

**Meeting Minutes**  
**MHHA HME/Infusion Pharmacy Committee**  
**April 10, 2024**

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**CALL TO ORDER:** Regular meeting called to order by Allen Hunt.

**ATTENDEES:** Allen Hunt, Mary Ellen Spradlin, Barry Cargill, Tanya Belbeck, Ethan Drain, Laura Haynes, Melodie Robinson, Tiffanie Robinson-Steffes, Cindy Thelen, Katrina Walker, Melanie Weld.

**INTRODUCTIONS:** Laura Haynes, the incoming MHHA President & CEO, was introduced to the Committee. Laura officially assumes her new role on June 1st.

**REVIEW MINUTES:** Motion to approve the minutes by Mary Ellen; second by Tiffanie. Approved as presented.

**REPORTS:**

**BCBSM:**

- **Liaison Meeting:** Still waiting for BCBSM to schedule a date for the next meeting. Several agenda topics of concern have been communicated to them, including the controversial RUL end of the 13<sup>th</sup> month payment issue. Barry will continue to push for a meeting.
- **Availity:** Navigating through the Availity system to find policies and information is cumbersome and can cause delays in servicing patients. Mary Ellen will confirm if they have an existing user group for education/training. Allen commented that this situation might be aided by the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI), and therefore much of the human interaction required would be eliminated. This would likely be a cost controlling measure for both sides going forward. Hart's VP of IT is a board member for the Michigan Healthcare Cybersecurity Council. Hart would be willing to offer some IT assistance, if BCBSM wants to use AI to provide better user support. **Motion:** The HME Committee motioned that a MHHA IT Committee be formed from all the MHHA payer groups, to research and evaluate the use of AI and provide AI support to our payers. Participation of AI consultants would be welcomed.

**Education Committee:**

- **Annual Conference:** The Annual Conference is being held in Kalamazoo on May 8-10, 2024. There is still time to get your registration submitted, and a few hotel rooms are still available for reservation. This year's presenters will include Jeff Baird, John Gallagher and Craig Douglas. Please have your organization participate in this worthwhile event.
- **Registration link:** <https://member.mhha.org/calendar-of-event-details/?id=Mjl2Ng%3D%3D>

**Legislative – Federal:**

- **S.1294 & H.R.5555:** The Competitive Bidding Relief Act to retain the 75/25 Non-Bid Non-Rural Relief – Continues to be the priority. It is very important to keep pushing your legislators for their support of this very important issue. Request they sign-on to be a cosponsor with Senator Debbie Stabenow.
- **Legislative Fly-In:** AAHomecare is hosting the Leadership Legislative Fly-in 2024, to take place on May 15<sup>th</sup> at Capitol Hill in Washington DC. A Michigan delegation with be attending. Let Laura know if you are interested in participating.

**Legislative – State / Complex Rehab Technology Committee:**

- **Special Election:** The special House election to fill two vacant seats is being held April 16<sup>th</sup>. It is expected to take about ten days after the election to resume normal House business.
- **Discussion:** Barry has heard that some states are passing legislation to set Medicaid reimbursement rates at those of Medicare. The group voiced that it would be greatly unwanted for Michigan to do the same. Mary Ellen will reach out to AAHomecare and explain the rate differences in Michigan and that this change is something that must be evaluated in each state. We'll need to be fully attentive to this issue to ensure it does not occur here.
- **CRT Separate Recognition:** Barry commented that a hearing has been requested and should occur soon. It is expected that this bill will be passed by July.

**MI Medicaid:**

- **Medicaid Liaison Meeting:** Mary Ellen said that the most recent meeting centered around discharges from nursing homes, so not much to report on.

**Medicare Region B DMEMAC:**

- **Next Meeting:** The next Region B meeting is scheduled for May 8-9. Unfortunately, this occurs during the middle of the MHHA Annual Conference. Katrina will participate virtually and provide a report.

**OTHER TOPICS:**

- **NSCAC:** Novitas reports that by July they still expect to have completed the backlog from the transition from Palmetto GBA that occurred back in November 2022. Novitas is still quite behind in other areas though and is doing some restructuring to manage the DME workload. Mary Ellen has had some success in elevating issues. Please let her know if your organization is still experiencing any issues with Novitas.
- **Change Healthcare:** Some members are still trying to resolve payment and processing issues that resulted from the Change Healthcare system breach.

**ADJOURNMENT/NEXT MEETING:** The next meeting will be held May 8<sup>th</sup> during the Annual Conference at the Radisson in Kalamazoo, from 11:15am – 12:15pm.