

## **OIG Brings NBC Programming to a Long Term Care Provider Near You**

Not your normal NBC programming with the *Today Show's* Matt Lauer or others! Instead, the OIG is bringing its own version of NBC programming to KY's Long Term Care Providers. As you may know, the Centers' for Medicare and Medicaid sponsored National Background Check (NBC) Program is currently being implemented in Kentucky. Kentucky's own comprehensive, fingerprint supported background check program will be called the Kentucky Applicant Registry and Employment Screening program, or the "KARES" program. Implementation of the KARES program remains in the preliminary design and development phase.

However, soon employers will be able to visit a one-stop-shop web based portal on the OIG-KARES website. Here, registered employers will be able to obtain information regarding background check program requirements, processes and procedures to follow when requesting background checks as part of the screening process, and information on how to register job applicants who have been cleared for employment and subsequently hired so that the Continuous Employment Assessment (CEA) process will be able to alert employers of any substantiated incidents of abuse or criminal convictions that occur after the employer has hired an applicant.

The KARES program's one-stop-shop portal will enable employers to:

1. Register for an account with the OIG.
2. Enter personal identifying information on each job applicant, such as Name, Date of Birth, Social Security Number, Professional License numbers, and more...
3. Submit the names of job applicants to an automated registry check system with one click of the mouse, and receive an electronic notice regarding whether the individual was found on an abuse registry or exclusion list, thereby making the individual ineligible to hire.
4. Receive an automated form with instructions on how applicants who are cleared through the registry check process should proceed so that the applicant's digital fingerprints can be collected for the purpose of a state and national fingerprint supported criminal records check. The automated form will further identify the time period in which applicants may be employed provisionally under direct supervision of facility staff pending completion of the individual's criminal records.
5. Receive a National criminal background check at no additional cost.\*
6. Upon completion of the national and state criminal records check, receive an automated letter via email or other web-enabled system in which the employer will be advised whether the job applicant has been cleared for employment or disqualified from employment in a long-term care setting based on the results of the criminal records check.
7. Register applicants who have submitted to a state and national background check and been hired so that the Continuous Employment Assessment will be effective.

Implementation of the KARES program is scheduled for July 2012 and is being spearheaded by Project Director Andrew Cline who spoke at the Long-Term Care Conference on Oct. 25, 2011. There he stated, "The NBC (newly named KARES) program's portal will be an easy to use tool for employers and job applicants, with results that allow for a safer and more secure health care environment for the Commonwealth's most vulnerable individuals".

*\*Currently, employers submit each applicant to in-state criminal background checks at either the expense of the employer or the applicant. This cost of the in-state criminal background check will remain the*

responsibility of the employer or applicant. However, additional fees and charges for the national, fingerprint supported criminal background check will not be applied while grant funding is available.

\*\*More information will be provided regarding Continuous Employment Assessments (CEA's) in the next edition of the Newsletter

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