

NEW GUARDIANSHIP LAW IN OHIO

[McKnight's Long-Term Care News](#) reported that a new law, House Bill 595, has been sponsored by State Representatives Robert Cupp and Jeff Rezabek, and signed into law on December 21, 2018 by outgoing Governor John Kasich. The new law protects people with guardians, but also "allows county probate courts to establish adult guardianship services boards and funds to provide for the oversight of services and care for those under guardianship."

The new law passed unanimously. AARP State Director Barbara A. Sykes remarked that, "when State courts work together on such cases, they could not only be more efficient and effective, but they could also potentially detect signs of abuse and exploitation earlier in the legal process."

HAWAII GRADUATION!

Hawaii graduated from the NBCP on Sunday, December 16, 2018. To assist with the grant closeout process, CNA and CMS made their final site visit from Tuesday, December 4, 2018, to Thursday, December 6, 2018. During the site visit, the Hawaii NBCP team met with local stakeholders such as the Hawaii Criminal Justice Data Center to discuss rap back planning and implementation.

The team also provided a demonstration of the background check system's Phase 2 functionality to provider users. The goal of the demonstration was to determine whether the system successfully met the providers' needs and what improvements or changes could be made in order to do so. CNA reviewed Hawaii's grant milestone achievements and closeout documentation. CNA looks forward to continuing to collaborate with Hawaii through the National Forum on Background Checks.



From Left: David Lum, Keith Ridley, Priscilla Thode, Matthew Hanabusa, Utey Uch, Nandita Ravishankar, Allison Wallace, Beth Haynes.

Not pictured: CaraLee Starnes

CMS NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

[McKnight's Long-Term Care News](#) reported that CMS, with the Quality Innovation Network National Coordinating Center, released a 60 page report, "[All Cause Harm Prevention in Nursing Homes](#)" in November 2018 to provide nursing homes with steps to prevent abuse and neglect. According to reports from the HHS Office of the Inspector General, "one-third of Medicare beneficiaries experienced temporary harm or adverse events during a SNF stay, and about 60% of those instances were preventable." The report includes a specific section on prevention of abuse, neglect, and misappropriation with recommendations for foundational topics, pre-admission practices, admission practices, ongoing care practices and monitoring, and other resources to consider.

The two-page [appendix](#) in the report includes six strategies that SNFs can use to prevent harm from occurring:

1. Shore up staffing.
2. Know the residents and their needs and areas of risk; plan care with them.
3. Prevent, identify, and address gaps in care.
4. Promote excellent multidisciplinary team work.
5. Provide tangible leadership engagement with staff and residents.
6. Ensure excellent, competent, available, continuous care onsite.



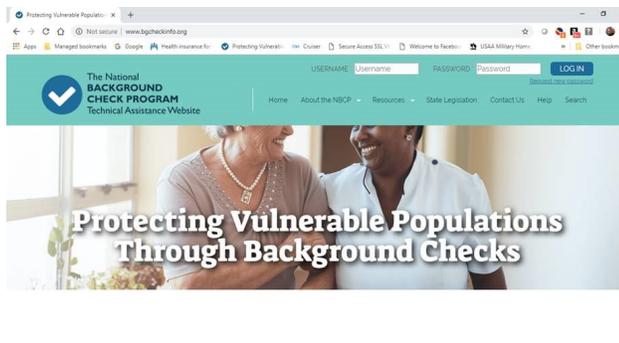
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The BGCheckInfo website has moved! The new URL is: <http://www.bgcheckinfo.org/>. Please update your bookmarks and start using the new site immediately. For active grantee States submitting quarterly report files, and graduated States submitting data files please use the new site for your submissions ending December 31, 2018. User names, passwords, content and functionality have not changed.

For technical assistance or questions, contact Jessica Oi, ojj@cna.org or your State Liaison.



Did you know? The NBCP is a resource library of tools and information available to both active and grantee States. For more information, email stateliasion@cna.org.

CONVERSATION NURSE MODEL

McKnight's [Long-Term Care News](#) reported that the use of the "Conversation Nurse" model, a program that trains nurses in conversational skills to discuss serious illnesses and care goals with patients. Care New England in Rhode Island developed this model, explaining in a [Health Affairs](#) blog that while physicians are critical in having conversations about care goals, "a multidisciplinary approach can provide more comprehensive and effective conversations."

Nurses enrolled in the "Conversation Nurse" model program meet with patients across the entire health care spectrum to discuss with patients about their understanding of their illness and what they want for their care should the illness progress. Care New England implemented this model and had the following outcomes:

1. Increased volume of palliative care consults in inpatient settings;
2. Increased documentation of advance directives in the home care agency population;
3. Decreased readmissions and increased hospice consults in skilled nursing facilities, and;
4. Broad training of Accountable Care Organization (ACO) inter-professional teams.

QUARTERLY REPORTS DUE JANUARY 31, 2019

Reports for the quarter ending December 31 2018, are due by close of business on **January 31, 2019**. 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 complete grant closeout in addition to final quarterly reports.

The Forum resumed calls in November 2018. Forum calls will now be held every other month. These calls are to help address emerging issues and questions faced by current, graduated, and non-grantee States. Forum calls will also include updates from CMS and CNA representatives. States are encouraged to submit discussion topics prior to the call to [Jane Lengel](#) or [Brenda Dreher](#).

As a reminder, States can submit questions to the group at any time through the Forum's group

email at backgroundchecks-forum@googlegroups.com. Planning for the 2019 NBCP Track at the Association of Health Facility Survey Agencies (AHFSA) has already started. Please send any ideas or suggestions for next year's sessions to [Melanie Madore](#) or [Meghan Shears](#).

Expansion of the National Nurse Aide Registry (NNAR) continues. Currently, information is being gathered from 14 individual nurse aide registries. If your State has questions about the NNAR or would like to participate, please email stateliasion@cna.org.

For more information on Forum activities and to join, please visit the [Forum's page](#) on the AHFSA website and email backgroundcheckforum@gmail.com.

UPCOMING AHFSA MEETINGS:

AHFSA Annual Conference,
August 4 - 7, 2019, New Orleans, LA



CMS and Office of Acquisition and Grants Management have a process that must be followed for closeout of the National Background Check Program grant. For more information, see the [NBCP Website](#).