

## **Meeting summary for OHCA Assisted living member call (03/27/2025)**

### **Quick recap**

The meeting covered various aspects of state and federal budget processes, including discussions on assisted living waiver rates, personal needs allowance, and potential legislative changes. Updates were provided on ongoing advocacy efforts, upcoming conventions, and potential policy changes that could impact healthcare providers and residents. The team also discussed legal developments related to labor regulations and the potential expansion of certain laws to assisted living facilities.

### **Next steps**

- Assisted living providers to register for the OHCA convention using their coupon code by the end of today to take advantage of the early bird rate.
- Assisted living providers to review and set up multi-factor authentication for the Provider Network Management (PNM) system before May 4th.
- Assisted living providers to review user roles in the PNM system to ensure appropriate access for staff members.
- Assisted living providers to complete the Ohio Department of Aging survey about the Assisted Living Wednesdays calls.
- OHCA to monitor developments regarding the potential expansion of Esther's Law to assisted living facilities.
- OHCA to continue advocacy efforts regarding federal budget reconciliation and potential Medicaid cuts.
- OHCA to monitor and report on the restructuring of the Department of Health and Human Services and its potential impact on Medicare and Medicaid.
- OHCA to keep members informed about developments in the Ohio state budget process, particularly regarding assisted living waiver rates and retainer payments.

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### **Summary**

#### **State Budget Process and Advocacy**

Pete discussed the state budget process, highlighting the upcoming House budget and Senate hearings. He mentioned the ongoing advocacy for small increases in assisted living waiver rates and the introduction of a methodology for an ongoing rate review. Pete also discussed the concept of a retainer payment for home and community-based services. He noted that the fate of an amendment related to these issues was uncertain and would be revealed in the upcoming substitute bill. Pete also mentioned an increase in the personal needs allowance, which has become relevant to assisted living.

### **Assisted Living Allowance Increase Discussion**

Erin discussed the potential increase in personal needs allowance from \$50 to \$100, which could have unintended consequences for assisted living residents and providers. She mentioned ongoing discussions with the Department of Aging and Medicaid to find a resolution that would benefit all residents and providers. Erin also reminded the team about the early bird registration deadline for the convention and encouraged them to fill out a survey about the topics they want to cover in the regular assisted living Wednesdays call.

### **Federal Budget Development and Advocacy**

Pete discussed the ongoing federal budget development process, highlighting the ongoing standoff between the House and Senate on the Budget resolution and reconciliation process. He mentioned the recent resolution of the government funding crisis and the looming debt ceiling deadline in August. Pete also discussed the contentious issue of extending tax cuts and the potential impact on Medicaid providers. He mentioned the advocacy efforts by OHCA and the need for spending reductions to balance against the tax cuts. Pete also discussed the potential restructuring of the Department of Health and Human Services, which could impact Medicare and Medicaid.

### **Trump Administration Appeals Overtime Rule**

Pete reports that the Trump administration has unexpectedly appealed one of the court decisions that overturned the Department of Labor overtime rule, while the Biden administration had previously appealed the other decision. Although this development doesn't change the current situation, as the rule remains ineffective, it raises the possibility that a future court decision could reinstate the rule. Pete emphasizes that members don't need to comply with the rule at present but should be aware of potential changes in the future.

### **Assisted Living Expansion in Esther's Law**

Pete discussed the potential expansion of Esther's law to assisted living, which was introduced by Senator Catherine Ingram. He noted that the bill's success was uncertain due to the Democrats' minority status in the Ohio Senate. Pete also mentioned that the bill contained other problematic elements. He suggested that if there was Republican interest in the bill and the problematic elements were addressed, the expansion to assisted living might not be a significant issue. Pete concluded by asking for any other topics or issues to be addressed.

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