, FL, August 21 - 23, 2017

