

**OHIO HEALTH CARE ASSOCIATION
ASSISTED LIVING BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MEETING MINUTES**

August 18, 2025, 3:00 p.m.

Assisted Living Board Chair Danielle Russo called the meeting to order and welcomed board members to the meeting. She pointed to the combined antitrust, compliance and confidentiality policies included in the resources for the meeting in the online folder. Board members Julie Simpkins and Charlotte Kister approved the June meeting minutes. Attendance can be found at the bottom of this document.

Diane Dietz first discuss the leadership transition plan following Pete Van Runkle's resignation as executive director after more than 30 years of service, though he would continue as a consultant. She requested feedback through a survey about news and information services.

Erin Hart discussed the upcoming changes to the association's communication and membership management systems, including a new Association Management Software (AMS) and a targeted communications platform. The new AMS will be implemented in January with a soft rollout and a hard rollout in early February, featuring a member portal with education credits and self-service invoice payment options. She also mentioned the development of a new communications platform to improve targeted messaging to members, with educational bulletins and newsletters being moved to this platform in the coming month.

Debbie Jenkins discussed the final state budget outcomes, focusing on key points including maintained assisted living rate increases from House Bill 33, funded through a hospital provider tax, and the implementation of the next Gen MyCare Ohio Program. She also discussed the elimination of the Joint Medicaid Oversight Committee and potential audits of Medicaid recipients' resources. Julie Simpkins expressed concern about the personal needs allowance, which was not included in the budget bill but may be increased through rules. OHCA staff explained the challenges of funding this change and ensuring parity between assisted living and long-term care residents. Ms Hart added that OHCA is currently working on scheduling some time with ODA to discuss how to ensure the PNA does not reduce the room and board revenue for AL providers ahead of the projected January 1 implementation date.

Tammy Cassidy provided updates on the 2025-26 satisfaction surveys, noting that resident surveys are scheduled to begin this month with family surveys following next month, expected to conclude by April 2026. She mentioned that while providers received notifications, no immediate actions had been reported. Gwynn Ryder confirmed her facility was scheduled for this month with a one-month notice period. Ms. Cassidy also reported that the main survey issue was a slowdown due to Ohio Department of Health's conversion to a new iQIES system, affecting their survey process efficiency.

Ms. Cassidy then discussed the finalization of medication aid rule changes, including expanded insulin administration capabilities and reduced training hours, which she attributed to the efforts of the OHCA team. Charlotte Kister mentioned the need for advertising Certified Medication Aide (CMA) positions

due to a lack of interest, and Ms. Cassidy agreed that CMAs could provide much-needed relief in staffing challenges.

Erin Hart then discussed the confusion surrounding the critical access rate attestation tool process, noting that the deadline was extended and applications were no longer being accepted despite initial communication suggesting otherwise. She clarified that only new critical access rate providers can apply after the initial deadline period lapses, and existing providers who did not reapply will lose billing privileges. She also addressed issues with Medicaid disenrolling Ohio residents from MyCare and placing them in fee-for-service Medicaid, which has been corrected but still requires re-enrollment. She advised providers to verify residents' Medicaid status and reauthorize services as needed.

Ms. Hart then discussed the creation of new resources for families regarding MyCare Ohio, including a family planning guide and open enrollment information. She asked for board feedback on these resources.

Debbie Jenkins provided an update on the One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBBA), highlighting potential impacts on Medicaid funding due to reduced hospital provider tax rates and changes to waiver programs. She also mentioned new requirements for retroactive Medicaid coverage and eligibility renewals. Gwynn Ryder reminded the group about the requirement to display certain information on their websites regarding licensing and MyCare plan enrollment.

The group discussed the feasibility of holding an assisted living summit, noting that previous events struggled with attendance, even when coinciding with National Assisted Living Week. Kathy Chapman suggested exploring alternative dates and locations, particularly considering the high concentration of assisted living members in Youngstown and Cincinnati. The team agreed to run a query to determine the geographic distribution of members and consider holding the summit in November in northeast Ohio, potentially avoiding conflicts with other conferences. They also discussed the need to account for financial aspects, including speaker costs and potential losses, before making a final decision.

The meeting covered several topics, including the 2026 Quality Award kickoff, where Tammy Cassidy encouraged increased participation from RCF facilities. Erin Hart discussed the NACAP Grant application for SNF and RCF, seeking letters of support from organizations to prioritize funding for caregiver certifications. She also announced plans for National Assisted Living Week (September 7-13) and requested facility visits for photo opportunities with staff and residents.

Next meeting: October 20, 2025, 3:00 p.m. Zoom

Attendance:

Tammy Cassidy
Diane Dietz
Erin Hart
Debbie Jenkins
Charlotte Kister
Danielle Russo
Gwynn Ryder
Kyle Schmidlapp

Julie Simpkins