

# **OHIO HEALTH CARE ASSOCIATION HOME CARE AND HOSPICE BOARD MEETING**

**March 11, 2025, 10:00 a.m.  
Zoom Conference Call**

## **MEETING MINUTES**

In the absence of the board chair, Heidi McCoy opened the meeting and welcomed committee members. She pointed to the antitrust, conflict of interest and confidentiality policies located in the online folder. Due to not having a quorum, the last board meetings' minutes could not be approved and will be completed at the May board meeting.

Heidi introduced Victoria Barkin, a new member to the board for home care and hospice, who shared her background in nursing home administration and senior living, and her recent transition to home health. The conversation ended with the intention to formally approve Victoria's board membership at the upcoming May meeting.

### **State and Federal Budget Updates**

Debbie provides updates on both state and federal budgets. At the state level, the Governor's budget did not include rate increases for home care services but maintained current rates. The organization is advocating for modest increases and a process for regular rate reviews. They are also seeking to increase hospice reimbursement for room and board in certain facilities. The state budget process is ongoing, with the House currently holding hearings and amendments due soon. At the federal level, there are concerns about potential Medicaid cuts in the budget reconciliation process. The House and Senate have different budget resolutions, with the House version proposing significant mandatory spending cuts, including in Medicaid. The organization is actively advocating both at the state and federal levels to address these issues.

### **Hospice Billing Issues and EMR Challenges**

Debbie and Heidi discussed the ongoing billing issues with Hospice room and board claims. Erin provided updates, stating that three payers, CareSource, Aetna, and Medicaid Fee for Service, are processing and paying the private room add-on for these claims. However, the main issue is that Electronic Medical Record (EMR) systems are not yet configured to create these claims. A workaround involves manually entering claims into payer portals. Erin also mentioned that MatrixCare has their system ready to bill out room and board claims, but other EMRs like WellSky and Console are experiencing issues. The team is working with the work group to resolve these issues.

### **Ohio EVV Matching System Concerns**

Debbie expressed concerns about the State of Ohio's new matching system for EVV records in claims, which started on March 1st. She requested data on the percentage of claims that would be denied due to this system, but the Department of Medicaid couldn't provide it. Debbie suggested that providers check their remits to see which claims would have been denied and which would have passed. She also mentioned that the Department of Medicaid is restarting its EVV stakeholder work group, which could provide opportunities for feedback. Debbie encouraged providers to reach out to her or Erin if they encounter issues with EVV.

### **Hospice Special Focus Program Paused**

Heidi announced that the Hospice Special Focus program has been paused indefinitely by CMS, with no timeline for resumption. She also mentioned that Ohio had no agencies on the program list. Additionally, Heidi discussed the introduction of House Bill 1720, which aims to extend the face-to-face recertification flexibility for hospice agencies via telehealth until December 31, 2027. The bill also proposes a modifier to collect data on telehealth recertifications starting January 1, 2023.

### **Annual Convention Registration Opens**

Heidi announced the opening of conference registration for the annual convention, scheduled for May 5th to 8th at the Greater Columbus Convention Center. The convention will include a specific home care and hospice day on Wednesday, May 7th, with speakers and a luncheon. The board meeting will start at 1230, and Heidi will communicate the locations during the convention in April. She also reminded everyone that scholarship applications are due this Friday, with 79 scholarships worth over \$280,000 to be awarded.

Attendees:

Staff: Heidi McCoy, Erin Hart, Debbie Jenkins

Board Members: Victoria Barkin, Laura Dales, Gina Covelli