

OHIO HEALTH CARE ASSOCIATION HOME CARE AND HOSPICE BOARD

**March 16, 2022, 1:00 p.m.
Conference Call**

MINUTES

Erin Hart 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. Ms. Hart pointed to the items in the consent agenda, including the previous board call minutes and home care and hospice committee minutes, and requested a motion to approve. Mark Knepper made a motion to approve, and Gen Stelzer provided a second. Participant attendance is confirmed through zoom, and the results are in a table at the end of this document.

The meeting started with a review of the OHCA Home Care and Hospice Membership report. Since our last meeting, 5 agency members have been approved; Loving Care Home Health, Companions of Ashland, Lifetime Home Health Care, Nurse Medical Home Healthcare and Americare Home Health Agency. Two individual provider members terminated membership. Ms. Hart then gave an update on the all-or-non policy, where members of other categories who owned home health and hospice also had to include them in membership. The OHCA Board decided to table this decision until 2023. Ms. Hart advised board members that BellCare Hospice was at risk, as they were owned by Foundations, an Academy member.

Ms. Hart invited Pete Van Runkle to discuss the first item on the Advocacy agenda, House Bill 169 Pandemic Relief payments. The Appendix K waivers for HCBS Waiver services were approved and payments should be going out to home care waiver providers presently. Mr. Levering confirmed he has not yet received his. The DD payments were issued only days after approval, which is now several weeks ago. Just this morning, OHCA received notification that the SPA was approved for the Hospice, ICF and SNF provider payments. It may take several weeks for payment. OHCA is not clear whether the SPA omitted the hospice amounts for NF room and board, but we would review and report this evening. The second SPA, which includes home health payments is still pending approval.

Mr. Van Runkle then discussed the House Bill 466 legislation on staffing agencies. This is a regulatory bill which would require staffing agencies to register with the state of Ohio, effectively requiring licensing, and cap fees. It is highly controversial. So far, there have been three hearings, one of which featuring opponent testimony from the staffing agencies as well as the Nursing Association. There will be another hearing next week. They may take amendments and possibly put the bill to a vote.

Ms. Hart then gave an update on Workforce Committee activities. She advised that the STNA draft rules, which relaxed regulations for STNA passing and education delivery to increase the STNA pool in Ohio, is still awaiting a meeting with ODH. This has been delayed due to ODH employee involvement in the COVID task force. The LPN rules were discussed with the Board of Nursing in early March. We discussed other state initiatives to create flexibility for nurse faculty of LPN programs with the board, in an effort to assist Career Technical Education centers in offering more high school LPN programs. The BON was not receptive to our suggestions. OHCA SNF Operator Steve Boymel is working to gather legislative support for our proposed changes. Ms. Hart also pointed to information in the board folder on new grant opportunities for apprenticeship through the state of Ohio and federal government. Bill Levering noted that the EFOHCA Board recently had a brief discussion on how EFOHCA can play a greater role towards workforce development and would be appointing an EFOHCA board member to the Workforce Committee.

Mr. Walsh then moved to reporting of key Issues. Ms. Hart discussed vaccine mandates. She asked if any board members had experienced a survey since the vaccine mandates went into effect on February 14. Gen Stelzer responded that she had a survey and it was very relaxed. ODH only asked to see their policies on vaccination and employee logs for vaccination and exemption status. She noted that the surveyor was pleased to see so many exemptions. Ms. Hart asked if they probed her employee precautions for exempted staff. She stated that they did not. She also noted that they do not perform routine testing for exempted staff and this was not mentioned by the surveyor. Eric Talbert asked if this was a routine/regular survey. Ms. Stelzer responded that it was a recertification survey. They had a complaint filed since February 14 but it was not investigated during their survey. She also noted that the survey was performed within the survey window and that the surveyor indicated they are not as backlogged as other departments.

Ms. Hart then provided a brief report on Home Health Licensing. ODH still has not invited stakeholders to participate in rule development. Selina Jackson, primary staff for these rules, has been deployed to the COVID task force causing a delay. OHCA would have to delay the Home Health Licensing session they were planning for Late March. There is some concern around the regulatory requirements for private pay home care providers which have not been licensed or regulated previously. OHCA would continue to press ODH for details on rule development.

Mr. Van Runkle briefly discussed the new SNF testing requirements changed by CMS last week. In this guidance, hospice staff are included in the definition of staff. Per the new guidance, “up to date” on vaccination means that they have received all vaccines and boosters per CDC guidance on timeframes. Staff who are not up to date must submit to testing per county positivity rate. Most of Ohio is yellow, which is once weekly. Blue has no testing. However, ODH maintains their order for twice weekly testing regardless of positivity rates. This is not enforced, but still causes confusion amongst providers. He noted that the change in definition increases the number of staff included in testing by about 50%.

Ms. Hart then alerted board members of massive issues reported from home health agency members relating to processing of the new Notice of Admissions. There remains one open item on the claims payment issues log, although all issues have a bypass edit pass through. She noted to board members to remind financial staff that the remarks must be included on all future claims for the patient episode until discharge.

Mr. Van Runkle then gave an update on his search for a new home health and hospice director with the departure of Ms. Hart. He stated he was actively searching but had not made a selection at this time. Mr. Walsh thanked Ms. Hart for her contributions to the home health and hospice membership.

Ms. Hart then gave a brief update on the convention planning. The Home Care and Hospice schedule was finalized and included in the online folder. She noted that Genesis Whole Body Donation has sponsored the Home Care and Hospice Hive and would be doing some education there. Kathy Chapman reminded board members that they should have received their complimentary registration this week.

Ms. Hart then gave an update on the new OASIS-E series with Krafft and Kornetti. The series would be delivered over four parts in the Spring and Fall. The OHCA price is about half of our competing association offering the same program. Mark Knepper noted that the hospice webinars from HHWN have been very high quality and beneficial for his staff. He thanked Ms. Chapman.

Mr. Walsh asked if there were other items. Hearing none, the meeting was adjourned.

Next Meeting: May 18, Noon, OHCA Convention

First Name	Last Name	Company/Agency	3/16/2022
Erin	Hart	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	X
David	Walsh	Hospice of Southwest Ohio/ Carebridge	X
Pete	Van Runkle	OHCA Staff	X