

Meeting summary for OHCA NF Member Call (06/03/2025)

Quick recap

The meeting opened with Erin Hart announcing a new docuseries and discussing upcoming promotional activities. Debbie and Pete reviewed budget versions and skilled nursing provisions, focusing on technical details and potential amendments for the omnibus bill. The group discussed legislative efforts regarding Pdpn and skilled nursing reimbursement, prioritized the conversion factor for Medicaid, and addressed policies for allocating private rooms in facilities.

Next steps

- [All members to develop a policy for prioritizing private room assignments, considering factors like clinical needs, infection control, end-of-life care, and resident preferences.](#)
- [Members to communicate their private room policy clearly to residents, including potential transitions out of private rooms when clinical needs change.](#)
- [Members to review and complete certification scholarship applications, providing all necessary information including certification type and cost.](#)
- [Ohca team to continue monitoring federal developments on the minimum staffing rule appeal.](#)
- [Ohca team to provide updates on budget negotiations and potential amendments through news bytes.](#)
- [Members to stay informed about potential changes to the hospital tax and its impact on the Medicaid budget.](#)

Summary

New Docuseries Launch and Budget

The meeting began with Erin Hart welcoming attendees and announcing the release of a new docuseries, "People Worth Caring About," which is now available on YouTube and the organization's website. Erin encouraged participants to share the series widely to change perceptions about long-term care work. She also mentioned upcoming social media promotions and podcast appearances. Pete and Debbie were set to discuss the recently released sub bill for the budget, but the transcript ended before they could begin.

Budget Comparison and Nursing Provisions

The meeting focused on reviewing the comparison document of the budget versions, including the House and Senate versions, with Debbie providing detailed updates on skilled nursing provisions. Key points included the removal of a cap on private rooms, unchanged PDPN technical issues, and the absence of several amendments related to case mix scores, transition methodologies, and fair rental value. Debbie noted that amendments for the omnibus are due Friday, and there will be a conference committee to resolve differences between the House and Senate versions, with potential for new items to be added.

PDPM Legislative Technical Details

Debbie and Pete discussed the status of ongoing legislative efforts regarding Pdpn and skilled nursing reimbursement. They noted that while the Senate's omnibus amendment largely affirmed the Administration's position, some key technical details remain unclear, particularly regarding the freeze score and the relative scales of Pdpn and RUGs. Pete explained that while the private room issue was resolved favorably, the team is still working to clarify the technical language around the conversion factor and freeze score, which will determine rates for January 1, 2025. The team is considering pursuing only the most critical technical amendments due to time constraints and the complexity of the issues involved.

Medicaid Conversion Factor Budget Priority

The group discussed the budget bill, focusing on the need to prioritize the conversion factor for Medicaid due to its significant impact on direct care. Debbie emphasized that their issues were a small part of the larger bill and highlighted challenges in getting attention from decision-makers. Pete noted the tight timeline for passing the hospital tax and the one big beautiful bill, urging vigilance from the state. Jill and Pete agreed to focus on the conversion factor as the top priority, putting other issues on hold unless new information suggests otherwise. Debbie updated on the Federal government's appeal of the minimum staffing case, explaining it was likely driven by budget reconciliation needs rather than a strong commitment to the policy.

Private Room Allocation Policy Development

The meeting focused on developing policies for allocating private rooms in facilities, particularly in light of upcoming funding for the next year. Diane led the discussion, emphasizing the need for clear guidelines on who should receive private rooms, as current regulations offer limited direction. Members shared various approaches, including prioritizing end-of-life care, long-term residents, and clinical needs, while Pete highlighted the importance of having a policy in place to defend against unwarranted requests. The group also discussed the challenges of transitioning residents out of private rooms once their clinical criteria no longer apply and the need for clear communication. Additionally, Diane announced the opening of a certification scholarship program, encouraging employees to apply for funding to support their professional development.

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