

OHIO HEALTH CARE ASSOCIATION

Home Care and Hospice Board Meeting

January 14, 2025, 11:00am
Zoom Conference Call

MEETING MINUTES

Attendees included: Josh Anderson, Heidi McCoy, Erin Hart, Mark Knepper, Bill Arfaras, Kim Tilley, Mike McConnell, Andrea Henderson, Laura Dales, Bryan Casey, and Gen Stelzer.

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.

Ms. Gen Stelzer asked for comments on the minutes from the last meeting. They were approved.

Ms. Heidi McCoy informed the Board that 50 Hospice agencies have been selected for the special focus program, with no Ohio providers on the list. However, there are Ohio agencies on the lists of those with substantiated complaints and condition level deficiencies, which are public information. The Board also discussed the algorithm used to select the agencies, which has been criticized for its flaws. The Alliance is set to meet with CMS to discuss the data problems and potential rulemaking changes. Mr. Mark Knepper noted that certain states, particularly California and Texas, have a higher number of providers on the list.

Ms. McCoy provided an update on the Hope assessment, which is set to take effect in October. OHCA is working on finding a speaker for a session at the May Convention and an on demand webinar on the topic. Ms. Gen Stelzer and Ms. Erin Hart discussed the challenges of implementing the new concepts, particularly scheduling and follow-up visits. OHCA will target our webinar towards these issues and away from the basics of the assessment itself.

Ms. McCoy also gave an update on telehealth waivers for both home health and hospice, which have been extended until March 31st. Ms. Hart added that there is pushback from some lawmakers regarding the use of telehealth for hospice recertifications specifically and it's possible that home health could be made permanent but not hospice.

Ms. Hart next discussed the challenges faced by nursing facilities and hospices due to the new private room add-on policy. She mentioned that the policy, implemented in December, lacked a billing code, leading to a manual claim processing system for Medicaid fee for service. She also noted that the managed care plans, have agreed to a uniform billing guidance for the add-on. However, she expressed concern about the delay in payments for private room items and the

potential impact on referral sources. She also stated that OHCA has developed a hospice billing group to meet monthly to work together on these and other hospice billing issues.

Mr. Josh Anderson provided an update on the implementation of claims editing for Electronic Visit Verification (EVV) records for home health state plan services. Claims editing will start on March 1, 2025. OHCA is trying to get statistics for claims denial percentages currently and will share once they are available.

Mr. Anderson then updated the Board on the implementation of the OASIS E-1, which has minimal changes itself but which accompanies the requirement to complete an OASIS regardless of payer beginning July 1st. OHCA is working on a webinar will become mandatory for all payers from July 1st. He also mentioned plans for a webinar on Oasis in April.

Mr. Anderson discussed the plan for the upcoming OHCA convention, with one day dedicated to home care and hospice. This will be Wednesday, May 7th, with four sessions each for home care and hospice. One session will be a joint session with Charles Canaan of Palmetto GBA followed by a luncheon specific to home care and hospice members. The luncheon will replace the previous "Cocktails and Conversations" event and will feature OHCA staff presentations. Ms. McCoy emphasized the convenience of the schedule, with the board meeting following the luncheon. Ms. Stelzer expressed excitement about the one-day event and its potential to attract more attendees, especially non-members. Ms. McCoy confirmed that non-members are welcome and there is a non-member rate for the convention.

Ms. Hart then discussed the budget planning update, highlighting the decision to split lobbying efforts between two firms to focus on different membership categories. She mentioned the success of this approach last budget and the plan to have lobbyists join board calls to discuss budget discussions. She outlined the specific issues for hospice and home care, including the 100% payment for room and board for hospice and the sustainable rate package for home care and other related services. She mentioned the Ohio Aging advocacy coalition's support for these initiatives and the plan to also move the MyCare legislation through the budget. She further discussed the workforce package and a rate floor for Medicaid. She noted that the budget is expected to be released on February 3rd, and lobbying efforts will begin thereafter.

In closing, Mr. Anderson announced the availability of a new 4-hour webinar on the fundamentals of home care, which he had re-recorded in early December. He also informed the Board that one of their members, Kim Tilley, would be leaving the Board as she was moving back to Indiana. The Board also discussed the upcoming in-person overall Board meeting on the 27th of the month at the Hilton East End, with the winter conference starting thereafter.

Ms. Stelzer then announced the next meeting on March 11th at 11AM. Ms. Hart mentioned the possibility of an earlier Board meeting before the next scheduled Board meeting on March

11th if there were significant updates relating to their budget negotiations. With no further discussion items, the meeting was adjourned.