

OHIO HEALTH CARE ASSOCIATION
Home Care and Hospice Board Meeting

September 20, 2023, 11:00am
Zoom Conference Call

MEETING MINUTES

Ms. Gen Stelzer opened the meeting and welcomed board members. She 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, Erin Hart, Bryan Casey, Mark Knepper, Laura Dales, and Gen Stelzer.

Ms. Gen Stelzer 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. Erin Hart provided an update on Medicaid rates and the Fiscal Intermediary. She stated there have been many issues with hospice room and board payments. She stated that claims had been suspended for some time but should have now been released. She also stated that the issues have mostly with fee for service and not managed care.

Mr. Pete Van Runkle said we are still waiting on updated home and community based service Medicaid rates. Some have been released and it seems they are being done piecemeal and not in coordination as we would have expected.

Mr. Josh Anderson mentioned the application process for HB45 funding for home and community based providers. He stated that payments are based on PASSPORT volume, but we have not been given a list of eligible providers and amounts. This is in contrast to previous provider types where a list has been published and the state has reached out to us to help reminding providers to apply. Ms. Hart mentioned she had made a request of the Department of Aging for a list and hoped to receive it soon. Mr. Anderson reminded Board members of the application deadline and also the deadline for hospice providers who may have received funds on reporting deadlines. \

Mr. Josh Anderson then discussed the CMS CY24 Proposed Home Health Payment rule. He reminded Board members of the NAHC lawsuit which is still pending. He stated that OHCA had signed off on NAHC's extensive comments on the proposed rule. Ms. Heidi McCoy provided a link to testimony from NAHC President Bill Dombi in front of the US Senate Finance Committee. Mr. Anderson then stated the final rule is expected out around Halloween and will determine the next phase of advocacy.

Mr. Van Runkle then shifted the conversation to the proposed Department of Labor Overtime Rule. He outlined the provisions of the rule including that more staff will now qualify and stated it could have a major impact on providers. He noted that it is still open for comment, but will likely be finalized without major changes and then its likely that litigation ensues. This was the pattern followed in a similar effort made under the Obama administration in 2016.

Ms. McCoy notified Board members of a newly introduced CMS Technical Expert Panel on Hospice Quality Reporting. She outlined the requirements of participation and deadline to apply. She encouraged participation and offered OHCA support as needed.

Mr. Anderson notified members of the upcoming in person CEHCH program. He stated OHCA's intention to pursue an on demand model and asked for feedback. Ms. Laura Dales proposed a "hybrid" program that would mix on demand and in person. Mr. Anderson thanked her for the feedback and stated it would be considered in future internal OHCA discussions.

Mr. Anderson asked the Board for other educational suggestions. Mr. Mark Knepper suggested more training for SNFs on how they can utilize hospice providers to supplement and support services. He also asked about the recently proposed CMS minimum staffing rule and Mr. Van Runkle provided a summary.

Mr. Knepper also asked about the failed proposal in the last budget cycle to increase room and board Medicaid funding to be 100% of the SNF rate. He asked when it would be appropriate to resurface this issue with lawmakers. Mr. Van Runkle stated it should be on the list of items to propose and could be done in the next budget cycle or potentially sooner if an appropriate opportunity presents itself.

Mr. Anderson asked for any further topics of interest. Hearing none, the meeting was adjourned.