

OHIO HEALTH CARE ASSOCIATION ASSISTED LIVING BOARD

June 17, 2024 Zoom Meeting

MINUTES

Chair Amy Francis called the meeting to order. The grid at the end of these minutes' shows attendance.

The Chair noted the OHCA Antitrust Compliance, Conflict of Interest, and Confidentiality Policies. The previous meeting minutes were approved.

Erin Hart discussed changes to the memory care certification rule in Ohio, which included the addition of critical access components. Despite the change in language, the department of aging's interpretation remained the same, and they would not retract previously certified units. Erin also shared the revised language for the critical access rate, which would now be defined as 50% of total occupancy, not 50% of beds. However, she expressed concerns about a subsequent report requiring daily data submission, which was not well received. Erin also clarified to Amy that memory care residents count towards occupancy percentage, but do not qualify for the critical access rate. Amy indicated she may apply for critical access for two buildings.

Ms. Hart discussed the upcoming changes to the billing system for traditional Medicaid residents and the need for area agency on aging to update service plans with all tiers before sending claims. Erin expressed concern over the lack of communication from the Ohio Department of Aging regarding critical access and the handling of claims by Buckeye and Memory Care. The meeting also touched on budget priorities for the next year, including a systematic review of rate setting, sustaining programs, increasing the personal needs allowance, and focusing on the workforce through a reimbursement mechanism for micro and standardized certifications. Erin mentioned she has been working on a budget proposal based on the tech credit program for manufacturing.

Ms. Hart discussed plans to refine and establish a credential reimbursement program through the State to upskill the workforce. The program, named 'Silver Skills,' was approved by the parent board and will be implemented soon. Erin also addressed requests for letters of support from various healthcare plans, stating that they had decided to support Molina due to their existing collaborative relationship. Furthermore, Erin outlined the organization's priorities for the new integrated care delivery system, including maintaining Medicaid and Medicare for beneficiaries opting out of traditional Medicare. The team also reviewed a 5-year rule related to a jurisdiction ending date.

Mandy Smith discussed updates regarding 3701-16's public hearing and anticipated changes expected to go live in a few weeks. She noted a minor change allowing the shared use of an infection preventionist for co-located and co-owned skilled nursing facilities and assisted living facilities. Mandy also highlighted the request for a crosswalk of R tags to the Ohio Administrative Code, emphasizing their importance for updating the survey manual. Lastly, she reported an increase in real and present dangers in assisted living, promising to review and summarize the data once received, and inviting board members to review the reports before they are sent out to the membership.

Ms. Smith raised concerns about the increasing fines and health deficiencies in residential care facilities in Ohio, urging for more regular data from the Ohio Department of Health. Julie Simpkins then joined the discussion, providing updates on the growth of the assisted living sector in the nation, and the corresponding increase in membership dues and sponsorships. She also shared her disappointment about the freeze on healthcare visas as part of the Healthcare Workforce Resilience Act. Ms. Simpkins invited interest in a partnership with providers to promote the long-term care data cooperative for assisted living and discussed the NCAL Award programs and the recap of the Capitol Hill visit.

Ms. Hart provided updates on House Bill 120, the Never Alone Act, and Senate Bills 144 and 28, discussing their implications for resident representatives and the medication Aid program. Lastly, Ms. Smith discussed the reclassification of marijuana and the need for clear policies regarding its use in assisted living facilities.

Ms. Smith announced plans for an upcoming assisted living summit, highlighting the need for high attendance and the need for board-approved topic ideas. Ms. Francis emphasized the importance of the event and encouraged everyone to attend, referring to the positive feedback from last year's event. The team also discussed the recent convention, with positive feedback on sessions and speakers. The summit was rescheduled from July to September (September 10, 2024), and efforts are underway to ensure a beneficial event for attendees.

Ms. Smith introduced a new on-demand certification program for activity professionals, offered at a discounted rate for association members. She also highlighted an ongoing issue with the nursing practice act and the expectation that assisted living facilities should provide CPR, despite the act not mandating it. Gwynn Ryder mentioned a pending administrative review and potential plan of correction with ODH. The next meeting was set for August 19, with a possible earlier date if NCAL could provide a demonstration of the LTC Data Cooperative at a July 15 meeting.

The meeting was adjourned.

Attendance:

First Name	Last Name	10/28/22	2/22/23	4/15/24	6/17/24
Brent	Classen	P	P	P	P
Amy	Francis	P	P	P	P
Charlotte	Kister	P			
Jody	Linton				P
Matt	Pool	P	P	P	
Gwynn	Ryder				P
Danielle	Russo	P	P	P	P
Julie	Simpkins			P	P
Erin	Hart		P	P	P
Mandy	Smith	P	P	P	P
Pete	Van Runkle	P	P	P	