**OHIO HEALTH CARE ASSOCIATION WORKFORCE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

**December 11, 2023, 1:00 p.m.**

Erin Hart opened the meeting welcoming committee members to the call. Chair John Goodman is absent today. She pointed to the OHCA Antitrust Compliance, Conflict of Interest, and Confidentiality Policies in the meeting folder. She requested approval of the meeting minutes from November. Committee members Melissa Courtock and Nicole Breving approved the minutes. Attendance for this meeting can be found at the bottom of this document.

Ms. then discussed the Public Policy agenda, including the workforce amendment drafted and proposed changes to the Medication Aid program, as well as changes to dedicated testing sites and nursing assistant licenses. The amendment also includes changing the nomenclature of STNA to CAN, allowing for a unique identified for STNA applicants that do not have a social security number and creating a child care voucher program for workers in long term services and supports. Ms. Hart then discussed a bill introduced by Senator Collins and Representative Fischbach (Protecting Rural Seniors Access to Care Act) that would stop the Department of Health and Human Services from finalizing proposed SNF Minimum staffing requirements until they can demonstrate that it would not result in closures of nursing facilities. Additionally, AHCA provided an update on the minimum staffing rule, which will take many months for CMS to go through thousands of comments submitted. The next update is expected in 2024.

Ms. Hart then mentioned a notice issued recently by the Ohio Department of Aging to Assisted Living providers on the HCBS house bill 45 payments. This notice was sent several months ago, at which time ODA stated that it was sent in error. As the notice was recently reissued, OHCA learned that Assisted Living providers could apply for the HCBS HB45 payments for their claim amounts billed for Community Transition Services.

Ms. Hart then moved on to Regulatory issues. She discussed the current status of legislation on recreational marijuana, specifically the House Bill 86. She explained the bill's implications for different settings, such as residential care facilities and home health agencies, emphasizing the need for specific policies to prohibit THC consumption. She noted that the legislation in its current form allowed owners of residential premises to prohibit the consumption or use of marijuana for renters. Ms. Hart highlighted that the bill is currently sitting in the Senate and there's no urgency to move forward with it. They advised attendees to review their policies and prepare for potential changes, while also noting that medical marijuana was already permissible in the state. Diane Dietz discussed the challenges of maintaining a drug-free workplace due to the lack of a definitive test for detecting THC impairment as it relates to the policies from the Bureau of Worker’s Compensation. She noted that OHCA would continue to track this aspect of Marijuana policy development as well.

Ms. Hart brought up the upcoming changes in memory care rules and expressed concerns about the potential for complications with demonstrating a higher staffing ratio. She also mentioned an upcoming webinar and encouraged attendance. Erin then shifted the discussion to STNA instructor requirements, mentioning an advocacy effort to make instructors more accessible and affordable. Joshua Wallace raised a question about potential regulatory concerns regarding dual payment structures for nurses working as instructors.

Mandy Smith discussed the newly implemented background check rules, which allow for the hiring of individuals with multiple theft-related offenses, provided the victim was not an older adult and the applicant has been fully discharged from imprisonment, probation, or parole for at least seven years. She also touched on the draft rules for residential care facilities and skilled nursing facilities, highlighting workforce changes and the requirement for an infection preventionist. Mandy encouraged feedback on these rules and mentioned an upcoming stakeholder meeting to further discuss the draft rules for skilled nursing facilities. Ms. Hart then brought up proposed changes to the NCLEX pass rates on nursing programs from the Board of Nursing, which have been tabled but are under review by an internal advisory committee.

Josh Anderson gave an update on DODD's Workforce efforts. Josh reminded attendees about the end of the retention payment program and the upcoming rate increases in January. He also mentioned the availability of ARPA funding for workforce support.

Ms. Hart then discussed the OHCA Employer Partners in Education program with Columbus State, which is currently awaiting feedback from initial providers. She also mentioned an upcoming HRSA webinar on the Geriatrics Workforce Enhancement Program, encouraging attendees to consider applying if they have a partnership with a university. OHCA would provide a summary of the program in this week’s News Bites newsletter. She then provided an update on the LNHA AIT apprenticeship program that the team has been developing. She shared that OHCA has submitted their application and have been awarded the ability to give past credit, eliminating the need for additional training for some administrators. Erin also mentioned that once fully approved, detailed instructions for participation will be sent out. She emphasized that the program requires payment for the administrators in training. Additionally, Ms. Hart mentioned the development of an STNA apprenticeship model, aiming to upskill individuals within their role without requiring them to go to nursing school. She encouraged anyone interested in working on the development of the STNA apprenticeship program to reach out.

Ms. Dietz reminded the team about the upcoming scholarship season through the OHCA educational foundation. She mentioned that EFOHCA has partnered with Kaleidoscope, an international company, to manage the scholarship application process. The application is mobile-friendly and they plan to distribute posters promoting this. Ms. Dietz also discussed changes to the certification scholarship program, where they offer 50% of the cost of a certification up to $1,500. In the future, applicants will have a short window to obtain their certification before the funds are reintegrated into the program.

Hearing no other business, the meeting was adjourned.

Next meeting: January 8, 2023, 1:00 p.m.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **First Name** | **Last Name** | **12/11/2023** |
| Brenda | Honigford | X |
| Brian | Kinzer | X |
| Diane | Dietz | X |
| Edward | Beatrice | X |
| Eileen | Kilbane | X |
| Erin | Hart | X |
| Frankie | Twymon | X |
| Greg | Miller | X |
| Heidi | McCoy | X |
| Jeremy | Monroe | X |
| Jill | Herron | X |
| John | Vesely | X |
| Josh | Anderson | X |
| Joshua | Wallace | X |
| Ken | Fetterman | X |
| Kristi | Stockslager | X |
| LaShonda | Campbell | X |
| Mandy | Smith | X |
| Melissa | Courtock | X |
| Michael | Freeman | X |
| Neil | Everett | X |
| Nicole | Breving | X |
| Peter | Lienert | X |
| Steve | Miller | X |
| Tammy | Allison | X |
| Tammy | Bonifas | X |
| Tiffaney | Closson | X |
| Victoria | Barkin | X |