

Meeting summary for OHCA NF Member Call (02/18/2025)

Quick recap

Pete discussed various topics including state and federal levels, budget cuts, and potential Medicaid cuts, emphasizing the need for evidence-based arguments to support eliminating certain provisions. He also discussed the recent lifting of the freeze on communication and data updates, the ongoing issue of budget cuts and deficit reduction items, and the potential impact of a new legislation limiting regional involvement in nursing facilities. Lastly, he touched upon the upcoming budget hearings, the potential impact of the REIT language on the survey satisfaction process, and the upcoming rollout of satisfaction surveys.

Next steps

- OHCA to monitor and update members on developments regarding the Federal budget resolution and potential Medicaid cuts.
- OHCA to advocate for changes to the REIT language in the Ohio budget bill.
- OHCA to prepare evidence-based arguments against the REIT provisions in the Ohio budget.
- OHCA to monitor upcoming budget hearings, particularly the Department of Medicaid testimony before the House Medicaid Committee in early March.
- Providers to start focusing on PDPM for Medicaid residents starting April 1, 2025.
- OHCA to keep members updated on any changes to the PDPM implementation timeline.
- OHCA to advocate for stakeholder participation in the development of nursing home satisfaction surveys.
- OHCA to monitor and report on the release of the Long-Term Care Consumer Guide Navigator version 2.0.

Summary

State and Federal Updates Discussed

In the meeting, Pete initiated the discussion and welcomed everyone. He mentioned that they would cover several topics, including state and federal levels, and encouraged participants to ask questions. Erin then shared two updates: a free member webinar about the new nom knock form for skilled services, and the opening of appeal rights for beneficiaries changed from inpatient to observation status. She also mentioned that these appeal processes are now available through Levanta. Pete then indicated that they would save the budget topic for last.

Lifting Freeze on Communication and Data

Pete discussed the recent lifting of the freeze on communication and data updates, which had been affecting the 5 Star ratings and QM data. He mentioned that the data tables, which show facility rankings, have been well-received by members. Pete also discussed the ongoing issue of budget cuts and deficit reduction items, noting that these are typically compiled annually but rarely implemented. He mentioned that the QM data, which is crucial for rate calculations, is only half complete and will be updated in April. Pete encouraged everyone to review the data and share their findings when the additional quarter of data is available.

Federal Funding Sources and Medicaid Cuts

Pete discussed the federal funding sources, expressing concern about potential Medicaid cuts. He explained that any changes at the federal level would only matter to the extent they are adopted by the Senate and the House. Pete mentioned the ongoing controversy over budget resolutions, which set frameworks for federal spending, and highlighted the different strategies employed by the Senate and the House. He noted that the House had passed a resolution for a big, beautiful bill, involving trillions of dollars in tax cuts and spending reductions. Pete also mentioned that the Energy and Commerce Committee's jurisdiction was targeted for \$880 million in cuts, with Medicaid being the biggest ticket item. He concluded by mentioning that the minimum staffing rule for ACA could be repealed, saving \$22 billion.

Ohio Budget and PDPM Discussion

Pete discussed the status of a bill that has not yet moved beyond committee level. He mentioned the Senate's internal discussions about floor action and the House's absence due to the news. Pete also touched upon the Ohio budget, which came out after their last call. He highlighted the inclusion of Pdpm, which he considered a surprise, and the potential of nursing only for Pdpm. He also mentioned a phase-in proposal that is somewhat similar to theirs. Pete expressed disagreement with the nursing-only proposal and shared that the phase-in would be budget-neutral.

CMI Freeze and PdPM Implementation

Pete discussed the proposed 6-month freeze on CMI for providers, which would potentially cause winners and losers. He suggested that the freeze should be for the 1st 6 months to allow time for preparation. Pete also mentioned the 2/3rds and 1/3rds approach for the next year, which would gradually phase in PdPM. He suggested that the 4th quarter of 2024 and the 1st quarter of 2025 would not be used, and the 2nd and 3rd quarters of 2025 would be averaged together for the January 1, 2026 rate setting. Pete emphasized the importance of focusing on PdPM for Medicaid residents starting April 1.

Addressing Medicaid Cap and Legislation

Pete discussed the ongoing budget concerns, particularly the cap on Medicaid utilization and the potential impact of a new legislation limiting regional involvement in

nursing facilities. He mentioned that the administration has not touched the cap, and there is still room under it, assuming 50% Medicaid utilization. However, he expressed concern about the potential for facilities to close if the legislation is implemented, as it could limit market options for providers. Pete also noted that the legislation was not expected and came directly from the Governor, and they are currently assessing the situation to determine how to combat it.

Skilled Nursing Facilities Bill Update

Pete discusses the recent bill that has gained national attention, particularly concerning skilled nursing facilities. He mentions proposed increases in fees for administrators and ongoing hearings on the bill. Director Corcoran's testimony to the House Finance Committee didn't provide much new information specific to skilled nursing. Director McElroy's testimony, however, covered a broad range of topics, including the Governor's task force on nursing home quality and accountability. Pete also shares slides from McElroy's presentation, highlighting the upcoming release of version 2.0 of the navigator dashboard, which is expected to be available in the next few days.

Quiz Accuracy and Command Center

Pete discussed the concept of a quiz designed to help individuals determine whether they need skilled nursing or assisted living. He expressed concerns about the quiz's accuracy and the potential for misuse. Pete also presented the Command Center, a massive database that creates dashboards for skilled nursing and assisted living facilities. He noted that the data is currently only accessible to certain state agencies, but suggested that it could be beneficial for the general public to have access to this information. Lastly, Pete mentioned the upcoming rollout of satisfaction surveys.

Budget Hearings and Survey Process

Pete discussed the upcoming budget hearings and the potential impact of the reit language on the survey satisfaction process. He mentioned that the administration's position on the reit language could influence the legislature's response, and emphasized the need for evidence-based arguments to support eliminating these provisions. Pete also mentioned the upcoming testimony before the Senate or House Medicaid Committee in early March. Anthony raised concerns about the potential impact of the new administration on the survey process, particularly in relation to the hiring of new surveyors and the reduction of federal employees. Pete acknowledged these concerns but noted that there was currently no clear roadmap for these changes.

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