Board of Directors

Donald Gillespie

♦ Michigan Home Care Celebrates 35th Anniversary. 2016 marks the 35th anniversary of the Michigan Association for Home Care. Your Association got its beginning in 1981 as the Home Health Alliance and while we have gone through four name changes since, we continue our quest to be the umbrella organization advocating for all segments of home care in Michigan. Our members represent Private Duty, Home Health, Hospice, Home Medical Equipment, and Pharmacy Infusion organizations. We are proud of our roots and even prouder of what we are today, the advocacy, education, leadership, and networking organization that works for you. Congratulations on our 35th YEAR! ♦ Hospice Collaboration. I am pleased to announce that Michigan Home Care has extended an invitation to the Hospice and Palliative Care Association of Michigan (HPCAM) to partner with us at our 2016 Annual Education Conference. HPCAM has accepted the invitation and our Education Committee is very busy working with HPCAM to offer an enhanced Hospice education and networking opportunity at the Conference this year. The Conference will be the largest conference representing all auspices of the home care industry and we are very pleased to have HPCAM involved in planning and participating this year. Please put May 18-20, 2016 on your calendar to attend the Annual Conference which will be held at the Grand Traverse Resort. ♦ Time to Lead. As I look back at 2015 and anticipate what will happen in 2016; I cannot recall a period of time where decisions that have to be made will have such far-reaching impact. Home Care providers can either watch or take the lead. I am convinced that by taking the lead, our future and the wellbeing of our patients and clients will be better served and managed. Here are just a few of the decisions we are facing: ♦ Sustain the Healthy Michigan “Medicaid” Program. We must sustain Michigan Medicaid with adequate reimbursement levels for home care providers. In 2016 we will seek to achieve Prudent Medicaid Rate adjustments. Michigan Home Care will be working collaboratively with our partner stakeholders at both the Federal and State level to sustain Medicaid for our patients and home care provider organizations. Accept that creative financing in Michigan’s Medicaid program cannot continue and that we must find a way to fund a sound program with improved efficiencies and effective incentives.

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♦ Address the anti-competitive government regulations imposed upon us by government. Examples are low Medicaid and Medicare reimbursement for home care services and products, face to face regulation, value based purchasing, rising minimum wage, elimination of companionship exemptions from wage and hour, rate rebasing, payment reform and the list continues… ♦ Market change. We must advocate and support the agency model for delivery of home care service and products. Technology is challenging the agency model by offering technical solutions to support a competing independent contractor model for home care. Michigan Home Care will be working to establish an agenda for legislative, regulatory, and market solutions to help our members adopt technologies, drive efficiencies, and to compete effectively in our changing regulatory and market environment. I hope you agree that leadership is needed and are up to the challenge. Please get involved by participating in one or more Michigan Home Care Committees and help develop, support, and advance positive change as we work together to define our future opportunity. ♦ Enjoy this first Michigan Home Care Bulletin for 2016. I look forward to our work this year.

Ethics

Sue Clemen-Stone

♦ Next Meeting is February 15, 2015 from 11:00 a.m. m- 1:00 p.m. at the Michigan Home Care Office.

Regulatory

Sara Simonds

♦ No meeting in December, next meeting is January 21, 2016 after the Clinical Operations Meeting.
Private Duty
Sheila Doeden & Tom Rowley

♦ We did not meet in December- our next meeting will be in person on January 19th 12:30-2:30. On the Agenda we’ll be continuing our evaluation of the Licensing Bill for Private Duty, Definitions of a Caregiver, Topics for Round Table discussions at the Annual Conference and then general discussion.

Public Policy
Carolyn Flietstra & Lisa White

♦ Public Policy Committee met Friday, December 4: The members of the Public Policy Committee are tracking 42 state bills which may have impact on members. The Association has taken a position on each. Along with the active monitoring and action by Sandi Jones, our lobbyist and Barry Cargill, Public Policy members review the summaries and give feedback to Barry and Sandi regarding those which we feel will most affect members. Specifically, we gave valuable input into SB352, a bill regarding designated caregivers, which recently passed out of the Senate Health Policy Committee. The bill is expected to be taken up by the House in 2016. If you would like to have a role in setting policy for home care in Michigan, this Committee is something you need to participate in. Please join us Feb. 5, for the next teleconference call. Contact Mary Pfeiffer (maryp@homecaremi.org) at the Michigan Home Care Office if you would like to be on the meeting notice list for Public Policy. ♦ At the state level, the State Budget and Auto-No Fault will have our immediate attention in 2016. At the federal level, hospices are working under the FY 2016 Final Rule, which significantly changed reimbursement on January 1, 2016. Home medical equipment (HME) members anticipate application of competitive bid pricing to thousands of additional zip codes on January 1, 2016, with an additional cut on July 1, 2016. A federal ruling on the home health Face to Face requirement held that, though the narrative requirement is valid, “Medicare cannot go beyond the narrative requirement and second-guess the medical judgment of the patient’s physician regarding the content.” ♦ At the federal level, NAHC filed an appeal on the overtime lawsuit with the Supreme Court, seeking to reverse the US Court of Appeals (DC) decision which disallows home care agencies from exemption to overtime rules for companionship and live-in domestic services. We are also watching S578/HR1342, which would allow non-physician practitioners to certify Medicare home health services. This continues to gain support outside of Michigan (41 in Senate and 160 in the House). We continue to be very concerned about the impact of competitive bidding on HME providers, with significant rate cuts to take effect in 2016. S2312- DME Access and Stabilization Act of 2015- is intended to positively impact reimbursement in rural areas. Please consider contacting your Congressperson to support this bill. ♦ Please mark your calendars to participate in our State Legislative Day on March 10, 2016. This event is most effective when constituents of legislators are present and willing to advocate for our issues with our elected officials. ♦ Public Policy Committee didn’t meet in January due to the meeting date being on New Year’s Day. Next meeting is February 5, at 10:00 a.m. All members are invited and encouraged to attend. If you are interested, please contact Lisa White lwhite2@mhc.net, or Carolyn Flietstra Carolyn.flietstra@hollandhome.org.

Nominating Committee
Deborah Holman

♦ Interested in being on the Michigan Home Care Board? The Nominating Committee is seeking interested leaders to serve on the Michigan Home Care Board of Directors. As the Immediate Past Board President I have the pleasure of serving as Chairperson of the Nominating Committee so if you are interested, please contact me (Deb Holman deb.holman@hartmedical.org). I will be pleased to answer your questions about responsibilities serving as a Board member as well as the selection process. The Committee would like to hear from you whether you are interested in seeking a seat this year or even if you are thinking about the opportunity for some time in the future. Michigan Home Care is a leadership development organization and committed to helping interested members develop leadership skills by serving on the Board or as a Committee Co-Chair. Opportunity is there if you are willing to step forward.

Nurse Planning Committee
Nancy Dillon

♦ Attention All RNs! We are looking for members who would like to be mentored to become Nurse Planners for Michigan Association for Home Care. A Nurse Planner is an RN who works with other RNs as a member of the group who review and finalize the Continuing Education documents for Michigan Home Care members. Our experienced Nurse Planners (Nancy Dillon, Ann Brissette) and our newest Nurse Planners (Jon Lechner and Amelia Pascual) will work with you to learn the process. Michigan Home Care also provides registration for the Ohio Nurses Association Annual Update for Nurse Planners, held in Michigan, and regular news letters. ♦ We meet quarterly by conference call, and most of our work is done via email and conference call. If you are interested in adding this skill to your resume, please contact: Cindy Thelen at Bulletin Board Newsletter
The rule will be implemented within 60 days of being published in the Federal Register: here is the link to where the published version will be found going forward. ♦ Audits. Are you experiencing troubling audits from third party payers. Health Alliance Plan had some issues but wondering what else is happening out there. Join the HME Committee Call at 10 a.m. on January 18, to share what you are hearing out there.

Rehab
Andrea Hebert
♦ Next meeting will be February 18, 2016.

Education
Deb Holman
♦ The Education Committee has begun the planning process for our 2016 Annual Conference. Theme for our 2016 Annual Conference will be “Go For The Gold”. Mark your calendars for the 2016 Annual Conference May 18-20, 2016 at the Grand Traverse Resort. ♦ Michigan Home Care will be holding an ICD-10 Coding Class which will be held in Okemos February 2nd and 3rd with testing on the 4th. Watch our calendar of events page on our website for more information and registration materials. ♦ Michigan Home Care is offering another workshop for OASIS with testing on the 23rd. Watch the website for details. ♦ Michigan Home Care is pleased to be offering a workshop on January 27th on Fraud and Compliance and discussing the obligations you have to patients and families when doctors you work with are involved in fraudulent activities. This workshop is being presented by the well known Kitch Law firm. Registration materials are available on our website under the Calendar of events. ♦ Please forward ideas for trainings you would like to see to cindyt@homecaremi.org that will assist you in running your business. ♦ Scholarship applications are now available on the Michigan Home Care website home page. The Michael Bartz Health Administration Scholarship is for anyone pursuing a Health Administration degree. This scholarship is a $1500 scholarship. Also, available is the $2000 Kitch Allied Health Scholarship for those pursuing a degree in any health care field. New this year is a $2000 Rosemary Mayes Nursing Scholarship for those pursuing a degree in Nursing. Deadlines for these applications are April 1st. Please take the time to complete and forward on to others that are pursuing any of these degrees. Our goal is to advance the knowledge and skills of our current employees to allow them to stay and continue to work in home care.

Clinical Operations
Sara Simonds & Amy Parkinson
♦ Clinical Operations did not meet in December. Next meeting is January 21, 2016. Hope everyone had a great Holiday, see you on the 21st.

HME/Infusion
Julie Johnson & Brian Griffore
♦ The HME Committee meets next on January 18, via teleconference. Please join the call. ♦ Binding Bids. Thank you everyone for making calls to your Congressional Leaders to ask that “rural relief” be included in the final legislative package in December. Unfortunately, it was not included and the planned schedule to apply competitive bids in rural areas is going ahead. This was a focused effort that we engaged in with our national partners, AAHomecare and VGM but in the end our efforts were not enough. As we move into 2016, we simply need to continue our aggressive vigilance in working with our congressional leaders to protect HME and create future market opportunities. Know that it’s never over, we need to keep fighting. ♦ CMS recently issued a final rule Medicare Program: Prior Authorization Process for Certain Durable Medical Equipment, Prosthetics, Orthotics, and Supplies, that would establish a prior authorization process for certain DMEPOS items that they cite as frequently subject to unnecessary utilization. According to CMS’ fact sheet on the new rule, “the prior authorization process will require the same information necessary to support Medicare payment today, just earlier in the process.” The initial list “Master List” of 135 DMEPOS items identified as being frequently subject to unnecessary utilization can be found in this pre-publication edition of the rule (pdf link), starting on page 41. CMS used the following criteria to develop the list: Items on the DMEPOS Fee Schedule with an average purchase fee of $1,000 or greater, or an average rental fee schedule of $100 or greater, (adjusted annually for inflation) and the subject of:

- HHS Office of the Inspector General or U.S. Government Accountability Office reports that are national in scope and published since 2007, or
- Comprehensive Error Rate Testing Annual Medicare Fee-for-Service Improper Payment Report Durable Medical Equipment (DME and/or) Report’s DMEPOS Service Specific Reports from 2011 onward.

The rule will be implemented within 60 days of being published in the Federal Register: here is the link to where...
Hospice

Amy Banfield & Sherri Soloman

♦ The Hospice Committee meets next on January 7th via conference call. The February 4, 2016 meeting will be held at the Association Office - Corrine Ball, Provider Outreach and Education (POE) department coordinator and Kathy Gates, NGS Home Health Liaison J6 Medical Review Coordinator will be presenting. They will review eligibility requirements and medical review components. Additionally, they will provide information about the CERT review process and Kathy’s role as home health and hospice liaison in denials made by the CERT contractor. ♦ The majority of the November Committee meeting was brainstorming hospice presenters and topics for the Annual Conference in May 2016. Tim Grunwald, the President of the Michigan Hospice and Palliative Care Organization was present as MHPCO is collaborating with Michigan Home Care on this year’s conference. There will be an increase in hospice presenters and sessions as a result of this collaboration! ♦ The Committee continues to discuss and provide feedback re: the hospice payment changes that are effective January 1, 2016, with particular focus on Michigan Medicaid.
Links of Interest

The Aide’s Role in Skin Care & Decubitus Ulcers  - January 14, 2016
The Art of ICD-10 Coding Workshop  – February 2-3, 2016

MDLARA Questions Needed - http://m360.mhha.org/admin/forms/ViewForm.aspx?id=28910
NGS Questions Needed - http://www.homecaremi.org/submit-question-to-ngs/
BCBS Call for Questions - http://m360.mhha.org/admin/forms/ViewForm.aspx?id=28912

Additional Events - https://www.homecaremi.org/upcoming-events/

Committee Calendar

HME Committee – January 18, 2016
Hospice Committee – January 7, 2016
Public Policy Committee – February 5, 2016
Private Duty Committee – January 19, 2016
Reimbursement Committee – January 20, 2016
Education Committee – January 26, 2016
Clinical Operations Committee Meeting – January 21, 2016

If you are not receiving your Committee Bulletin Board directly at your e-mail, e-mail cindyt@homecaremi.org to be added to our distribution list.