

OHIO HEALTH CARE ASSOCIATION
Home Care and Hospice Board Meeting

September 21, 2022, 11:00 a.m.
Zoom Conference Call

MEETING MINUTES

Chair David Walsh opened the meeting and welcomed board members. Mr. Walsh reminded members of the antitrust, conflict of interest and confidentiality policies located in the online folder.

Attendees included: Pete Van Runkle, Josh Anderson, Heidi McCoy, David Walsh, Genevieve Stelzer, Bryan Casey, Mark Knepper.

Mr. Walsh asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the last meeting. There was a motion given, another second and the motion was approved.

Ms. Heidi McCoy provided updated membership numbers. She stated there are 101 members combined between home care and hospice. Since the last Board meeting one member left while one member joined as new leaving the total unchanged.

Mr. Pete Van Runkle covered several potential advocacy ideas. He started out by giving a brief explanation of the budget process, how it works through agencies to the Governor's office and then through the legislature. Mr. Van Runkle mentioned some preliminary meetings he has had with other advocacy groups and stressed the importance of unity from a coalition of stakeholders as the best way to get things done. He spoke of considering both short term (lame duck) and long term (budget bill) approaches.

The first advocacy item on the agenda was leftover hospice funding from HB 169. Mr. Van Runkle promoted a lame duck strategy for this funding.

The second advocacy item on the agenda was to consider increasing the cap on hospice Medicaid room and board funding when the individual is residing in a nursing facility from 95% to 100% of the nursing facility's rate. Mr. David Walsh stated that hospice providers are suffering substantial financial hardship on ventilator patients especially who fall in this category. Mr. Josh Anderson stated he found no requirement that reimbursement be capped at 95%. He also mentioned an initiative in North Carolina that increased reimbursement to 100% at least on a temporary basis. He committed to further research on this topic. Mr. Van Runkle stated his opinion that the best approach for this item should be in the budget bill.

The third advocacy item was a retention payment bonus. Mr. Van Runkle described a similar approach already federally approved and in the process of implementation in the DD system. He stated that the state could take a similar approach in its PASSPORT and Ohio Home Care waivers, but it would require additional state appropriation.

The final advocacy item was to request rate increases to promote higher pay to staff to meet the staffing crisis. Mr. Van Runkle again stressed unity and developing a coalition. He gave examples of previous success using this approach and stated that the DD system is taking this approach to request substantial increases.

Mr. Anderson then gave an update on the home health licensing rules. He gave a brief synopsis of the rules and changes made since the last Board meeting. He also reminded Board members of the approaching deadline to submit an application (10/1) and explained some of the nuances of the online application process.

Mr. Anderson also gave an update on national advocacy efforts around the proposed CMS CY23 Home Health Payment Rule. He mentioned the Preserving Home Health Acts which would essentially delay implementation of cuts related to budget neutrality until 2026 and which are currently under review in both houses of Congress. He also discussed an advocacy tool released by NAHC that was highlighted in the latest issue of *Home Care News Bites*.

Mr. Van Runkle then discussed recent news around the MyCare Ohio demonstration project. He explained that CMS had told states they either needed to end these types of demonstrations or they could extend them to no later than 12/31/25 in exchange for also pursuing a Fully Integrated Dual Eligible Special Needs Plan (FIDE SNP). While the current MyCare Ohio demonstration was set to sunset 12/31/22, Jessie Wyatt of the Ohio Department of Medicaid just notified stakeholders of the state's intention to request an extension of the program until at least 12/31/23 and also pursue a FIDE SNP. They stated that even though they are submitting their response to CMS now, there would be opportunity to solicit stakeholder feedback and modify proposal language as the process unfolds. Mr. Van Runkle asked for member input and stated that OHCA would share more information on this topic as it becomes available.

Ms. Heidi McCoy gave a brief update on the HOPE assessment to say that there isn't much of an update since the last Board meeting and it remains in beta testing.

Mr. Anderson then advertised the Fundamentals of Home Care webinar which will be held live on November 3rd.

Mr. Walsh then asked for any further topics of interest. Hearing none, he announced the next meeting will be held on 11/16 at 11:00am and the meeting was adjourned.