

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

**March 17, 2021, 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, OHCA Home Care and Hospice Board 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.

The meeting started with a review of the OHCA Home Care and Hospice Membership report. A home health and hospice membership were both approved for National Church Residences in January. In March, Shriver's Hospice and Legacy Hospice will both be approved. No home care and hospice members were terminated in the last two months.

Mr. Walsh requested an update on our strategic membership plan for recruitment. Pete Van Runkle discussed a pending communication to OHCA SNF/AL members who also have home health and hospice that have not yet joined OHCA and stated that we would not implement the "all or none" policy at this time. There is no current update on that request at this time, and OHCA staff acknowledged that it should be addressed in the near future.

Erin Begin discussed House Bill 179 on home health and personal care services licensure, starting with page 82 on section 3722.02. In summary, the legislation requires a license to perform skilled and non medical homecare. All license applications have a \$250 application fee and are recertified every 3 years by the Ohio Department of Health. The requirements for deemed Medicare home health providers differ. Skilled home health agencies do not have to have a separate non medical license. This proposed legislation also includes DD waiver provider licensure. Bryan Casey voiced support for placing regulations for home care services, and that there are benefits to having a higher level standard to quality of care. Genevieve Stelzer agreed. Ms. Begin voiced concern over personal care service licensure possibly inhibiting access further to waiver services. Mr. Casey disagreed stating that the reimbursement was the issue and should not be impacted by licensure. Ms. Stelzer asked what the position of the Ohio Council for Home Care and Hospice was. Ms. Begin stated that they seem to have been involved with the development of this legislation along with the Ohio Department of Aging, and reminded the board that their board consists of very large service providers, which would benefit from small agencies closing. The board came to a consensus that they support licensure of skilled home health services, but not of non-medical home care. Ms. Begin stated she would share the sponsor testimony after session tomorrow and advise on next steps.

Pete Van Runkle then reviewed the status of the Ohio budget process. OHCA's proposal a 5% rate increase to both Ohio State Plan Medicaid Home Health and PASSPORT/OHCW services over the biennium, was supported by a loose coalition of provider groups. The language requests a cadence of

increases across budget years by requiring the Ohio Department of Medicaid to review provider rates annually. The process is currently paused as the legislature will begin a 2 week break.

Mr. Van Runkle then discussed House Bill 120 on compassionate care, which was reintroduced from house bill 770. Mr. Van Runkle again explained that HB 770 did not create an action for hospice access to facilities above and beyond the Director's Order on Nursing Home Visitation or the CMS QSO-20-39 on Nursing Home Visitation, which outlines that hospice personnel are essential caregivers and should be permitted access; however it did provide additional support for assisted living facility access. OHCA worked with sponsors to ensure that the language matches current guidance and regulations and has supported testimony in support of this bill. The bill will come up for a vote in the house tomorrow, at which time OHCA would provide and update. Mark Knepper stated he is optimistic that they will continue with the legislation, in light of easing restrictions, as they have in other states for preventative purposes.

Ms. Begin then discussed house bill 122 on telehealth. There is some general concern about the requirement for long term care facilities, including hospice, to provide video conferencing visitation for their residents should another public health emergency be declared restricting visitation. Ms. Begin expressed concern for Wi-Fi access and funding for electronic devices. Mr. Walsh agreed. Ms. Begin also discussed that nursing and home health/hospice providers were largely excluded from the bill. A provision allows Ohio Department of Medicaid to add other providers. Ms. Stelzer stated that she felt it was important for home health and hospice to be included. The board discussed current national telehealth initiatives final rule development. Mr. Van Runkle stated that he needed to see if this legislation had potential for going anywhere and if we could exert political capital on our requests, but that we would consider making amendments.

Ms. Begin then requested an update from board members on mass claim holds impacting home health reimbursement. They affirmed that the issue appears to be resolved. She then requested information on provider vaccination, citing the local health department directive to vaccinate phase 1 A providers and the NAHC initiative to pair home health agencies with Kroger Pharmacies. Eric Talbert stated that their agencies are entering a pilot of providing home vaccinations, and would let the group know how it goes. Ms. Begin stated OHCA would continue to work on developing educational materials surrounding education of homebound clients. Mr. Walsh stated that his local Area Agency on Aging provided homebound Ohioans vaccinations as well.

Kathy Chapman discussed the new partnership with the Hospice and Palliative Nurse Association, where OHCA members will receive a 20% discount on all certification programs. Ms. Begin then discussed the CHAP affinity agreement in development which would give members 50% accreditation application fees, as well. Ms. Chapman and Ms. Begin then solicited the board for feedback on the OHCA Annual Conference and Trade Show topics and sessions. Mr. Walsh stated that he would put forth his Palliative Care 101 course, and Mark Knepper stated that he would put forth a facility targeted hospice education course as well as pandemic bereavement.

Lastly, Ms. Begin discussed the request for a home care and hospice committee, which has resurfaced recently. The board was in consensus that we should start this back up to allow for greater engagement of members and their staff in OHCA activities. Ms. Begin stated she would begin soliciting participation as soon as possible.

David Walsh asked if there was any other business. After hearing none, the meeting was adjourned. The next meeting will take place on May 19<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 pm via conference call.

<b>First Name</b>	<b>Last Name</b>	<b>Company/Agency</b>	<b>3/17/2021</b>
Erin	Begin	OHCA Staff	X
Bryan	Casey	Buckeye Hospice and Palliative Care	X
Mark	Knepper	VITAS Healthcare	X
Kathy	Chapman	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
Bill	Levering	TLC Home Health Care	
David	Walsh	Hospice of Southwest Ohio/ Carebridge	X
Pete	Van Runkle	OHCA Staff	X