

**CIS** *CIS Receives National Award for Innovative Long Term Care Facility Consulting Program.* CIS is receiving a prestigious national award for its innovative Quality Improvement Nurse Consultant program, which is aimed at enhancing the quality of life and care for residents of nursing homes and long term care facilities. The Association of Health Facility Survey Agencies (AHFSA) will present a Best Practice 2002 Award on Oct. 21 during its annual convention in Williamsburg, Virginia to the CIS Bureau of Health Systems Quality Improvement Nurse Consultant program. Receiving the award will be nurse consultants: Deborah Ayers of Detroit, Wendy Ehns of DeWitt, and Cynthia Irwin of Ann Arbor. The CIS Quality Improvement Nurse Consultation program, which was established in 2000, is a unique program among state agencies across the nation and is available free of charge and on a voluntary basis to all long term care facilities in Michigan. The Quality Improvement Nurse Consultants, all of whom possess a master's degree (M.S.N.) in nursing, provide consultation, education and program development guidance for long term care providers to assist them in creating an internal continuous quality improvement process to provide the highest level of care possible. AHFSA's Best Practice Program, now in its 5th year, gathers information from states about their approaches to issues and problems that are industry-wide concerns and selects a few unique, innovative and outstanding programs for public recognition of the progress being made today by state survey and certification agencies.

**CIS** *New "Bureau of Family Services" Name Reflects Reorganization in State's Improved Oversight of Child Care and Adult Foster Care Providers.* CIS Director Noelle Clark unveiled the new name for the Bureau of Regulatory Services and changes to the organizational structure and technology enhancements in the licensing and regulating of the state's child care and adult foster care providers. The bureau will be using the newest technology to run more efficiently and will be reorganized from program based (currently adult foster care/homes for the aged, child care and child welfare divisions) to a function based (licensing, consultation and training and investigation and disciplinary action division) structure. Routine paperwork and other time consuming tasks will be transferred to support staff so consultants, who are required to have a minimum education of a master's degree, can focus on helping providers and protecting the most vulnerable citizens by: inspecting facilities, providing consultation and training, and conducting investigations. The reorganization is particularly good news for parents with children in child care homes, which will be inspected more frequently and also the focus of a new mentoring program. "The reorganization will enable CIS to hire additional child care consultants so that regulatory staff will be in every family child care home at least once a year, which exceeds statutory requirements," CIS Director Noelle Clark said. "Since many of our more serious violations occur in family homes, we believe it is important to have a staff presence in the homes. And CIS is also partnering with Michigan Public Health Institute (MPHI) to develop a mentoring program for family day care homes, which we hope to expand to other facilities in the future." For more information, visit: [http://www.michigan.gov/cis/0,1607,7-154-10573\\_11472-52028—M\\_2002\\_9,00.html](http://www.michigan.gov/cis/0,1607,7-154-10573_11472-52028—M_2002_9,00.html).

**CIS** *CIS Presents Scholarships to Six More Colleges & Universities to Help Address National Nursing Shortage.* CIS is presenting \$26,400 to six more colleges and universities to provide scholarships for students in registered nurse programs. Each of the six colleges and universities are receiving \$4,400 nursing scholarship grants as part of a program initiated in 2000 by CIS to address a national shortage in the nursing profession. The Michigan Board of Nursing, a CIS board of health professionals and public members appointed by Governor John Engler, proposed a scholarship fund after it determined a need for nursing professionals based on state and national health data. Receiving the scholarships are: **West Shore Community College, Mott Community College, Kalamazoo Valley Community College, Monroe County Community College, Andrews University, and Lake Michigan College.**

**CIS** *OFIS Offers Consumer Information on Discount Health Plans.* The Michigan Office of Financial and Insurance Services (OFIS) released consumer information on discount health plans pointing out that these plans are not health insurance. A discount health plan requires consumers to pay the discount health plan company a certain amount of money each month or year. These plans are not considered health insurance in Michigan since they do not assume any risk nor do they pay for health care expenses. "Discount health plans have emerged as an attempt to meet the needs of individuals without health insurance or are underinsured for a variety of reasons," said OFIS Commissioner Frank M. Fitzgerald. "However, it is important to remember that discount health plans are not health insurance and should not be viewed as comprehensive coverage." An OFIS Insurance Counselor is available on discount health plans by calling OFIS (877-999-6442) or at: [http://www.michigan.gov/documents/cis\\_ofis\\_ip221\\_42313\\_7.pdf](http://www.michigan.gov/documents/cis_ofis_ip221_42313_7.pdf).

**CIS** *CIS Announces \$1 Million for Worker Protection Grants.* CIS has awarded 18 Consultation Education and Training (CET) Grants totaling \$1 million to promote workplace safety and health. Most of the grants will focus on the performance goals identified in the Michigan Occupational Safety and Health Act (MIOSHA) strategic plan, including: ergonomics training and back safety, construction safety, road builders safety, hearing conservation, hazard recognition and prevention, and training for healthcare and nursing home workers. Other grants include: workplace violence, Rapid Intervention Team training for firefighters, logging safety, safety and health training for new workers, and safe work practices for agricultural workers. CET grants are awarded on a competitive basis to management/employer groups, labor/employee organizations, and not-for-profit organizations, such as universities, hospitals and service agencies. FY 2003 grant recipients are: **Alpena Community College, Associated General Contractors, Bay de Noc Community College, Center for Workplace Violence Prevention, Eastern Michigan University, Great Lakes Training Center, Michigan Aggregates Association, Michigan AFL-CIO, Michigan Chiropractic Council, Michigan Farm Bureau, Michigan Health and Hospital Association, Michigan Road Builders Association, Michigan State University/Labor Program Service, North Central Michigan College, PASSES, Safety Council for West Michigan, Wayne State University, and Bay de Noc Community College (research project).**

**CIS** *CIS Awards \$25,000 Grant to Michigan State University to Reduce Energy Use in Residence Halls.* The CIS Energy Office has awarded a \$25,000 grant to Michigan State University to launch a Rebuild Michigan program. The university will focus on promoting energy efficiency in their residence halls, which house approximately 15,000 students and account for a significant portion of their annual energy consumption. The grant will be used to develop an energy action plan and to organize a coalition that will work toward achieving university energy goals. One goal of the project will be to identify behaviors and management practices, which may be contributing to energy waste, and to suggest alternatives to decrease energy usage. The university will also identify energy efficiency opportunities and install improvements that will yield the highest energy and cost savings. Information on Rebuild Michigan is also available on the CIS Energy Office website at <http://www.michigan.gov/energyoffice>, under the "Commercial and Institutional" section.

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