**OHIO HEALTH CARE ASSOCIATION**

**HOME CARE AND HOSPICE COMMITTEE**

**June 29, 2021, 1:00 p.m.**

**Conference Call**

 **MINUTES**

Erin Begin opened up the call welcoming the attendees to the meeting. She indicated that the anti-trust and confidentiality policies were located in the online folder supplied to the group, as well as the minutes to the previous meeting. Attendees are recording in a chart at the end of this document.

Ms Begin then pointed to the finalized home care and hospice brochure in the committee meeting folder and thanked committee members for their suggestions. OHCA added sessions on clinical applications of telehealth and financial analysis of PDGM, per their request. She also announced the final decision for OHCA to host networking Hives at Convention for our specific membership category groups. Ms Begin requested suggestions be submitted for any meeting opportunities with specific speakers or vendors as well.

Ms Begin briefly mentioned both the finalized Ohio Budget, which added 4% to aging waiver services in year one and 2% in year two, as well as the home health licensing requirements; stating that OHCA would hold a webinar on what to expect from the new requirements in the next two weeks. She also stated that more information would be coming out on the Home Health Proposed Rule for 2022 that was released last night, with major changes to the HHVBP expanding nationwide in calendar year 2022.

Ms Begin then invited Catie Bryan of BellaCare Hospice to share her recent experience with an Ohio Department of Health survey following reopening post-COVID19 pandemic. Ms. Bryan shared that their survey window was open from October 2020 to May 2021, so they were not expecting survey due to the reported backlog of surveys. BellaCare hospice has one provider number with 4 branches under a parent organization, and the surveyors focused on the parent/child branch relationship and documentation requirements. They had a total of 3 surveyors over the course of 3 days, and the surveyors completed 5 site visits at 4 different branch locations. During these visits, the surveyors observed the 4 main disciplines (SW, RN, Aide, Chaplain) which focused on quality and specific skill sets. Surveyors were monitoring COVID infection prevention control, as well as adherence of health care personnel mask wearing. They also verified communication protocols for changes in COVID-19 guidance and regulations, as well as COVID-19 pre-screening requirement compliance. They also showed a focus on Respite stays, DME and a large focus on Human Resources regulations and personnel requirements. They also focused on past records of drug diversions and bereavement risk assessments. They performed 25 chart audits total. All charts were checked for living will, power of attorney and guardian paperwork.

Ms Begin then moved on to the Amercian Rescue Plan Act supporting data needs. OHCA is advocating for a portion of the State and Local dollars, which are finite and contested, for both home health and hospice; in addition to the home and community based services. Our ask requires data justification. Ms. Begin requested feedback on experienced losses in both the hospice and home health sectors in order to formulate questions for a member survey. Kim Tilley of StayWell Home Health reported staffing issues with home health aides driving up hourly reimbursement rates to attract staff. They also experienced increases in direct costs related to PPE and other COVID related supplies, which will likely increase with the new OSHA regulations. They have simultaneously experienced a loss in referrals due to decline in SNF census. David Walsh of Hospice of Southwest Ohio echoed the issue with referrals, citing an estimated drop in referral volume of about 33% since January 2021.

Ms Begin then invited home care and hospice committee members to participate in the new OHCA workforce committee, and mentioned a grant OHCA was researching for a mentoring program of aides, including home health and hospice aides, piloted by the New York Health Care Association. NYHCA experienced a reduction in turnover of over 70% for agency providers participating in mentorship for the home health aide position, compared to those which did not participate. OHCA is researching grant opportunities to present to the committee.

Ms. Begin then moved to the OSHA Emergency Temporary Standard (ETS) for COVID-19, stating that the regulation implementation date was July 21, and OHCA was in frequent communication with the Ohio field office to coordinate training for our institutional and community based provider types. We will hold a webinar for our members as soon as possible, the OSHA field offices are experiencing delays in receiving instructions on the new regulatory requirements.

Ms Begin then moved to the requested topics from committee members, discussing the Hospice Value Based Insurance Design Model. Hospice VBID is set for expansion in CY2022, applications from Medicare advantage organizations are currently being reviewed. The new health plans will be announced in September 2021. Currently, there is only Humana Health Plan in 5 counties in Northeast Ohio. As with other demonstration models, it is likely that this will expand following the report for demonstration year 3, as we just experienced with the home health value based purchasing model. Jennifer Carlin of Continuum Care Hospice shared that they had a Humana VBID carve in patient and Humana called to inform them of this as well as execute authorization. The claims were, however, denied. She stated she would provide an update.

Ms. Begin as for any additional business. Hearing none, she thanked Committee members for their time and accepted a motion to adjourn the meeting.

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| **First Name** | **Last Name** | **Company/Facility** | **6/29/21** |
| Erin | Begin | OHCA Staff | X |
| Laura | Barbetta | Staywell Home Health | X |
| Kelly | Bobeczko | HW&Co | X |
| Lisa | Bracy | Legacy Hospice | X |
| Catie | Bryan | BellaCare Hospice | X |
| Jennifer | Carlin | Continuum Hospice | X |
| Deborah | Collum | Richter Healthcare Consultants | X |
| Britteny | Creel | Plante Moran | X |
| Brenna | Davis | Christian House Home Health | X |
| Brenna | Koback | EncompassCare | X |
| Lori | Revis | Hospice of Southwest Ohio | X |
| Genevieve | Stelzer | Heritageg Home Care | X |
| Gail | Stokes | Ohio's Hospice | X |
| Kim | Tilley | Staywell Home Health | X |
| David | Walsh | Hospice of Southwest Ohio | X |