Board of Directors

Sara Simonds

♦ September presents fall colors and brings MHHA Committee meetings back on our normal schedule. While several Michigan HomeCare & Hospice Committees have taken a month or two off this summer, most are getting back to normal schedules. Visit the events calendar at www.MHHA.org for a listing of all MHHA events. This issue of the September Bulletin Newsletter is packed full of what the Michigan HomeCare & Hospice association is doing for you and how you can become more involved. ♦ The Center for Medicaid Services (CMS) has issued regulations recently that are particularly troubling. Home Health is facing CMS’s Pre-Claim Review, Hospice is dealing with the final payment rule, and HME is actively campaigning to convince Congress to provide relief from Competitive Bidding in the non-compete areas. Read this issue of the Bulletin for information on these issues and others. This is a tough time for all health care providers and being active with MHHA is one strategy for you to survive change and position your organization and career to thrive. ♦ HH Pre-Claim Review. In April, a bipartisan group of US Senators, including Senator Debbie Stabenow from Michigan, wrote to Andy Slavitt, Acting Administrator for CMS, expressing concerns with the Medicare home health pre-claim review (PCR) demonstration project. Senator Stabenow signed onto the letter at the request of MHHA, NAHC. The letter called for the demonstration projects to be delayed to allow for sufficient time to monitor and evaluate the demonstration’s effects. MHHA and our national partners have used the letter to continue our campaign against CMS pre-claim review. The letter was issued on the heels of reports of significant problems and consequences with the PCR demonstration so far in Illinois. MHHA continues to work with our national partners (NAHC) and the Council of State Home Care Associations, to gain support of the Senators to rescind the pre-claim review project. The letter highlighted the need to protect patients and expressed concerns that “this demonstration may restrict beneficiary access to timely services, divert clinical resources to paperwork management, and incur high administrative costs.” In addition to requesting a delay, the letter recommended a scaled-down version of the PCR demonstration. Senator Stabenow and her bipartisan colleagues also called attention to simpler changes that could improve documentation error rates. Here is a copy of the letter http://www.mhha.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/Senate_-Prior_Auth_Home_Health_-FINAL.pdf. MHHA’s campaign to rescind the pre-claim review demonstration in Michigan continues to be a high priority. Please contact your member of Congress to let them know how PCR will impact your agency. Be sure to let Senator Stabenow know you appreciate her leadership in speaking out against the program. The MHHA Clinical Ops, HH Regulatory, and Public Policy Committees will continue our efforts to rescind the program. ♦ Strong National Voice. National organizations have been meeting this summer to set national Home Care public policy priorities. The National Association for Home Care and Hospice (NAHC), National VNA, Partnership For Home Care, National Hospice and Palliative Care Association (NHPCO), State Hospice Organization Executive Roundtable (SHOER), Council of State Home Care Associations (the Council), and others, are meeting regularly to develop a national agenda for Home Care and Hospice. MHHA is represented at this table by several of the organizations involved and we are committed to a strong national voice for Home Care and Hospice. ♦ Michigan Home Care - HALL OF FAME. 2017 will be the second year for the Michigan HomeCare & Hospice Hall of Fame. The program recognizes leaders for lifetime leadership achievement in the home care and hospice industry. The annual award will recognize up to three individuals for induction into the 2017 Hall of Fame Class. Currently serving MHHA Board members are not eligible for nomination as they will be charged with reviewing applications and selecting winners. Candidates for the Award may include persons who are actively working, retired, or deceased. Look for an application form and details to be shared in the October Bulletin.

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Newsletter. Start thinking about who you feel is deserving of the HomeCare & Hospice Hall of Fame award and plan to submit their nomination before February 1, 2017. 2016 winners were Steve Slater, Christine Chesny, Janet Martinich, Linda Rutman, and posthumously awarded to Michael Bartz. ♦ The Nominating Committee is looking for New Committee Members. Are you interested in becoming a member of the Nominating Committee to help identify, recruit and mentor new leaders onto the Michigan Home Care. The Committee is established in MHHA bylaws and is Chaired by the Immediate Past President, a position currently held by Don Gillespie of Henry Ford, Allegiance Home Care and Hospice. We look for a balance of all membership segments on the Nominating Committee. Persons interested in being considered may contact Don Gillespie directly at: Donald.gillespie@allegiancehealth.org. ♦ Share this Bulletin with your colleagues. Please consider sharing newsletter with others at your organization. They may also sign up to receive the Newsletter directly or join one or more List Serv’s where they can share and receive timely information about the issue impacting their organization and career. Members may register to receive the Bulletin by visiting www.MHHA.org or by contacting the MHHA office. Contact Mary at 517 349-8089 or maryp@mhha.org. ♦ Michigan HomeCare & Hospice is your organization. I encourage you to read this issue of the Bulletin Newsletter and become involved in activities relating to your interest and membership segment. Enjoy the September Committee Bulletin.

Membership

Cindy Thelen
♦ Welcome the following new member to our MHHA family: Advancing Your Hospice, LLC
Contact: Mary Ann Dekker
7854 Creekwood Drive, SE
Alto, MI 49302
Phone: 616/745-7834
Fax: 616/803-1092
E-mail: maryanndekker@advancingyourhospice.com

Services: Billing/coding, clinical, consultants, education, Human Resources, Legal, Management, Medical Supplies, Pharmaceutical, Therapy Services
♦ There will be a Committee Meeting on October 4, 2016 at the MHHA office. Please e-mail cindyt@mhha.org if you are interested in participating in this group.

HME/Infusion
Brian Griffore & Julie Johnson
♦ Tri-Care. On the AAHomecare State Leader call, it came up that Tri-care began reducing reimbursement effective July 1. Providers are advised to review your Tri-Care contract for any reference to reimbursement changes. MHHA is unaware that Tri-Care notified providers of reduced payments and you may want to challenge the reduced reimbursement. ♦ Next Meeting The next HME Committee Teleconference is scheduled for September 19, at 10:00am. Please join the call.

Nurse Planning Committee
Nancy Dillon
♦ Attention All BSNs! 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 BSN who works with other BSNs 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 (Amelia Pascual & Janet Martinich) 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 newsletters. ♦ 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 cindyt@mhha.org.

Private Duty
Sheila Doeden & Bert Copple
♦ Last meeting was Tuesday August 16 in Okemos, next meeting is a teleconference Tuesday September 20 at 12:30. We discussed topics and speakers for May 2017 conference- suggested topics included panel discussions with different agencies and potentially caregivers. Topics could include best practices, what works and what’s not working from the employer and staff’s view. In addition, courses-breakouts with discussion on working with Hospice and Palliative Care in communities- how do we work together to better care for our clients? ♦ There’s a new list called Empower- this lists Medicaid/Medicare patients that have durable medical equipment in place in case of power outages/emergencies. There’s a movement at State and Community level working to strategically put into place an Emergency Plan for the people. ♦ We’re continuing dialog about training options for members and their staff and defining competency for aides, different levels of aides and how do you define those levels.
Regulatory Committee
Elizabeth Buckley
♦ Hello MHHA team! This has been a very busy time for the Regulatory Committee. There are several initiatives that are concerning to home health agencies in Michigan and around the country. One new issue we have is the new Federal Rule: Nondiscrimination in Health Programs and Activities. This can be found in 45 CFR Part 92. This will change the way we give notice of and provide language and translation services to our patients and families with Limited English Proficiency or disabilities affecting communication. It also addresses discrimination based on gender and physical disability. This new requirement may seem onerous at first, but I believe most if not all of our agencies have non-discrimination policies, and procedures in place to provide translation services, this will really encourage formalization of those procedures and provide notice to our patients, families, and the public of how they can access our services if there is a language barrier, need for sign language, low vision, etc. ♦ Another important issue is the extension of the CMS Moratorium on new and expanding Home Health Agencies. This is another attempt at curbing the rampant fraud and abuse in the affected states. Please contact Mi LARA if you have specific concerns about planned changes in your agencies because there could be an effect on new branches as well as brand new agencies and changes of ownership. ♦ The second and likely most pressing issue is the new CMS Pre Claim Review Demonstration (PRCD). As a very quick overview, this rule mandates that each Medicare episode must have the certification documentation reviewed and “affirmed” prior to billing the claim. It is similar to sending every single Medicare episode in your agency for an ADR!! This is a cause for great concern. PRCD has so far been implemented in Illinois and will move into Michigan most likely on January 1, 2017. MHHA along with the other 4 states in the program, Illinois, Massachusetts, Florida and Texas have been working closely with their state associations, NAHC and the VNAA to make every possible effort to forestall or cancel this program. There have already been stories from Illinois of delays in care, high denial rates, vague and late denial letters, and agencies that fear they may close related to this new program. EMR providers have also needed to update their systems to accommodate this new requirement. Please, if you have not already, review this rule and how it may affect your agency operations. From referral acceptance, physician education, additional FTEs required to perform the submissions, EMR adjustments, cash flow, please examine and try to prepare for this to arrive in January. Also please feel free to reach out to myself or other MHHA staff members if you would like more information. ♦ Last but not least, we look forward to receiving the Home Health New Rule sometime in early November, so stay tuned for that and also the new Home Health Conditions of Participation are highly likely to be released in the near future. We will update all of the membership when more information is available.

Clinical Operations
Sara Simonds & Amy Parkinson & Kim Costello
♦ Clinical Operations did not meet in August. Meeting will resume on September 15th at 9:30 a.m.

Reimbursement
Amy Gil & Kerri Allen
♦ The last meeting was an onsite meeting on August 17, 2016 at 9:30am. The Committee discussed re-vamping the agenda to better facilitate the meeting and to include hospice items. ♦ Hospice is working diligently to address the combined rate in fee schedule with BCBSM. Agencies aren’t getting the reimbursement they are supposed to be getting. Nancy, Co-Chair, has talked with BCBSM, but has yet to hear an answer. ♦ The Billing Committee Meeting on August 24, 2016 was a meet and greet to increase participation. The Committee agreed to combine the Billing Committee and the Reimbursement Committee together at intervals to be decided. ♦ The Education Committee has been notified of the desire for Pre-Claim Review Audit and Value Based Purchasing education. ♦ The SCIO audits have been of major concern the last few months. Some agencies have started to get another round of audits, but overall, agencies seem to be doing better as far as denials from SCIO. Currently, 3.6% of paid claims are being audited from 3rd and 4th quarter of 2015. Again, the audits are by the paid date of the claim and not the service date. ♦ The January – March, 2016 Benchmark results were discussed. The committee would have liked greater participation and considered tagging a price onto the benchmark in order for results. ♦ If you have a questions or suggestions, please contact Amy Gil at (Agil@unitednursing.com) or Kerri Allen at (kallen@hcaccg.com). The Reimbursement Committee welcomes your input. The next meeting will be onsite in Okemos on September 21st.

Hospice
Amy Banfield & Sherri Solomon
♦ The next NGS/CMS call/meeting is October 19, 2016. Amy will be calling in for this meeting - if you have any questions, please send to Amy as soon as possible so she can submit (abanfield1132@gmail.com) ♦ Hospice Quality and Regulatory Sub-Committee will meet for the first time on Thursday, October 6 at 12:30pm, after the Hospice
Committee meeting. We ask all association members please encourage colleagues to attend this meeting. Quality and regulatory was the #1 item at the hospice committee meeting at the annual conference. ♦ MILARA report: Barry and representatives will encourage the state to develop rules related to deemed status hospices being excluded from state licensure surveys. Barry will be involving our lobbyist to assist with this as there has been no movement. ♦ Palliative Care Committee: great attendance at the first meeting, a lot of interest and ideas shared for future meetings. Identified other organizations to collaborate with that are also working on palliative care in the state of Michigan. Focus on reimbursement. ♦ Hospice Residence Manager Committee. A Residence Manager Committee is forming. John Person of Hospice of Michigan will assist in providing leadership to organize the Committee and recruit co-chair leaders. Persons interested should contact Mary Pfeiffer at the MHHA office (maryp@mhha.org or 517 349-8089) to request that you be added to the group list for meeting notices. Next meeting is September 22 at 9 a.m. at the MHHA office. ♦ Next Hospice Committee meeting October 6 @ 9:30am at the association office.

Palliative Care

Christie Herrick & John Mulder

♦ A new Palliative Care Committee is forming chaired by co-chairs Christie Herrick (Hospice of Michigan) and Dr. John Mulder (Faith Hospice). The group held its first organizational meeting on August 4. The next meeting is scheduled for September 22, at the MHHA offices in Okemos (2140 University Park Drive, Suite 220, Okemos, MI 48864). The following people have expressed their interest to participate: Christie Herrick, Dr. John Mulder, Michelle Wiseman, Dr. Joe Bander, Theresa Lynn, Christine Westphal, and others. The following physicians are being encouraged to consider participation: Dr. Jacqueline Mohs, Dr. Angela Chmielewski, Dr. Mike Stellini, Dr. Adam Marks, Dr. Scott Paxton, Dr. Sonali Wilborn, Dr. Annette Carron, Dr. Michael Paletta, Dr. Evan Fonge, Dr. R. Beckrow’s, and Dr. Stan Strzyzykowski. There is interest to collaborate with other Palliative Care groups and to build momentum for defining and finding a reimbursement mechanism for palliative care. Interested MHHA members are encouraged and invited to participate.

Public Policy

Lisa White & Sara Lowe

♦ Public Policy Committee held their monthly teleconference on Friday August 5th. Several of our member organizations participated. Carolyn Flietstra announced that she will be stepping out of the Co-Chair position. We are happy to announce that Sara Lowe from Emmanuel Hospice has volunteered to become the new Co-Chair of the Public Policy Committee. ♦ This is an election year and we anticipate very little activity in both State and Federal issues until after the first of the year. However, there may be administrative actions. Sandi Jones provided a written report which I have included here: “-primary election yielded quite a few new “tea party” candidates popping up in the House. Chances for House to flip to Democratic control got a bit slimmer with the loss of a few of the Dem’s top recruits. -With the general election scheduled November 8, there will be very few, days of session between now and then. A total of 16 session days in August, September and October. -the only health policy issues I see moving might be scope of practice issues that are all over the board. -update on hospice room and board, we had a great meeting with Larry Horrath revolving around dual licensure and the possible lack of necessity for it. We will be meeting with Elizabeth Hertel or her designees after our August 12th call. -I have reviewed the tracking report and don’t expect much, at all to move on that tracking list.”

Education

Deb Holman

♦ The Education Committee met on August 30th and began selecting the keynote speakers for the 2017 Annual Conference. The conference will kick-off with Mr. Ed Hearn’s. Ed is best known for being a part of the 1986 World Series Champions, New York, Mets. He is an Author and sought after speaker. We are excited to have Ed join us and speak to us about Conquering life’s curves. We will be bringing Ron Culberson – author, speaker and humorist. His mission is to help staff and managers achieve greater effectiveness by understanding the power of “Do It Well, Make it Fun”. Ron is a former Hospice Social Worker, middle manager and senior director. The Committee is also brainstorming topics and speakers for breakout sessions. If you have ideas please e-mail them to cindyt@mhha.org . If you or someone from your organization would be interested in participating in this group, please e-mail cindyt@mhha.org for more information. Please mark your calendars May 3-5, 2017 to be held at the Grand Traverse Resort for a “Whole New Ballgame”. ♦ MHHA just finished holding an ICD-10 Coding Class. Plans for another coding class are underway for some time the Spring of 2017. MHHA will be holding an OASIS class for November 30th –December 1st. MHHA will also be holding a workshop on What to Expect in a Federal HIPAA Audit and how to avoid those audits September 21st beginning at 1:00 p.m. at the MHHA office. We will also be holding a workshop entitled: “Employment Law Discrimination Workshop” on October 5th, 2016. Watch your e-mail and the website: www.mhha.org, calendar of events for registration and additional information.
There was a lot of other discussion surrounding Home Care and Pre-Claim review, the state-wide moratorium, HME providers receiving letters from the Attorney General, Hospice final rule, NOE submission issues, Private Duty and the employee exemption threshold challenges. The Public Policy Committee meeting offers time for all member segments of our organization to share and learn about state and federal issues that are being considered. Together, we have an opportunity to impact the outcomes. We are a heavily regulated industry whose concerns and voices need to be heard. I encourage all members to call in on the first Friday, October 7th at 10:00 and participate.
Links of Interest


Grant Writing Series: Part 1: Introduction to Grant Writing Webinar – September 21, 2016

Increased HIPAA Audits & Investigations: Heighten Your Compliance Workshop – September 21, 2016

3-Part Series: Social Workers & Chaplains: Stepping Up as Leaders in Ensuring High Level Interdisciplinary Psychosocial-Spiritual Care – September 22, 2016

Probe Your Documentation, Educate Your Staff Webinar – September 28, 2016


Employment Law Discrimination Workshop – October 5, 2016

Working with the Challenging Volunteer: Coaching, Redirecting & Terminating Webinar – October 6, 2016

Countdown to the New Overtime Rules: How to Bring Your Agency into Compliance by the December 1, 2016 Deadline – October 11, 2016

Grant Writing Series: Part 2: Applied Grant Writing – October 12, 2016

No Tricks & No Treats – What Aides Need to Know to Protect Themselves from Negative Accusations & Investigations Webinar – October 18, 2016

Interpreting the 2017 Medicare Home Health Prospective Payment System Final Rule Webinar – November 9, 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

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