

RIAFSA News Release



For: R. I. Association of Facilities & Services for the Aging (RIAFSA)
Contact: Arthur D. Norwalk, 401.421.4310
Release: January 25, 2011

RIAFSA becomes LeadingAge RI; reaffirms commitment to innovative support for the aging

Providence, RI – January 25, 2011 – RIAFSA, the Rhode Island Association of Facilities & Services for the Aging, is changing its name to LeadingAge RI, effective January 25, 2011. The action is in line with the name change of its national parent organization, from American Association of Homes & Services for the Aging, to LeadingAge.

“The new name grew out of an understanding at the national and local levels that creative leadership will be required to expand the world of possibilities for our rapidly growing population of aging citizens,” said James Nyberg, director of LeadingAge RI. “It enhances our distinctive voice in support of member organizations and the people they serve.

“We have a unique membership of providers across the long term care spectrum, with a commitment to advocating for the right policies for the right reasons. While our name is changing, our purpose of representing the interests of our members and those they serve through advocacy, education, and member services will not change.”

“Our diverse members from non-profit nursing homes, assisted living residences, senior housing providers, and adult day centers bring a unique perspective to the tasks of developing, evaluating and advocating new models of care and support,” said Cynthia Conant-Arp, president of LeadingAge RI and executive director of Hope Alzheimer’s Center in Cranston.

Noting that the name change arrived coincidentally with the inauguration of a new administration and General Assembly, Conant-Arp said “We will take the opportunity to reintroduce our organization to the state’s new and returning leadership and reaffirm our commitment to innovate and expand services and supports for people as they age.”

Along with the new name, LeadingAge RI is introducing a new logo designed to communicate “the intersection between the transformational spirit of our members and the warmth and heart of what they do.”

RIAFSA (now LeadingAge RI) was founded in 1989 and represents the continuum of long term care providers in Rhode Island, including not-for-profit nursing homes, assisted living residences, and senior housing providers, as well as adult day centers. Coupled with the new name is an enhanced mission of “*Expanding the World of Possibilities for Aging.*” As such, LeadingAge RI will continue its focus on advancing excellence in the field by fostering innovation, collaboration, and ethical leadership; advocating for sound public policy; providing education, collaboration, and professional development; valuing older people and their right to make choices; and promoting a continuum of services.