

Meeting Summary for OHCA AL Member Call

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Quick recap

Mandy and Pete discussed technical issues, the progress of the waiver amendment for assisted livings, and the importance of attendees submitting their questions via chat. Mandy led a discussion on reviewing rules, timelines, and expectations for their completion, emphasizing the importance of understanding how to operationalize changes and highlighting the Common Sense Initiative. She also discussed the staffing requirements for nursing homes and residential care facilities, the role of policies and procedures in residential care facilities, updates to the disaster preparedness plan, and the importance of infection prevention and control programs.

Summary

Technical Challenges and Regulatory Review

Mandy and Pete discussed technical challenges related to Mandy becoming a host on their meeting platform. Pete shared a link to the National Regulatory Review and announced that Mandy would lead the discussion on RCF licensing rule changes. Pete also highlighted the importance of attendees submitting their questions via chat. Additionally, Pete discussed the progress of the waiver amendment for assisted livings with more than 50% of their residents on Medicaid, which is nearing completion. He also mentioned ongoing surveys for memory care providers and issues regarding authorization for billing the memory care rate. Pete reminded attendees that license renewals for certified facilities are due by February 1st and mentioned an upcoming Senate Special Committee on Aging hearing on assisted living.

Rule Review and Updates Discussed

Mandy Smith led a discussion on reviewing rules, timelines, and expectations for their completion. She clarified the difference between laws and rules, explaining that rules are regulations that must be reviewed every five years. Mandy emphasized the importance of understanding how to operationalize changes and highlighted the Common Sense Initiative, which evaluates the cost and benefit of rule implementation. She also discussed the rule review process for licensed residential care facilities in Ohio, including the water management rule and Senate Bill 9, which mandated a review of existing rules to identify regulatory restrictions. Mandy also noted updates to the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM 5) and changes in the application process under O. 3, including a return to previous language in the application process.

Staffing, Training, and Policy Changes in Nursing Homes

Mandy Smith discussed the staffing requirements for nursing homes and residential care facilities (RCFs), emphasizing that a single licensed Nursing Home Administrator can cover both facilities. She also highlighted the importance of not admitting residents if the facility cannot provide appropriate staffing levels, due to staffing shortages in RCFs. Mandy mentioned that First Aid training can now be done either online or in person, and that Licensed Practical Nurses (LPNs) can now serve as instructors. She also discussed changes to resident agreements, the addition of DNR orders to required policies, and the clarification on what constitutes care provided by a residential care facility. Furthermore, she addressed the change in incident logs, stating that while resident names are not required, facilities must include enough information for staff to identify the resident involved in an incident upon request.

Infection Control Policies in Residential Care Facilities

Mandy Smith discussed the crucial role of policies and procedures in residential care facilities to ensure a safe and sanitary environment. She emphasized the need for an infection prevention and control program, the designation of infection prevention and control designees, and the development of a tuberculosis plan. Mandy also highlighted the challenges of *Candida auris* and the need for written standards, policies, and procedures. She further discussed the current status of water management rules in healthcare facilities and the potential impact of new rules. Lastly, Mandy mentioned that infection control rules now apply to adult daycare programs located within the same building as residential care facilities.

Disaster Preparedness Plan Updates Discussed

Mandy Smith discussed updates to the disaster preparedness plan, emphasizing the addition of an electronic copy for off-site access. She clarified the changes to the carbon monoxide rules, explaining that each Rcf must install carbon monoxide detectors. Mandy also discussed the new requirements for facilities to have a device to check room temperatures, which must stay between 71 and 81 degrees. Additionally, she recommended conducting resident assessments twice a year and presented data on annual inspections, complete investigations, and violations per calendar year. Mandy also addressed questions about CPR certification, confirming it is required only for direct care staff within 60 days of hire.

Next steps

Pete will share the link to the Ncal Regulatory Review in the chat.

Update the resident manual with the new rules and definitions.

Consider providing a link to the CO. HCA's first aid program for facility use.

Ensure policies and procedures are in place to prevent the misappropriation or theft of controlled substances.

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