

OHIO HEALTH CARE ASSOCIATION HOME CARE AND HOSPICE BOARD

**July 8th, 2020, 1:00 p.m.
Conference Call**

MINUTES

Participants verbally confirmed attendance on the call, and the results are in a table at the end of this document.

David Walsh, Chair, opened the meeting with a brief introduction and welcome to our meeting. The OHCA antitrust compliance, conflict of interest and confidentiality policies were indicated as in the board folder and members acknowledged policies. Mark Knepper made a motion to accept, Bryan Casey gave second affirmation of acceptance. The board approved the meeting minutes from the June 1st, 2020 board call, where the OHCA home care and hospice board selected David Walsh as Chair, and Genevieve Stelzer as vice-chair.

David Walsh turned the meeting over to Erin Begin to review the board meeting frequency suggestion of quarterly occurrences, with the next meeting to occur on October 21st, 2020 at 1:00 p.m. and quarterly thereafter on the third Wednesday of the month at 1:00 p.m. Pete Van Runkle stated that other meetings could be scheduled outside of that frequency should the need arise. All board members agreed to the frequency established.

Next Erin Begin requested a discussion, led by David Walsh, of a possible home care and hospice member survey to gauge the pulse of the priorities for our members. Genevieve Stelzer suggested that we request feedback and suggestions on educational offerings. Mark Knepper suggested we showcase connections with other long term care providers, and thanked OHCA for the integration of hospice and home care members with the SNF and ALV membership. David Walsh also provided feedback that he appreciated the in depth knowledge of the SNF and ALV industry as it related to providing care in those environments. Pete Van Runkle thanked them for their feedback. It was also suggested that we include a question relating to the benefits current members get from OHCA membership and why they are a part of our association. The board agreed that a member survey was a good idea. Erin Begin stated that the next steps would be to generate a list of specific, yet brief, questions based on their suggestions and direction for their review and approval.

Erin Begin then discussed the activities of membership recruitment in the last 6 months, and plans for future recruitment during the pandemic. The board reviewed the membership report and make up of current home care and hospice members. Ms. Begin explained the plan with the convention to recruit and attract new members, and past success establishing new members at in person programming. Since all in person programming was cancelled due to the pandemic, OHCA decided to send our weekly news bites for home care and hospice agencies to

all agencies in the state of Ohio for the duration of the public health emergency as a way to assist the industry and bring awareness of the benefits of our association. She then explained that the final complimentary newsletter would be issued on July 25th, 2020 along with a letter detailing membership benefits and application. Ms. Begin also described issues with SNF/ALF OHCA members becoming home care and hospice members as well, as they are already able to take advantage of many of the benefits. Future educational programming is planned to further expose home care and hospice providers to OHCA, including the Palmetto GBA Hospice Billing Workshop in August.

David Walsh introduced the next topic of the bi-weekly COVID calls, which Ms. Begin reported had experience a stark decline in attendance and requested feedback on the frequency of the member update calls. The board felt that there were already many avenues which OHCA disseminated information, and recommended calls occur on the monthly Hot Topics schedule. Erin Begin would execute this change in scheduling and communicate to the membership.

David Walsh introduced the key issue updates, with Pete Van Runkle providing a detailed update on state COVID funding relief. He explained that the controlling board must approve the funds and is discussing concerns with the large provider funding request that OHCA made for multiple providers and that we are hopeful that it will be placed on the agenda in the near future. The funds are distributed as a grant, instead of as a Medicaid rate adjustment or payment, and would consist of 14%-17% of Medicaid revenues over a 3 month period if it follows the proposal submitted by OHCA. He noted that there is not a guarantee that it will mirror our proposal. Mr. Van Runkle then gave an update on the liability legislation delays, and the status of the legislation. He stated that many providers and stakeholders are interested in the passage of this legislation so we are guardedly optimistic that a version of the bill will pass. He also noted that it was very important to our providers that the bill include an emergency clause so that it was effective immediately.

Ms. Begin gave a brief update on current policy issues she was following or promoting. She stated that the home health final rule did not include reimbursement mechanisms for telehealth or a reversal of the behavioral adjustment, and cited extreme revenue reductions resultant from the pandemic. She informed the board that NAHC was working on comments on this rule disputing the proposed payment rates for this reason. She also discussed the Review Choice Demonstration waiver timeline, and stated that Palmetto GBA would give ample notice on resumption of this program. Ms. Begin then stated she was working to schedule time with Home Health Policy and other ODM policy directors to discuss the extension of telehealth benefits through ODM, as well as the current home health and private duty rule review process. Ms. Begin noted that Julie Evers, Home Health Policy Director, was very busy with leading the Regional Zone planning. Ms. Begin also stated that she currently has a meeting scheduled with ODM Managed Care Policy Team on July 17, 2020 to discuss hospice room and board payment issues as well as ongoing conversations for home health, including aligning the state requirements with federal regulations for timely starts of care.

Ms. Begin then moved the conversation to David Walsh who requested input on the public policy committee meeting this week. Pete Van Runkle described issues discussed by that committee as legislative and reimbursement related in nature. Mark Knepper suggested further conversations about telehealth reimbursement and also asked if this would be an appropriate venue to discuss continued issues with facility access. Pete Van Runkle stated that he and Ms. Begin would have some follow up conversations on how to best approach that issue and education with our SNF and ALV providers.

Next, Ms. Begin reviewed the educational programming plan, and requested that Cindy Lee give an update on the status of the rescheduling of convention sessions. She stated that she has reached out to 8-10 of the speakers but has made no confirmations to date. She did state that there are several upcoming programs scheduled through Health PRO heritage for home health, along with the Palmetto GBA billing session for hospice and OHCA fundamentals of home care.

David Walsh asked if there was any other business. After hearing none, the meeting was adjourned.

First Name	Last Name	Company/Agency	7/8/2020
Erin	Begin	OHCA Staff	X
Bryan	Casey	Buckeye Hospice and Palliative Care	X
Mark	Knepper	VITAS Healthcare	X
Cindy	Lee	OHCA Staff	X
Mike	McConnell	Absolute Home Health and Hospice	X
Eric	Talbert	Heartland Home Health and Hospice	X
Genevieve	Stelzer	Heritage Home Care	X
David	Walsh	Hospice of Southwest Ohio/ Carebridge	X
Pete	Van Runkle	OHCA Staff	X