

OHIO HEALTH CARE ASSOCIATION
Home Care and Hospice Board Meeting

March 19, 2024, 10:00am
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, Eric Talbert, 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. Heidi McCoy shared updates about hospice updates, starting with the sunset of the Hospice VBID model. She mentioned that it will end 12/31/24 and that CMS will be posting more information about what that means exactly in the near future. She also informed members of changes CMS recently made to its model election statement and addendum and posted links to those documents in the chat. She mentioned a recent *NewsBites* article on program integrity and also informed members that we are expecting a hospice rule package from ODM soon.

Mr. Josh Anderson discussed the latest on the lawsuit surrounding Medicare home health rate cuts. He stated that it is proceeding slowly but as to be expected at this point. He also mentioned the lack of immediate legislative action against these cuts as Congress remains focused on the budget, but hope remains for later in the year or in lame duck.

Mr. Anderson next discussed the latest on the Medicaid Access rule, which is now at OMB and expected to be finalized in the next month. He stated that NAHC met with OMB and CMS on the rule and is also working with states who may be opposed to the rule. At this time there are rumors it will not change much in the final version compared to what was proposed in terms of the 80/20 proposal. Mr. Pete Van Runkle reinforced this by noting that the White House released information before the state of the union address which seemed to indicate at least some percentage will be in the final rule.

Mr. Anderson also mentioned the proposed rule around accrediting organizations. CMS is looking to tighten language around conflicts of interest since these organizations both provide oversight and consulting to the same provider population. He mentioned that comments on that rule are due by April 15. Mr. Anderson also discussed Ohio EVV rules recently filed and

highlighted the most significant changes including devices no longer being sent to individuals directly. He stated that OHCA made a few comments to the rules which were due early last week.

Ms. Erin Hart discussed the impact of the recent breach involving Change Healthcare on providers, particularly those using Bright Tree Matrix Care product and those utilizing Change's clearinghouse, although everyone is affected in some way. She stated that trainings are being provided this week on a new solution and members should not "wait and see" since this solution is permanent and not just a stop-gap fix. She stated that she also reached out to Palmetto GBA regarding exceptions on NOES and NOAs. She mentioned that CMS has asked the MACs and Medicare Advantage plans to assist providers in this ordeal. She concluded by warning members to anticipate cash flow delays for all providers using Change and offered assistance to those dealing with significant issues.

Ms. Hart then discussed the latest with PNM including Medicaid's reprocessing of room and board claims. She noted ongoing problems with hospice claims processing and expressed concerns about the slow progress towards migrating authorizations to the PNM system. Ms. Hart also offered help to those missing remittance advices.

Mr. Pete Van Runkle then announced that the Home Care and Hospice Board's bylaws are outdated and will be updated as part of the member vote at the annual meeting. Additionally, he shared that My Care will be discontinued and will be replaced by something new beginning January 1, 2026. A lot of details of this replacement are still unclear but OHCA will advocate for the decoupling of Medicaid. Initial implementation may only start with current MyCare Ohio regions, but will eventually expand statewide.

Mr. Pete Van Runkle discussed new guidance from the CDC on respiratory viruses, including COVID-19, RSV, and influenza. The new instructions ease previous quarantine requirements, advising individuals to stay home until their symptoms improve, except for healthcare professionals and those in healthcare facilities, who remain under the previous guidelines. Further, he mentioned that the CDC recommends a second dose of the COVID-19 vaccine for those aged 65 and over.

Mr. Anderson reminded Board members of the upcoming OHCA Convention and encouraged registration if not already done. He also touted upcoming home care and hospice speakers and topics. He also proposed skipping the next regularly scheduled meeting in May due to the convention. The Board all agreed on this plan. Lastly, he announced a free webinar for all members on April 2nd about upcoming changes with the new version of OASIS.

Ms. Stelzer asked for any further topics of interest. Hearing none, the meeting was adjourned.