

OHIO HEALTH CARE ASSOCIATION WORKFORCE COMMITTEE

February 14, 2022, 1:00 p.m.

Zoom Conference Call

312-626-6799 Meeting Number 86029392232 Passcode 2021

MEETING MINUTES

Chair John Goodman opened the meeting and welcomed committee members. He pointed to the antitrust, conflict of interest and confidentiality policies located in the online folder. Next he asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the December meeting. Committee members approved the minutes.

Mr. Goodman first invited Mr. Pete Van Runkle to discuss the Public Policy agenda, beginning with the CMS rules on Vaccination. Today marks the first day of the phase one implementation on the mandate for Medicare participating healthcare providers. Now providers look to see how ODH will interpret the CMS guidance for citations and penalties. Mr. Van Runkle pointed to the matrix and policies and procedures as key areas of focus for this first deadline. CMS is not using the new “up to date” definition recently coined by the CDC and continues to use “fully vaccinated” for the completion of the first primary series of vaccines for the vaccine mandate requirements.

Mr. Van Runkle then also discussed direct care funding. OHCA is requested rebasing for SNF provider rate setting based on 2021 direct care costs. There are components of house bill 169 requiring providers to spend funds on direct care. While rebasing is not set to occur until next year, we feel that the increased hardship due to rising staffing costs would substantiate the need to re-evaluate SNF provider rate setting. ICFs also undergo rebasing on an annual basis, but this year OHCA is advocating to prevent a planned roll-back for those providers.

Mr. Van Runkle then moved to discuss COVID staffing and the Regional Rapid Response Program (R3AP). This program currently only applies to SNFs and assisted living facilities, and is currently considering expanding to ICFs as well. Currently, providers can request assistance by phone or through dedicated portals (preferred). The ODA team will triage requests to determine the need and staff best suited for the situation. Staffing agencies deployed through R3AP will not charge providers. Although a few providers have reached out, no one has received assistance through staffing.

Lastly, Mr. Van Runkle discussed the revised position towards agency staffing legislation. The OHCA Board of Directors recently decided to pursue supporting legislation that includes price caps, even though it is very unlikely to pass. OHCA is now supporting house bill 166. We also

discussed possible actions that the Attorney General (AG) could take, as it relates to anti-trust activity.

Mr. Van Runkle asked if there were any questions on the policy agenda items. Chair Goodman asked if we knew which staffing agencies were participating in the R3AP program and how they are prioritizing staff placement to ensure that they are not taken from existing facilities. Mr. Van Runkle responded that we did know the three agencies, but he could only recall Leaderstat at this time. He also stated that the contract would imply that the agencies have the staff available, but ODA has not been clear on this point and we have not seen the impact of any uses of emergency staff placement yet. Deanna Hatfield stated that her facility did reach out to R3AP and that they were given a list of direct hire and contract options, not free agency staff. Mr. Van Runkle responded that the structure of the program included working with providers to exhaust all options prior to deploying emergency staff.

Chair Goodman invited Ms. Erin Hart to discuss Grant options OHCA continues to research. Ms. Hart then discussed the CDC Grant for Nursing Home strike force teams. Ohio was awarded a total of \$27 million, to be used between SNF and other long term care providers, according to Director Ursel McElroy. Building on our update from last meeting, Ohio Department of Aging confirmed that \$1 million of the controlling board approved funds were allocated towards a larger recruitment campaign that included OMHAS, DODD and HCBS services. Other dollars from HCBS ARPA workforce collaboration funds are to be used in this effort. Some of the recruitment must be targeted towards long term care. The state agencies are working on contracting with a vendor for this large scale project. In response to our student loan repayment program proposal, Director McElroy does not feel that the CDC dollars are a good fit. She suggested that we may need more funds for R3AP and earmarking for technology grants if there are funds left. She also indicated that she wants to look into larger funding options through the Department of Education because the funding current available is not enough to make an impact, only possibly for pilot. Towards the end of the discussion, she indicated that she would circle back with other agency leaders on a federal funding source.

Next, Ms. Hart discussed different Civil Money Penalty grants OHCA has been researching in other states. Wisconsin runs an STNA recruitment and training program through their department of health and Florida runs a similar program through their state association. She advised committee members to let her know if they would like this information to apply as a provider. Ms. Bakewell and Karen Knavel both requested copies of the Florida grant proposal for review.

Next Mandy Smith discussed continuing efforts from OHCA on rule revisions related to the State Tested Nursing Assistant (STNA) rules. OHCA still awaits a meeting with the Ohio Department of Health to discuss our proposed changes. ODH staff have been redeployed into the COVID response team. OHCA has submitted draft rules including allowance for laboratory simulation of clinical portion addition.

Ms. Hart then discussed updates on our efforts to support Career Technical Educational Centers with barriers to offering high school LPN programs. The Ohio Board of Nursing (OBN) has also offered to allow OHCA to present regulatory changes during March 3 meeting for the LPN nurse faculty to include RN who is enrolled in BSN program to teach, making those faculty members more accessible in the near future. A copy of our developed resources are included in the folder, and will be submitted on Friday.

Diane Dietz then gave an update on OHCA development of supporting providers with technology workforce solutions. OHCA will offer an innovative technologies product theater inside the expo hall. Depending on its success, we may attempt something similar at next year's workforce summit. OHCA will review exhibitor requests for inclusion on a case by case basis. Deanna Hatfield and Karen Knavel both voiced support for this idea. Nathan Carder suggested that we attempt to find a virtual reality training solution or resident activity option.

Kathy Chapman then gave a report on the workforce summit. Attendance was good, with 115 people, and we received great feedback from the attendees. She requested that workforce committee members send requests for education to her as well.

Chair Goodman asked if there was any other business. Deanna Hatfield stated she was recently on a hospital call where physicians were discussing frustration with agencies taking staff that worked in their facilities. She mentioned a legislation in Texas where staff members who worked for agencies had to work at least 200 miles from their home. Ms. Hart said that OHCA would research this legislation and send to Pete for possible inclusion in our efforts.

Tom Rickels asked if OHCA could look into getting delegated nursing rules changed to be less burdensome for providers. Ms. Hart stated she would pass that message on to Debbie Jenkins, who represents OHCA on the DODD Workforce Coalition.

After asking if there was any other business, and hearing none, Chair Goodman then moved to adjourn the meeting.

Next meeting:

March 14, 2022 at 1:00 p.m.

First Name	Last Name	14-Feb
Amy	Allen	P
Ozimba	Anyangwe	P
Allyson	Bakewell	P
Brandi	Body	P
Nicole	Breving	P
Nathan	Carder	P

Kathy	Chapman	P
Pam	Cooke	P
Diane	Dietz	P
Ken	Fetterman	P
Lori	Filipovich	P
John	Goodman	P
Erin	Hart	P
Deanna	Hatfield	P
Jill	Herron	P
Eric	Hutchins	P
Brandi	Johnson	P
John	Jones	P
Eileen	Kilbane	P
Karen	Knavel	P
Joan	Longhin-Howard	P
Heidi	McCoy	P
Greg	Miller	P
Steve	Miller	P
Shelly	Orlowski	P
Rob	Pivonka	P
Tom	Rickels	P
Melanie	Rittenour	P
Mark	Schlater	P
Carol	Slight	P
Mandy	Smith	P
Pete	Van Runkle	P