

Board of Directors

Lisa White

◆ Few of us will dispute that 2017 is the year for new CMS regulations. HME continues its advocacy to improve the CMS competitive bid program. Hospice is actively engaged to attack the hospice rural relief provisions into the Medicare. Private Duty is feeling some relief from the significant US Department of Labor overtime rules for Wage and Hours. Home Health after a close call with Pre-Claim Review is up against a significant battle with the proposed reimbursement model called the Home Health Groupings Model (HHGM). MHHA Committees are actively monitoring regulations and legislative proposals that impact your business and profession. As a MHHA Member you are invited to participate in the various committees and listservs to keep you current on the laws and regulations that will impact you and your organization. The Bulletin Newsletter is intended as a communication tool for the MHHA Committee leaders to report on current activities and offer an invitation for you to participate. Please keep reading to learn more about what is happening within your industry and profession. ◆ Home Health providers are feeling threatened by the CMS Home Health Groupings Model (HHGM). MHHA has issued several “call to action” communications and asking members to contact their US Senators and Congressional Representative. We are asking legislators to withdraw the Home Health Groupings Model. Unfortunately, CMS is not backing away from their proposal and more is needed from the home health industry to convince congress to neutralize it. The HHGM proposal comes from the Center for Medicare & Medicaid Services’ (CMS) and proposes a complex new payment system known as the Home Health Groupings Model (HHGM), which would fundamentally alter how Medicare beneficiaries receive home health services. This proposed rule was developed without direction from Congress, and with no input from experts in the post-acute care industry. It would have a significant negative impact on the healthcare sector – jeopardizing patient care while cutting reimbursement rates further than they’ve ever been cut before. MHHA will continue working closely with our national association partners on this campaign. Here is an important editorial authored by Dr. Steven Landers, president and CEO of VNA Health Group that was recently shredded with our lawmakers in Washington DC.

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<http://thehill.com/opinion/healthcare/356945-untested-proposals-will-cut-medicare-and-hurt-seniors>. Consider attending the MHHA Reimbursement and Regulatory Committee to learn more about HHGM and what MHHA is doing to fix it. ◆ **Hall of Fame.** MHHA will be choosing up to 3 new members to induct into the 2018 Hall of Fame. Start thinking about who you feel is a deserving candidate and submit a nomination. The MHHA HOF is intended to honor home care and hospice professionals for significant contribution to the industry and mentorship and leadership to others. Currently serving members of the MHHA Board of Directors are not eligible to win as they will be selecting the winners who will be honored at the Amway Grand Plaza Hotel during the MHHA Annual Conference on April 26. Start thinking about who you would like to nominate and then look for the nomination forms to be available in the December Bulletin Newsletter. ◆ During the month of November the home care and hospice community honors the millions of nurses, home care aides, therapists, and social workers who make a remarkable difference for the patients and families they serve. In addition, Home Care Aide Week takes place this year on November 13-19. These heroic caregivers play a central role in our health care system and in homes across the nation. To recognize their efforts, we call upon all Americans to commemorate the power of caring, both at the home and in your local communities. Please join MHHA by celebrating November as Home Care and Hospice Month. ◆ Keep reading and enjoy this issue of the MHHA Bulletin Newsletter.

Private Duty

◆ The Private Duty Committee meets by Teleconference on November 21, at 12:30 pm. Please contact Mary Pfeiffer maryp@mhha.org if you are not receiving meeting notices but would like to be on the list.

Education

Deb Holman

◆ The MHHA Education Committee continues to meet to discuss presenters and topics 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”. Our next meeting will be November 30th at 9:30 a.m. at the MHHA office. ◆ MHHA will also be offering a COPS workshop on November 28-29th at the MHHA office. Registration materials are available <http://www.mhha.org/calendar-of-event-details/?id=ODIx>. ◆ MHHA continues to offer a variety of webinar opportunities. Watch your e-mail and the website: www.mhha.org, calendar of events for registration & additional information on other webinars/workshops taking place.

Clinical Operations

Amy Parkinson & Kim Costello

◆ MHHA Clinical Operations met on October 19th (3rd Thursday of the month) where we discussed the very important need to alert your congressmen and women of the urgent need to sign on to the letter to halt the implementation of the Home Health Grouper Model from being enacted. The rule is not clear and there are many misconceptions and problems with the rule as it has not been thoroughly evaluated by our national organization, nor has it even had any testing. If you want, the NAHC or MHHA websites have very clear directions on how to easily alert your congressional rep. Even a quick phone call would be very helpful! ◆ We are also continuing to alert our members to changes in BCBS SCIO audits, MILARA reports and NGS changes. Lots of planning going on from our Education Committee for our upcoming webinars, on site educational offerings as well as the Annual Conference being held at the Amway Grand in April 2018! ◆ We always provide time to discuss what our members have to share or need information on and we recently discussed vacation pay for per visit employees, whether agencies were going to add their policies to their SOC paperwork for patients with the new COPs as well as how many liaisons were employed to help their agencies manage referrals. ◆ MPRO shared some offerings on their Michigan area collaboratives having work done on “timeliness of care” as well as Immunization Initiatives.

Palliative Care

Christie Herrick & John Mulder

◆ Next meeting will be Thursday, November 30, 2017 by teleconference at 2:00 p.m.

Regulatory

Elizabeth Buckley & Erin David

◆ There continues to be many proposed changes for the regulatory environment in Home Health and Hospice. ◆ Hospice: The new rule for Hospice is effective October 1st, so our Hospice Committee is working on any changes that needs to be made because of the rule. The most significant change is the requirement of a face to face encounter prior to hospice admission. There are also changes to the Hospice Quality Reporting Program (QRP). ◆ Home Health: Currently the most pressing matter for Home Health is the HHGM payment model that was introduced in the 2018 PPS Final Rule. This model is projected to cause significant payment cuts to Home Health and MHHA and NAHC has been lobbying strongly to rescind this from the 2018 rule. The effective date for the new rule is November 1st, and if it is not rescinded, could cause major changes in the Home Health industry moving forward. ◆ All Care Provider Settings: The Federal Emergency Preparedness rule will be in full effect on November 15. Agencies and facilities are preparing to meet this new Condition of Participation which needs to be fully implemented by the effective date. ◆ 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.

Public Policy

Lisa White & Sara Lowe

◆ At the last meeting, MHHA Lobbyist Sandi Jones provided a status report on proposed Auto No-Fault Reforms, Certified Nursing Aide Training, changes to Home Health Background Checks, Physician Orders for Scope of Treatment (POST), and HME Bricks and Mortar legislation. At the Federal Level the Committee discussed the Home Health Groupings Model, Hospice Rural Access, HME Rural Relief legislation, and Department of Labor Wage and Hour Regulation. The next Public Policy Teleconference is scheduled November 3, at 10:00 am.

Reimbursement

Amy Gil & Kerri Allen

◆ The Reimbursement Committee meets next on November 15, at 9:30 am. Plan to attend. Plan to talk about the Home Health Groupings Model (HHGM) and other issues.

HME/Infusion

Brian Griffore & Julie Johnson

◆ The long anticipated DME relief bill will be introduced soon by US Rep. Cathy McMorris Rodgers (R-Wash.) and Rep. Dave Loebsack (D-Iowa) with 49 original co-sponsors. Contact your Congressional House Representative to urge support for the DME industry and ask them to be supportive of the upcoming bill from Cathy McMorris Rodgers which provides relief to DME by reverting reimbursement rates back to January 2016 levels and eliminating the oxygen “double dip” that suppliers across the country are being forced to accept. Simply tell them how consistent cuts to Medicare reimbursement have affected your business and the patients you serve and how the bill will provide much needed relief to you and other Home Medical Equipment providers in their Congressional District. Tell them about your company and how you are impacted by CMS Competitive Bidding. ◆ The Committee meets next on November 8, at 9:00am. Plan to discuss current legislative issues, working with Blue Cross on cost saving proposals, and other issues.

Hospice

Amy Banfield & Sherri Solomon

◆ The Hospice Committee continues to meet monthly – teleconference option is available for those who cannot attend in person. October meeting highlights: ◆ Thank you for those who sent emails to senator Stabenow asking her to be co-sponsor on rural hospice act. Really appreciate your participation. NHPCO was able to schedule a meeting re: rural hospice act as a result of our/YOUR efforts. ◆ MILARA Survey Liaison – met on 10/4. Two agencies had federal surveyors from the state that were contracted. Yearly, the state is given a mission priority workload document and are asked if they need contracted help. Usually they say yes, but this is the first year contracted surveyors were available. Contracted surveyors should have a letter of proof that they are contracted with the state to perform the surveyor. If they don't have anything to show agency, then the agency needs to call the state. Crystal knows contracted surveyors name and what sites they are scheduled to visit. Waiver for state survey – no movement on this. Plan is for the state to tell providers when they're do and how to apply for the waiver. Licensing legislation passed 2 years ago and the state has not moved forward with this which they are tasked to do. Within the department there is not good communication. Barry suggests pressing this issue and that providers should send a letter for waiver. 2 years is too long for the state to not address – will go back to sponsors for this legislation as a result.

1. Send letter to Matt Jordan with a copy of your accreditation

2. MHHA will address this issue with the MILARA Hospice Workgroup and Karen Krzenowski.

Only one complaint this summer re: hospice which is not unusual – receive few. CASPER report FAQ's – look at last 2 quarters for 34 non- deemed agencies in MI. Crystal will work with Rick to work on best practices for areas being cited most commonly in the state. Emergency Preparedness – 850 people attended the MILARA training last week. Core documents reviewed from CMS. Stats for state of MI: 90 deemed hospices in MI, 24 non-deemed, total of 124 Medicare hospice certified hospices in MI. Approximately 10 non licensed/non-certified hospices in MI; approximately 12 hospice residences. ◆ State of MI Rule change – Submitted and effective 10/5/17. Biggest impact to us is the TB testing rule (details in document Karen submitted) related to new-hires and patients moving into a hospice facility. ◆ New Medicare cards coming out – expect to start seeing in April 2018 without social security numbers. ◆ Reimbursement: BC/BS Oct 27 meeting. Working on meeting with the Medicaid Managed Care group – no response yet. Hospice R&B rates are not out yet; starting to see SNF rate letters. 1074 Medicaid enrollment forms are 7 weeks behind – is becoming a cash flow issue to get the level of care updated. ◆ Hospice Residence Room & Board: Variety of meetings with MILARA to determine a better reimbursement process and their process re: dividing out the money (increase) – some issues with contracts. Sandi, our lobbyist, is waiting for a report from MILARA re: math calculation re: hospice beds and residences are interested in the beds/funding. 229 beds total (hospice residence licensed including dually licensed), but is different this time around as now it's including hospice residences without being dually licensed. MILARA is in the process of contacting all of the hospices to determine how many are interested or eligible for the funding. 16 residences on the list. Goal is to make the process easier for hospices and the department. The department is willing to work with us and wants the same. ◆ Next Hospice meeting is at 9:30 a.m., Nov 2 via teleconference.

Nominating Committee

Deborah Holman

◆ The Nominating Committee is interested to hear from members interested in serving on the MHHA Board of Directors. The Committee helps to identify, recruit, and mentor new leaders into the Michigan HomeCare & Hospice Association and we like to know of your interest to serve this year or at some future time. Please contact me directly if you are interested or have questions.

Deb.holman@hartmedical.org

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 a BSN who works with other BSNs to review and finalize the Continuing Education documents for MHHA members. Our experienced Nurse Planners (Nancy Dillon, Ann Brissette, Amelia Pascual) will work with you to learn the process. MHHA also provides registration for the Ohio Nurses Association Annual Update, 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 cindyth@mhha.org.

Links of Interest

From Frailty to Functionality: Evidence-Based Rehab Strategies for Deconditioned Patients Webinar – November 1, 2017-
<http://www.mhha.org/calendar-of-event-details/?id=Nzc2>

The Aide’s Role in Communication & Conflict Resolution in the Workplace Webinar – November 9, 2017-
<http://www.mhha.org/calendar-of-event-details/?id=ODIz>

Marketing: Compliant Practices for Hospice & Home Health – November 9, 2017 - <http://www.mhha.org/calendar-of-event-details/?id=ODOz>

Do You PEPPER? – Webinar – November 14, 2017 - <http://www.mhha.org/calendar-of-event-details/?id=ODOy>

Improving CAHPS Hospice Survey Scores – November 16, 2017 - <http://www.mhha.org/calendar-of-event-details/?id=ODO0>

New Home Health COPS Workshop – November 28-29, 2017 – <http://www.mhha.org/calendar-of-event-details/?id=ODIx>

Hospice Quality - Comprehensive Assessment Tool, Public Reporting & Star Rating – December 5, 2017 -
<http://www.mhha.org/calendar-of-event-details/?id=ODO1>

Honoring Veteran Program Partnerships – December 7, 2017 - <http://www.mhha.org/upcoming-events/page/3/>

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](#) – November 16, 2017

[Education Committee](#) – November 30, 2017

[HME Committee Teleconference](#) – November 8, 2017

[Hospice Committee Teleconference](#) – November 2, 2017

[Hospice Residence Teleconference](#) – November 8, 2017

[Hospice Room and Board Teleconference](#) – November 10, 2017

[Palliative Care Committee](#) – November 30, 2017

[Private Duty Committee](#) – November 21, 2017

[Public Policy Committee](#) – November 3, 2017

[Regulatory Committee](#) – November 16, 2017

[Reimbursement Committee](#) – November 15, 2017

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e-mail cindy@mhha.org to be added to our distribution list.*