

Board of Directors

Tom Mann

◆ November marks **Home Care and Hospice Month** so **this is the month to show special appreciation to your nurses and caregivers.** ◆ MHHA Executive Director, Barry Cargill and I just returned from the National Association of Home Care & Hospice Annual Conference held in Washington DC. It was great to see other Michigan Home Care members attending as the networking, education and public policy information was very valuable. We began our conference experience meeting with the NAHC Forum of States where 43 state home care agencies were represented, sharing information happening across the country. Medicaid Expansion, Health Insurance Exchanges and other implementation of the Affordable Care Act were a common theme among our state association colleagues. ◆ A highlight at the conference that I appreciated was the presentation from Tom Rath, a senior scientist and advisor to Gallup as well as a bestselling author. He addressed attendees during NAHC's Friday morning's General Session. During the General Session, Mr. Rath focused on ways to improve the workplace environment, become a more effective leader, and live a healthier lifestyle. "The conventional wisdom is wrong. You can't be anything you want to be. But you can be a lot more than you are," said Rath during his presentation. "The key for you and for people you lead is to step back and reflect on your talents. Reflect on your talents and commit them to the people you serve." He emphasized focusing on the positive – rather than negative interactions. ◆ NAHC picked Washington DC to hold the conference because of the critical legislative and regulatory policies impacting Home Care and Hospice in regard to rebasing Medicare reimbursement. Home Care faces reimbursement rebasing up to 3.5% per year for the next four years. Our message to our legislators in Washington is that patients will suffer if reimbursement is cut at the proposed levels. Addressing the attendees were both Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV) and Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY). Both Senator Reid and Senator McConnell support the home care and hospice community. Both Senate leaders have been strong allies of NAHC and of the work its members do more broadly – with Minority Leader McConnell recently issuing a strongly worded letter opposing CMS' proposed

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rebasing rules. Despite the rhetoric voiced by Washington leadership, the rebasing cuts continue to be on the table and we need to continue our vigilance to defeat the proposal. Therefore, I encourage each member of Michigan Home Care to contact your legislator to let them know cutting Medicare Home Health would be devastating to the patients and force many to unwillingly leave their homes. Last month's government shutdown was temporarily funded through February 2014, when our legislators will be back to address this same issue. Your voice is more important now than ever. Please contact your US Senators and House of Representative member and tell them to reject the rebasing proposal as Home Care is far too important to the health and well-being of patients than partisan politics. ◆ Michigan Home Care has a full agenda of Committee meetings and education opportunities scheduled with something for everyone. Visit the events page at www.homecaremi.org for the latest information. ◆ The Nominating Committee and its Chair Jill Roby-Snyder will be looking for candidates for election to the Michigan Home Care Board of Directors. If you are interested in being considered for a Board position, contact Jill to express your interest at: Jill.Roby-Snyder@midmichigan.org. ◆ A special congratulations to Michigan Home Care Past President, Penny Rhein who retired November 1, as President for United Home Health Services in Canton. We appreciate her many years of service and leadership to Michigan Home Care and the home care industry in our state. On behalf of the Board of Directors, we thank her for her service and wish her the very best as she moves into the next phase of her life

Hospice

Laura Bonde & Rene Wheaton

◆ The Committee will meet next on November 13, 2014 at 10:00 a.m. at the Michigan Home Care Offices in Okemos.

Regulatory

Valerie Ghattas

◆ The Regulatory Committee met on October 17, 2013. Copies of ICD-10 work plans were shared with the group. The ICD-10 plans will have to be well coordinated within each agency's processes and functions. ◆ F2F denials in other regions were discussed. Palmetto has published acceptable/unacceptable examples of documentation that are being used by agencies for education of physicians. ◆ The next meeting will be held immediately following the Clinical Operations meeting on November 21, 2013.

Private Duty

Sheila Doeden & Tom Rowley

◆ The Private Duty Committee held the Annual Private Duty Schedulers meeting on October 22 in Okemos. We had record attendance at the meeting and thanks to all who participated for the good conversations and for sharing their tricks of the trade. ◆ One of the members said they were notified by BCBS that they would be covering Private Duty non-medical home care with their insurance. Accreditation required for the agency. More details to follow. ◆ CNA license renewals.... A letter from Prometric is due stating that the requirements for renewal have been cleared up and renewals should go as before for Private Duty agencies. ◆ Next meeting is November 19th by teleconference.

Public Policy

John Ruswinkel

◆ Public Policy will meet by teleconference on December 6, 2013, at 10:00 am. Contact Mary at the Michigan Home Care Office (517) 349-8089 X10 or maryp@HomeCareMI.org for the call number of if you wish to participate on the Committee and be included on the distribution list for meeting notices. In addition to new issues for all membership segments, issues discussed will include, Michigan Medicaid, State funding campaign for the Area Agencies on Aging, Federal Medicare Rebasing, Competitive Bidding and others. All interested members are welcome and encouraged to participate on the Public Policy Committee Teleconferences.

Ethics

Susan Clemen-Stone

◆ The Committee has finalized 2013-2014 goals for Ethics Committee. They are in the process of updates to Ethics Committee's Resources Documents. The Committee is also planning Ethics sessions for the 2014 Annual Conference.

Reimbursement

Chris Kisell & Amy Gil

◆ The Reimbursement Committee met on October 16th, 2013. Please join us for the next meeting by teleconference at 9:30 on November 20th. ◆ The Committee discussed the rebasing of Home Health reimbursement as of January 2014. Agencies are looking at a 1.9% decrease, overall. Agencies are encouraged to write their congressional leaders to voice opinion. ◆ BCBSM is increasing the sequestration rate to 2.5% in January due to its late start this last year. ◆ The Committee discussed the Accountable Care Act and the possible insurance requirements for employees. We discussed what agencies were thinking about doing with regard to FTE's and how they would be counting them. Covering employees with insurance will be very costly and could be a very large hardship. ◆ The next Benchmarking period in 07/01/13 – 09/30/13 and will be due by November 11th. The Committee still would like an increase in participation. The more agencies that take part, the more meaningful the data becomes. We look forward to your participation! ◆ The next Billing Committee meeting is scheduled for December 11th. We are expecting Zirmed to present. We are going to be discussing MSP billing and billing policies and procedures. ◆ **Reimbursement now has its own ListServ!!** Please email Cindy Thelen cindy@homecaremi.org at Michigan Home Care if you are interested in participating in this ListServ. There is also a Billing ListServ that you can participate in. ◆ Healthcare and reimbursement are in a time of change, we urge agencies to join us to stay informed. If you have questions or topics, please send them to Amy or I and we'll get them on the agenda. Let's share the knowledge and work together to solve our issues. ◆ If you would like more information I can be reached by email at CKisell@Crittentonhc.com or by phone at (248)–656-6757. Chris Kisell, Chair of Reimbursement Committee. Amy Gil, Co-chair can be reached by e-mail at Agil@uhhs.org or by phone at (734) 981-8820.

Education

Deb Holman

◆ The Education Committee continues to work on plans for the Annual Conference May 14-16, 2014. The Theme: "There is No Place Like Home" will encourage individuals and providers to "Follow the Yellow Brick Road" by being prepared for the changes that lie ahead in home care. ◆ Michigan Home Care just completed 2 days of OASIS Training. ◆ Michigan Home Care will be holding an ICD-10 Coding Class for Hospice Organizations, December 3rd. Registration materials will be available soon. ICD-10 Coding Class for Home Health will be held March 4th and 5th with

testing on the 6th. ♦ Check out the calendar of events on www.homecaremi.org or at the back of this newsletter for the many teleconference opportunities coming up in the next few months. ♦ The Committee is looking for ideas and topics that you would like to be educated on. Please let the Michigan Home Care Office know if you have ideas.

Clinical Operations

Sara Simonds

♦ Clinical Ops Committee met October 17. ♦ Executive Director's Report: Federal debt ceiling/government shut down resolved last night. Rebasement work continues with NAHC. Expansion of Medicaid and Health Insurance Exchanges are the biggest issues for the state of MI currently. Legislature wanted a \$2.00 copay from Medicaid recipients – providers arguing it costs more to collect – want patients to have some sort of accountability for utilization. ♦ Dual eligible population – MI continues to negotiate with CMS regarding what the state program will look like. Awaiting RFP's from some established health plans for 4 regions in the state. The first 2 regions should start demo projects in January 2014 – greater Detroit and the UP, then the other 2 regions to follow 3-4 months later with a plan for full implementation of the program in July 2014. ♦ Regulatory Update: NGS-Nothing new/no report. ♦ MDLARA - Barry Cargill, Amy Parkinson, Laura Bonde, Krystyn Gall, Cindy Thelen, Sara Simonds met with the home health surveyor group on 10/15. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the lack of a home health training program in Michigan since the NAHC program has been discontinued. We presented an established program developed by Hartman Publishing and used by several other states. Surveyors will not give "stamp of approval", but were interested in seeing the curriculum, post-testing, etc. Lots of discussion. ♦ BCBSM - Questions are still being accepted – send to Mary. No firm date yet for a meeting with them but planning on November/December. ♦ Education Committee - Working on call for presentations for Annual Conference. There is Calendar of Events on the side table and or on the website for any up coming events. These will be updated monthly. ♦ Regulatory/QI Committee - Working on ICD-10 prep guidance. ♦ MPRO – New initiative starting – Behavioral Health. This will be a one year Care Transitions pilot project. Lots of this is focused in SE Michigan and there are some home health agencies involved. ♦ Sub-Committee/Task Force Reports: IV Therapy/Infection Prevention - Work almost complete on IV manual – hopefully out by the end of the year. Will be designated as an educational tool, not a publication due to some copyright issues. Psych Home Care -has not met. Rehab Subcommittee - No report – group is getting back together. ♦ Next meeting November 21 at 9:30.

Membership

Tom Mann

Help me welcome the following new members to the Michigan Home Care family:

Barbara Chenault

13851 Brittanywood Drive
Delton, MI 49046

Phone: 269/303-4124

E-mail: jbchenault@tds.net

Individual – Certified/Hospice

Integrity Skilled Care, Inc.

Contact: Tammy Tarsa

2062 N. US 31 S, Suite A
Traverse City, MI 49684

Phone: 231/946-3000

Fax: 231/946-3611

E-mail: tammyt@ihcare.net

Service Line – Certified

Ultimate Healthlink, Inc.

Contact: Stella Agonor

720 N. Sycamore Street
Lansing, MI 48906

Phone: 517/485-4855

Fax: 517/485-3988

E-mail: ultimatehealthlink@gmail.com

Service Line – Private Duty

Nurse Planner

Nancy Dillon

Attention All BSN prepared RNs! We are looking for additional members to be Nurse Planners for Michigan Home Care. A Nurse Planner is an BSN who works with other RNs as a member of the group who review and finalize the Continuing Education for Michigan Home Care members. There is "on the job" training available from experienced Nurse Planners, regular newsletters from the Ohio Nurses Association, and annual update meetings in person with skilled presenters. Much of the work can be done via computer. This is a perfect opportunity for members who are ready to/recently retired! If you are interested in adding this skill please contact: Nancy Dillon, MS RN at 586-924-7257.

Links of Interest

[The Aide's Role in Understanding Body Mechanics](#) – November 14, 2013

[The Aide's Role in Customer Service And Patient-Centered Care](#) – December 12, 2013

[Better Business Bootcamp--Dec 18th Teleconference](#) – December 18, 2013

[The Aide's Role in Understanding How Patients Qualify For Medicare Home Health Services](#) – January 9, 2013

[The Aide's Role in HIPAA](#) – February 13, 2014

[Better Business Bootcamp – Working with Lean Margins & Trimming Your Costs](#) – February 19, 2014

[The Aide's Role in Understanding the Top 3 Chronic Diseases In the Elderly](#) – March 13, 2014

MDLARA Questions Needed

<http://m360.mhha.org/admin/forms/ViewForm.aspx?id=28910>

NGS Questions Needed

<http://m360.mhha.org/admin/forms/ViewForm.aspx?id=28911>

BCBS Call for Questions

<http://m360.mhha.org/admin/forms/ViewForm.aspx?id=28912>

Additional Events

<https://m360.homecaremi.org/ViewCalendar.aspx>

Committee Calendar

[Board of Directors Meeting](#) – December 12, 2013

[HME Committee Teleconference](#) – November 18, 2013

[Hospice Committee](#) – November 13, 2013

[Infection Control/IV](#) – November 21, 2013

[Private Duty Teleconference](#) –November 19, 2013

[Reimbursement Committee Reimbursement](#) – November 20, 2013

[Clinical Operations Committee Meeting](#) – November 21, 2013

[Regulatory Committee](#) –November 21, 2013

[Public Policy Committee](#) - December 6, 2013

[Education Committee](#) – November 19, 2013

*If you are not receiving your Committee Bulletin Board directly at your e-mail,
e-mail cindy@homecaremi.org to be added to our distribution list.*