

Board of Directors

Lisa White

◆ Have you called your federal legislator lately? All Medicare and Medicaid providers should make a call whether your business is home medical equipment, home health, hospice, or personal care, your legislator is making important decisions and needs to hear from you. Medicare providers are being impacted and patient service will be impacted. For example, the Center for Medicare Services proposed a 0.04% decrease for 2018 for Home Health. That's less than the cut in 2017, but continues the reimbursement drop for the fourth straight year. Anyone wishing to review the details can find the CMS HH Payment Rule at this link: <https://www.cms.gov/Center/Provider-Type/Home-Health-Agency-HHA-Center.html>. ◆ MHAHA Reimbursement, Clinical Ops, and Regulatory Committee is meeting this month to analyze the impact of CMS' proposals and the impact they have on your organization. Check the MHAHA Calendar for these important meetings at <http://www.mhha.org/upcoming-events/>. ◆ **Repeal and Replace or Just Repeal?** At the deadline for this article, the Senate had not acted on national health care reform legislation. At serious risk in the proposal is the Michigan Medicaid expansion program and the millions of low income patients who depend on Michigan's Medicaid expansion program. There are competing proposals to repeal the Affordable Care Act and others that would replace the ACA. But all proposals being considered right now will result in cuts to Michigan's important Medicaid expansion program. MHAHA is working closely with our national association partners to stay abreast of the latest proposals and influence the political process. Medicare is telling lawmakers there is no evidence of patient access to care issues so we have to counter what CMS is telling lawmakers. Clearly, it's time to become engaged both with MHAHA and by individually by contacting your leaders in Congress this week. ◆ **Cyber Threats.** We take internet security seriously at my organization and I know you do also. 2017 will be the year remembered for internet hacking. Organizations are all responding to cyber security threats by increasing system internet security. It's not at all unusual to find important emails being filtered into our spam folders or sometimes our organizations IT system blocks the message and we never know it. MHAHA has two important domain addresses: 1. MHAHA.org 2. Newsletter@Newsletter.MHHA.org and the

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MHAHA Listserv. If there is ever a time you feel you may not be receiving all the emails you are expecting from MHAHA's group email system, you should first check your PC spam folder. Second, check with your organizations IT department to ask that MHAHA's domain address is designated as a "safe sender". MHAHA uses two main domains (**MHHA.org** 2. Newsletter@Newsletter.MHHA.org). ◆ **Val J.**

Halamandaris. America lost a tireless advocate for home care and hospice July 27, with the passing of **Val J.**

Halamandaris. Val was the long serving President and CEO of the National Association for Home Care and Hospice and worked tirelessly for 50 years to improve the lives and secure the rights of America's elderly and vulnerable citizens. Many MHAHA members knew him personally and were frequently inspired by his vibrant "bigger than life personality" and advocacy passion for home care and hospice. He will surely be missed! Learn more about Val's significant contribution to our industry and the milestone public policy contributions he made during his very meaningful life at www.NAHC.org. ◆ **Election of Board Chair-Elect.** As reported in the July Bulletin, the MHAHA Board of Directors selected new officers at the June meeting and as is our custom, the members have the opportunity to elect the Chair-elect. Our bylaws provide for this step so the person elected to the position is aware for almost a year that they will succeed to become the Board Chair at the start of the next fiscal year, next June 1. **Amy Parkinson RN BSN MS**, of Sparrow Home Care in Lansing was nominated by the Board as the Chair-elect and electronic ballots were sent last week to all the person designated by each member organization as the voting member. The deadline to vote is August 6, so please return your vote soon. If sufficient supporting votes are received, Amy will become the MHAHA Board Chair on June 1, 2018. ◆ **About Amy.** She has been a registered nurse for over 30 years. She has been COS-C

Certified and has been actively involved with the Michigan Home Care and Hospice Association for and the National Association for Homecare and Hospice (NAHC) for most her career. In her early career, she was a thoracic ICU nurse, then as a Hospital CCU nurse manager. Her current role is Director of Sparrow Home Care. Amy currently serves on the MHHA Board and Executive Board. She co-chairs the MHHA Clinical Operations Committee and MILARA Liaison Subcommittee. She has the unanimous recommendation for the position from the MHHA Board and I believe she is an excellent choice to lead the organization. If elected by the members, it will be my pleasure to pass the Chairman's gavel to her next June. ♦ MHHA is leading the way for your industry, whether you are engaged in private duty, home health, hospice, HME and Infusion, or Palliative Care. The Bulletin Newsletter brings information to you on how you can become involved. Enjoy your August Bulletin Newsletter.

Reimbursement

Amy Gil & Kerri Allen

♦ The last meeting was by teleconference on July 19, 2017 at 9:30am. ♦ MHHA is working with Medicaid Liaison to get a meeting for Private Duty Nursing. The meeting is tentatively scheduled for September, 2017. We will keep the Committee posted as to the finalized date. ♦ Representatives from MHHA did attend the NGS/CMS meetings on June 22nd and 23rd. Updates will be available at the next Reimbursement Meeting. ♦ BCBSM has issued a new rate schedule for DME that decreased rates by over 30% in some cases. This is devastating to the DME industry and could potentially effect homecare and hospice agencies and how they get their supplies and DME. ♦ SCIO audits continue to burden agencies administratively. The Committee would like speakers from BCBSM, United Healthcare and Humana regarding billing issues and SCIO audits on their behalf. Amy, Barry and Kerri will contact the above payers in attempt to schedule meetings and speakers. We have tentatively scheduled a meeting with BCBS and SCIO at the MHHA office in the afternoon of August 10th. Will confirm date and time in the next couple of days. Agencies are continued to be encouraged to appeal decisions and to bill for medical record fees based on CMS guidelines. We are trying to find a speaker to come speak on RAC audits. We are also investigating another speaker from QIRT to present on an agency appeals process. ♦ The group discussed the current issue with Medicare Denial Code 37253 (Denial of Home Health Payments When Required Patient Assessment Is Not Received). This denial stems from Change Request 9585. Many of the agencies expressed issues with this denial and its validity. CMS is advising agencies to use CONNEX to appeal and to send transmission log, assessment, signed POC and F2F. ♦ 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 by teleconference on August 15th at 9:30am.

Private Duty

Sheila Doeden & Bert Copple

♦ The Private Duty Committee meets next on August 15. Bert Copple of Home Instead Senior Care is leading a Membership Committee effort for private duty that will be coordinated with all membership segments. Contact Cindy Thelen (cindy@mhha.org) if you would like to be involved with the New Membership Committee. ♦ We are continuing to work on a risk management program to help private duty and more.

Education

Deb Holman

♦ The MHHA Education Committee continues to meet to discuss keynote presenters and breakouts for the 2018 Annual Conference. The 2018 Annual Conference will be April 25-27, 2018 at the Amway Grand Plaza. The theme will be "Mitten Strong: Bringing Care Home". The Call for Presentation has gone out and is available on the website. We encourage members to contact cindy@mhha.org if you have ideas for speakers and/or topics. Our next meeting will be August 31st at 9:30 a.m. at the MHHA office. ♦ **RCTC Learn.** As of August 1, 2017, Michigan Home Care & Hospice will no longer offering access to the RCTCLEARN.NET online homecare and hospice courses. For MHHA members wishing to continue accessing the RCTCLEARN online resources, please contact Kristi Kiehne at 877-396-6261 or Kristi.Kiehne@rctc.edu to discuss agency package options. As a MHHA member you will receive a 10% discount from published pricing if you sign up before August 31, 2017. **CALL NOW to sign up for an Agency Package! Sign up by August 31st, 2017 to receive a 10% discount!** ♦ The Committee will also begin making educational plans for the remainder of this year. Topics of discussion will be Audits, OASIS, ICD—10, COPS, Hospice Federal Rules and much more. An Educational Survey went out to all Certified Home Care Agencies on June 27th asking for your input on workshops that you would like to see in the Fall. ♦ MHHA has scheduled A Blueprint for OASIS Accuracy Workshop for October 9-11, 2017 at the MHHA office. ♦ MHHA continues to offer a variety of webinar opportunities. Watch your e-mail and the website: www.mhha.org, calendar of events for registration and additional information on other webinars and workshops taking place.

Clinical Operations

Amy Parkinson & Kim Costello

◆ Clinical Operations did not meet in July, but at the June meeting they discussed the following:

- 1) Please bring anything they would be willing to share as it relates to their QAPI plan/ policy, risk assessments and/or policies re: Emergency Management assessments/ plans and or Patient Rights and Responsibility communications/ policies or other ideas they have implemented along these lines especially if they are considering staying for the Regulatory Meeting. We are trying to share best practices in these areas.
- 2) We also would like to know their questions related to any survey deficiencies that they would like to have clarified by our State Surveyors. We want to have a generic list of questions that can be answered by MILARA to help us learn areas that might be commonly found to be deficient and what could be done differently to comply.
- 3) We will be discussing the SWOT analysis related to being a certified member of our MHHA organization for a new brochure and marketing plan.

HME/Infusion

Brian Griffore & Julie Johnson

◆ The MHHA Blue Cross Liaison Committee continues working with Blue Cross to implement cost and regulatory savings to benefit both providers and BC as a means to further mitigate the rate cuts that took effect on July 1. MHHA and VGM are scheduling meetings with members of the Michigan Congressional Delegation in their state district offices. A meeting with Congressman Bishop is scheduled for the morning of August 2. Other meetings are being set up with Congressman Upton, Walberg, and Levin. Contact Barry Cargill (barryc@mhha.org or 517 349-8089x14) if you have a residence or business location in the district of one the listed Congressman. Also call MHHA if you would like to schedule a legislator site visit at your location or a DME group meeting at the Michigan district office with your legislator. Senators are still in Washington but we are planning in-state meetings when the Senate recesses. House members are on recess so are available for in-Michigan meetings but could get called back to Washington depending on how the health reform issue develops. As of this writing, the Senate had just rejected the latest reform plan which is making things very unpredictable in Washington.

Palliative Care

Christie Herrick & John Mulder

◆ We continue to work on adapting the website. We are looking for committee participation in ideas for increasing membership. ◆ We would like to get feedback on education topics for the conference related to palliative care and in addition would like ideas for on-going education throughout the year. Topics that are important to membership that can be presented in an hour.

Public Policy

Lisa White & Sara Lowe

◆ Public Policy: The Committee did not meet in July, but there was some ongoing activity that took place. NHPCO held their annual Advocacy Intensive where 350 hospice advocates from around the country descended on the hill. Once again, we had an opportunity from home to virtually participate. Thank you to those of you who participated in any way in this important event. It has resulted in additional bi-partisan support and sponsorship for The Patient Choice and Quality Care Act, The Rural Access to Hospice Act and The Palliative Care and Hospice Education and Training Act (PCHETA). It is not too late to contact your elected officials and encourage them to sign on. Michigan has work to do as Rep. John Conyers is the only Michigan Representative to have signed on to any of the 3 bills. We continue to monitor what is happening on the Federal level as the Final Rule for FY 2018 is expected to be released very soon. This is in addition to the "Wild West" approach to the efforts to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act.

Hospice

Amy Banfield & Sherri Soloman

◆ The Hospice Committee continues to meet every month and rotates between in-person and teleconference format. For those that cannot attend in-person meetings, the teleconference information is available as maximizing member participation is our key. ◆ MILARA Updates: Reviewed the casper reports – doing better compared to prior casper report. Next MILARA Liaison meeting is October 4. Anyone with questions, please call MHHA so they can be added to the agenda. Some providers have experienced duplicate survey visits – MILARA was surprised to hear of this and it's believed to be isolated. There is no policy in place re: this. We will continue to press this issue. Federal guidelines will change to allow a provider to request a state survey waiver if deemed status. State of MI working on a process for this – should roll out in September. Right now, providers can submit a letter requesting a waiver and the state will determine if they can honor until a formal process is in place. *Once the formal process is in place, the state*

will only notify hospices re waiver process prior to the year you are due for a survey. ♦ Education: Looking for a liaison from the Hospice Committee to serve on the Education Committee.

Anyone interested, please contact the MHHA office. ♦ MILARA workgroup – first meeting took place on Monday July 10 and several members of the Hospice Committee attended along with representatives from other provider types (skilled nursing, etc.) The goal is to keep hospice rules and regs. up to date with the federal rules and regs. and create one set of rules for providers in Michigan with provider specific regs. being minimal. ♦ Palliative Care Commission for state of MI: Dr. Paletta from Hospice of Michigan appointed to the governor's Multidisciplinary Opioid and Substance Abuse Committee to address problems in the state. This is a joint effort between health care workers and law enforcement due to increase in overdose deaths and crime stats related to use of opioid drugs. This Committee will make recommendations to the governor's offices. Dr. Paletta's role is to represent the hospice industry to ensure that medically supervised medication management is not negatively impacted; pressing for hospice and palliative care waiver language. A question was posed asking if med disposal in hospice had been addressed. Dr. Paletta indicated that it had, especially because when a patient dies, the un-used opioid then becomes the property of the family. Hospice not allowed to destroy, can only educate family on how to destroy. Appears the concern, when change made with hospice not being able to destroy meds, is with hospice RNs/staff diverting meds, vs. the family which is confusing. Some of this is under federal control, some under the state. The position of the commission will be recommending changes to allow hospice provider to remove drugs AND account for what happened to those meds. ♦ **The next Hospice Committee meeting is August 3, 2017 at the MHHA office.**

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 HomeCare & Hospice Association (MHHA). 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 MHHA members. Our experienced Nurse Planners (Nancy Dillon, Ann Brissette, Amelia Pascual, Janet Martinich) will work with you to learn the process. MHHA 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 cindy@mhha.org.

Regulatory

Elizabeth Buckley

♦ This is a very exciting time of change for the regulatory environment in home health and hospice. ♦ Hospice: Any day now the new rule for hospice should be released by CMS. The new rule for hospice is effective October 1st, so as soon as those results are received I am sure our Hospice Committees will be thoroughly reviewing those. The most significant change would be the proposed requirement of a face to face encounter prior to hospice admission. As stated, this requirement is only PROPOSED at this time, so we will need to wait to see what the final rule will require. ♦ Home Health: The new Conditions of Participation will be effective January 13 of 2018. This is a huge issue for home health agencies as there haven't been changes to the conditions since 1989. The CMS Interpretive Guidance likely will not be released until December, so that makes it a challenge for our home health agencies to comply. Our Regulatory Committee will continue to work through these new conditions in order to be a resource to our membership. ♦ All Care Provider Settings: The Federal Emergency Preparedness rule is effective in November. This will be something the Regulatory Committee will focus on at our August meeting. ♦ All agencies are encouraged to have teams currently working on compliance with these new requirements. It is definitely not something that one person can take on alone. Please reach out to me or any member of MHHA if you have questions about any of these rules or regulations. Also, please feel welcome to attend our Regulatory Committee, the more ideas and involvement we have will enable us to serve our members in the best possible way.

Links of Interest

Hospice Billing Series: Part 1: Eligibility Requirements & Notice of Election Webinar – August 3, 2017 - <http://www.mhha.org/calendar-of-event-details/?id=NzU3>

The Final FY2018 Hospice Rule: A Comprehensive Review of Payment and HQRPs Updates Plus Discussion of Comments Webinar – August 17, 2017 - <http://www.mhha.org/calendar-of-event-details/?id=NzI5>

Hospice Billing Series: Part 2: Details of Medicare Claims Processing Webinar – August 17, 2017 - <http://www.mhha.org/calendar-of-event-details/?id=NzU5>

Security & Data Loss Prevention: How to Prepare for Ransomware & Other Cyber Attacks Webinar – August 22, 2017 - <http://www.mhha.org/calendar-of-event-details/?id=NzYw>

The Dos & Don'ts of Managed Care Contracting Webinar – August 24, 2017 - <http://www.mhha.org/calendar-of-event-details/?id=NzYx>

Primary Pediatric Palliative Care Teaching and Learning from Bedside to Community Webinar – August 29, 2017 - <http://www.mhha.org/calendar-of-event-details/?id=NzUy>

Hospice Billing Series: Part 3: Face-to-Face, Hospice CAP & Palliative Care & HIS Requirements Webinar – August 31, 2017 - <http://www.mhha.org/calendar-of-event-details/?id=NzYy>

Blueprint for OASIS Accuracy Workshop – October 9-11, 2017 – Registration materials will be available in the next few weeks

MILARA Questions Needed - <http://www.mhha.org/committees/mdch-question-submissions/>

NGS Questions Needed - <http://www.mhha.org/submit-question-to-ngs/>

BCBS Call for Questions - <http://www.mhha.org/bcbsm-questions/>

Additional Events - <http://www.mhha.org/upcoming-events/>

Committee Calendar

[Clinical Operations Committee Meeting](#) – August 17, 2017

[Education Committee](#) – August 31, 2017

[HME Committee Teleconference](#) – August 9, 2017

[Hospice Committee](#) – August 3, 2017

[Hospice Residence Teleconference](#) – August 9, 2017

[Hospice Room and Board Committee](#) – August 11, 2017

[Membership Committee Teleconference](#) – August 24, 2017

[Palliative Care Committee](#) – August 24, 2017

[Private Duty Committee](#) – August 15, 2017

[Public Policy Committee](#) – August 4, 2017

[Regulatory Committee](#) – August 17, 2017

[Reimbursement Committee](#) – August 16, 2017

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