



**Hospice Committee
(4.6.2023)
9:30 AM – 10:20 AM
Minutes**

I. Call to order

- A. Meeting called to order at 9:30a.
- B. Introductions
- C. Attendees: Cindy Thelen, Karen Cafeo, Andi Earl, Kim Holton , Sue Houseman, Lori Young, Jeri Howard, Jennifer Chupailo, Barry Cargill, Amy Eklund, Amy Eklund, Susi , Tammy Sue Veldkamp, Cary Johnson, Becky Hale, Brook Bandokoudis, Dawn Duffield, Deb Kemper, Tracy Abbo, Jim Hansen, Karen Ketola, Lisa Teolis, Nyan Lakosky, Jaime Fritz, Carolle Hicks, Dan Cleminte, Courtney Weyenberg,

II. Minute approval

- A. Minutes approved unopposed.

III. Additions to agenda

IV. Reports Lori Young

- A. MILARA Survey Liaison: encouraging everyone to join the LARA session at the annual conference in May.
- B. NGS Report – Participated in a stakeholders meeting. NGS ask the contractor calls to gain knowledge/concerns. April 20 2-3 pm is the next: NGS Hospice Ask-the-Contractor Call registration:
<https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/5881994011711723099>
Lori Young recommends participation.

V. Hospice Committee Reports

- A. Education
 - i. The deadline for Early Bird Registration has been extended to Friday, April 7th. If you are reserving a room in the block, it is best to call the hotel as there are not many rooms left.*
 - ii. Several scholarships have been awarded and the awardees will be in attendance at the conference's award luncheon.*
- B. Quality & Regulatory
 - i. MI-POST - Law passed in 2017. Administrative Rules were delayed by pandemic and conflict with Nursing Home Rules. MI-POST Rules are awaiting final effective date approval from JCAR. Here is background information: PA 154 of 2017.
<http://www.legislature.mi.gov/documents/2017-2018/bill-concurred/House/pdf/2017-HCB-4170.pdf> Pending Effect: The*

Administrative Code for the Department of Health and Human Services can be viewed by clicking on the following link. [Click Here FAQs and wide education to be implemented by the State.](#) There are PowerPoints we could use to educate our teams. [This education is expected to now be released in May.](#)

- ii. FY 2024 Hospice Wage Index and Quality Reporting Proposed Rule
 - a. *Proposed rate increase of 2.8%*
 - b. *Proposed Cap amount is \$33,396.55*
 - c. *Penalty for submission of quality measures will be based on CY2022. Rate 4%. Submission requirements must meet or exceed 90% data submission threshold*
 - d. *Hospice Special focus program (expect to be issued this summer)*
 - e. *Hope tool still under review*
 - f. *No proposed change to CAHPS survey*
 - g. *Telehealth proposed changes: removing 418.204(d) retro to May 12, 2023. This would not allow use of telehealth for future declared PHE.*
 - h. *Proposed new quality measures*
 - *Timely reassessment of pain impact*
 - *Timely reassessment of Non-Pain Symptoms*
 - i. *Health equity: potential. Identified need for health equity expert panel for input*
 - j. Noted: Non hospice spending during hospice election period
 - i. Spending on Part D
 - Payments for maintenance medications has increased
 - ii. Overall non-hospice spending increased 28.9% since FY 2019.
 - k. *Proposals on ordering/certifying physician enrollment. Propose requiring enrollment OR validly opted-out of Medicare to be able to receive payment for hospice services.*

C. Palliative Care Acclivity portal ___ Hospice

D. Reimbursement. Reports of delayed payments. 5th level payments: delayed and difficulty reaching BCBS to talk to. MHHA will continue to work on this.

E. Hospice Residence

New Co-chair for the residence committee is Lisa Palmer from Sparrow.

1. [GIP level of care.](#) It appears that we all have the opportunity to improve our utilization. We discussed methods and tools that

could be used to identify patients eligible for that level of care. We have asked that residences share any tools used.

2. Safety in the workplace. We discussed active shooter trainings (AST), AST drills, security, camera surveillance, door security (locked). They question came up of how do we get that notification out to everyone when we know there is an active shooter (text message trees, panic alarms etc). Different methods of training have included ALICE, AST, Crisis Prevention Intervention formal training (CPI) One residence requires it on hire and every two years.

<https://www.cisa.gov/topics/physical-security/active-shooter-preparedness>

3. We are continuing to work through Automated Medication Dispensing System (AMDS). In order to get hospice residences to have AMDS it will take rule changes. Currently only residences that have AMDS are dual licensed. Barry Spoke with Mike Glasper, CEO Michigan Pharmacy Association.
4. Instead of going through the Board of Pharmacy (BOP) we need to let the Mi. Pharmacy Association know what it is that we are looking for and seek their advice in how to be obtain that or approach the BOP.

F. Public Policy

State legislative Day. State Capital has a new *visitor's* center. 45 MHHA members in attendance. 70 legislators/staff attended. Night before was a late (2 am) session which decreased attendance by some legislators. Campaigning for rate increases for Medicaid Room & Board for inpatient hospice. Anticipate finalization of State budget mid-summer.

Barry went to **Washington DC to discuss NAHC report with (Congress?)**. Hospice patients significantly save Medicare money by being on hospice. More focus on fraud with some problem hospices in south and SW, which shows Hospice in a bad light.

G. Membership

- i. We continue to be stronger together as one voice. Please continue to invite.

H. Volunteer Managers

- i. Topics of discussion at the volunteer managers meeting included strategies on how to reach Medicare's 5% rule as well as clarification on what activities and work count towards the 5%.*
- ii. There will be a volunteer manager track at the MHHA conference.*
- iii. The We Honor Veterans meeting will take place in April.*

VI. **New Business/Open discussion.**

A. COVID PHE ending soon.

B. Exemptions: Asking about how some of us are using exemptions for Covid vaccine.

One member reports a process for allowing exemptions for old employees.

Another allowing exemptions for new hires. Some report problems with SNFs not allowing staff to enter with exemptions. Seems to be changing.

C. For info on end of PHE:

i. Fact sheets about COVID-19 Public Health Emergency (PHE) waivers and flexibilities: <https://www.cms.gov/coronavirus-waivers>

ii. Department of Health & Human Services Fact Sheet:

<https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2023/02/09/fact-sheet-covid-19-public-health-emergency-transition-roadmap.html>

*Compliance Tool: Pepper Reports are available! Make sure your designated agency person is aware and able to pull report. Valuable tool!

Resource from NAHC on workforce.

<https://www.nahc.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/Workforce-Report-and-Call-to-Action-v2-002.pdf> – Workforce report

Minutes submitted by Karen Cafeo

4/6/2023