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## Bulletin Board Newsletter Michigan Home Health Association



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### Board of Directors

Jill Roby-Snyder

◆ Hope everyone is enjoying the summer and finding ways to keep you and your patients safe and comfortable during the record setting heat.



**ARE YOU REGISTERED TO VOTE???** “BRING THE VOTE HOME” [www.bringthevotehome.org](http://www.bringthevotehome.org) is MHHA’s new campaign to get out the home care vote during this year’s national election. Check out MHHA’s homepage at [www.mhha.org](http://www.mhha.org) click on the red and white logo to link to a special website where MHHA member agencies can participate to educate and assist homecare workers and patients to register to vote. This non-partisan MHHA Campaign was first spawned by the MHHA Public Policy Committee and recommended to the MHHA Board of Directors. The Council of State Home Care Agencies, of which MHHA is an active member, kicked off the “Bring Home The Vote Campaign” in all 50 states on August 1. MHHA Members are encouraged and welcome to place the “Bring Home The Vote” website link and logo on your agency homepage and to encourage your employees and patients to use the webpage to register to vote and learn about the issues and candidates. With the challenges of reimbursement and regulation threatening the future of home care services, this campaign is a MHHA priority and hope you will use it as a resource this during this very important election. ◆ **CNA Renewal back on Track.** This summer, the Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulation (MI LARA) issued a very poorly written policy stating that Home Care Certified Nurse Assistants would not be renewed because the worker was not under the direct supervision of a RN. MHHA was very surprised because the Department historically contacts MHHA for our assistance before releasing any new policies impacting home care. When MHHA learned the State Contractor for CNA renewals (Prometric) was refusing to renew CNA’s, we immediately contacted MI LARA and they responded by retracting the policy and began normal processing of CNA renewals. A delegation of MHHA Leaders including Tom Mann, Sheila Doeden, Donna Kleinschmit and Barry Cargill

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met with the Director of the MI LARA, Bureau of Professional Services on July 27 to discuss the unfortunate occurrence. The Bureau Director (Rae Ramsdell) stated during our meeting that the policy was rescinded and admitted the policy memo was written and released by a department employee acting alone and without knowledge or authority of bureau supervisors. The Bureau Director stated that she and her top supervisor were both on vacation when the policy was released to Prometric and were shocked to learn of the memo and its release to Prometric. They assured the MHHA representatives that the policy was rescinded and the employee properly reprimanded. MHHA delivered a strong message that such policies should never be released without industry input from MHHA and that the action of the “out of control state employee” did significant damage to the home care industry and efforts by agencies to recruit and retain CNA workers. MHHA members should know that a strong message was delivered to MI LARA that the action is inexcusable and that early and regular communication with MHHA is essential before any policy impacting home care is developed. ◆ The MHHA Board of Directors and a few committees (not all) have taken a July break from their regularly scheduled monthly meetings. MHHA teams continue to work around and through vacation schedules to address major priorities. ◆ Through the representation of our lobbying firm, MHHA has focused on advancing legislation to license home care agencies to help combat the fraud and abuse that is becoming more serious every year. ◆ The MHHA Public Policy Committee meets the first Friday of each month at 10 am. I hope to see more of you taking full advantage of your MHHA membership by participating in one of more MHHA Committees. Visit the MHHA Event Page at [www.mhha.org](http://www.mhha.org) to learn more about how you can become more involved and increase the value of your MHHA membership. ◆ Membership Committee. At the MHHA Annual Conference the Membership voted to elevate the MHHA membership Committee to an important role in strategic thinking. The Committee is looking for MHHA members interested in sharing their strategic thinking skills to participate



on this Committee. Tom Mann of U of M Home Care is Committee Chair and interested in hearing from you regarding your interest to participate. ♦ MHHA's Board of Directors will engage in a strategic planning process including a day-long planning session at the MHHA office. MB Strategies has been engaged to facilitate and document our strategic planning progress to prepare MHHA to meet your association needs during this time of unprecedented change and risk. Thank you to all MHHA members who participated in the Membership Analysis survey last Winter as it created the foundation for our planning.

## Rehab

Ruth Benjamin

♦ The Rehab Committee met on July 25, 2012. Discussion included the review of the Proposed Rule 2013 with comments to be included with Clinical Ops formal response, discussion regarding therapy comprehensive assessment on admission to include heart/lung/bowel sounds as indicated by diagnosis, therapy hold order for medical acuity, stop therapy order with hospitalization, F2F, case conference structure and Fazzi's STARS (Standardized Tools, Assessment and Reassessment Strategies) program. Results of this program encouraged clinicians to ensure skilled need is documented, level of assistance is explained, objective tests are used, goals are measurable as well as meaningful and reassessments show plan of care changes and goal updates as needed. Next meeting: Thursday September 20<sup>th</sup> with clinical ops at 9:30.

## Regulatory

Joan Taylor & Paula Stopjik

♦ Regulatory Committee met on July 19, 2012. Joan Taylor shared information from the NAHC Webinar regarding the F2F requirement. The certifying physician is the physician who documents the F2F encounter as this documentation is integral to the certification process. Chris Garfield shared his summaries of the proposed rule published in the Federal Register on July 13, 2012. The group discussed the therapy provisions and the F2F recommended revisions. Much of the conversation focused on the sanction sections. Many were unaware of the impact these sanctions would pose to their agencies. The group decided to ask each member to read the document and be prepared to discuss concerns next month. The MHHA Regulatory Committee will draft a comment letter to submit to CMS before the September 4, 2012 deadline. Members can find the regulations at: <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2012-07-13/pdf/2012-16836.pdf>. ♦ The next Regulatory meeting is scheduled for August 16, 2012 after the Clinical Operations Committee at the MHHA Office.

## Clinical Operations

Shari Wilson & Donna Kleinschmit

The Clinical Operations Committee met on July 19, 2012 at the MHHA office. Barry Cargill, MHHA Executive Director shared the status of Senate Bill 221 on HC licensure. MHHA will be involved in workgroup meetings to be held in August. He also shared the MI LARA memo regarding CNA recertification released in error; MHHA met with LARA Friday, July 27<sup>th</sup> related to this memo. Barry encouraged agencies to register to vote in "Get out to vote effort." ♦ MDLARA report addressed that therapies should "assess within their scope." Rehab Subcommittee posted skills list and competencies on the MHHA website. Recommendation to the Education Committee to have webinar or ½ day conference. Members encouraged to read the meeting minutes available on the MHHA website for more details, as well as, subcommittee's reports. ♦ Chris Garfield addressed Health Care Reform and the Supreme Court Ruling. Handouts provided were: summary of the proposed rule for HHA Surveys, HHA F2F, and Hospice Quality Indicators. Chris's email: [cgarfield@kaserlaw.com](mailto:cgarfield@kaserlaw.com). Chris also shared there is a dual eligible pilot program in place and that Accountable Care Organizations (ACO) will increase. Two models: 1) share savings only and 2) share savings and losses (most have joined this one). Applications for ACOs is from August - September 6<sup>th</sup> to start January 2013. ♦ No survey reports. ♦ Agenda additions included: BioPatch recommended by CDC to decrease infections over cath insertion site; not cost effective. INS Standards are "to change peripheral insertion site according to signs of clinical assessment" and not every 72 hours; can use as reference. ♦ Representative Joe Courtney (D-CT) introduced a bill for patients in outpatient observation services in a hospital be entitled to Medicare coverage of any post-hospital extended care services in a SNF. ♦ Medicaid discussed; criteria to be brought to next meeting. ♦ HHCAHPS vendors can no longer share responses to Questions 26-32 with HHAs to ensure patients right to privacy. ♦ The next meeting will be August 16, 2012 at 9:30 a.m. at the MHHA office.

## Hospice

Laura Bonde & Don Gillespie

The Hospice Committee met on Wednesday, July 11, 2012 at the MHHA offices. Among topics for discussion were the recent Supreme Court Decision and its effects on hospice and homecare as well as Medicaid, Integrated Care program, MI-POST, hospice in nursing homes, and survey issues. Next month, we will begin the reporting for Michigan Hospice Indicators. There was an extra conference call on Tuesday July 30<sup>th</sup> to further work on developing questions for surveyors and looking at the State Hospice Regulations and our last meeting was Wednesday, August 1, 2012.



## Education

Deb Holman

◆ The Education Committee is beginning to work on the 2013 MHHA Annual Conference which will be May 22-24, 2013 at the Grand Traverse Resort. Mark Your Calendars!  
◆ MHHA will be holding a Drivers Certification Program on September 22, 2012 at the MHHA office for those drivers of our HME companies. ◆ From member request, MHHA will also be holding an Accreditation Vendor Showcase where MHHA members will be able to compare and contrast the 3 major accrediting bodies. Mark your calendars for September 27, 2012 at the MHHA Office for this exciting event. ◆ Also schedule is an ICD-9 Coding workshop September 17-19<sup>th</sup> and an OASIS Workshop, October 31-November 2<sup>nd</sup>. Check the [MHHA Website Calendar of Events Page](#) for registration information for above workshops and additional teleconferences and webinars taking place over the next couple of months. ◆ Please submit any other workshop ideas or speakers to [thelen.cindy@mhha.org](mailto:thelen.cindy@mhha.org) if you think it would be of great interest to the membership. We want to host trainings that the membership needs and wants.

## Private Duty

Thomas Mann & Sheila Doeden

◆ On Friday July 27, members of the Private Duty Committee Tom Mann, Sheila Doeden, Donna Kleinschmit, Sandy Jones and Barry Cargill met in Lansing with Rae Ramsdell Director of the Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs and Joseph Campbell Licensing Division Director of the Department of Community Health. The meeting was put into place in order to discuss a statement issued by the Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs for the State of Michigan and the update to the Michigan Nurse Aide Registry Renewal form. A few weeks ago it came to the MHHA's attention that this statement was issued and the impact it would have on our Private Duty Business. The MHHA was informed that this statement has been retracted by The Department and we are assured that there should be no problem for our CNA's who work in the Private Duty Sector renewing their license's. In addition The Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs will issue a formal retraction for our members. MHHA's representation in working with Departments at this level is key in making decisions about issues that can impact our product lines of service. Please let the MHHA know if you or any of your CNA's are having difficulty renewing these licenses, we can contact the appropriate people to get the issue resolved.

## Public Policy

Linda Rutman & John Ruswinckel & Michael Bartz

◆ MHHA Public Policy Committee meets via teleconference on the first Friday of each month. All MHHA members are invited and encouraged to participate. You will get the latest political and policy information effecting home care and the opportunity to help set our policies and procedures. You also receive the weekly publication of "This Week in Lansing" produced by our lobby firm, Muchmore, Harrington, Smalley and Associates. ◆ Bring Home the Vote. Keenly aware of the changes to home care brought on by the Affordable Care Act which MHHA is now acting on the Committee's recommendation to get out the home care vote. Visit the MHHA Website at [www.mhha.org](http://www.mhha.org) and find the link to the Bring Home the Vote website. We encourage MHHA members to place the website on your own webpage. Contact Barry Cargill at [Cargill.barry@mhha.org](mailto:Cargill.barry@mhha.org) for a copy of the logo to place onto your agency website. You can use the information to educate your employees, patients and their families on how to register and apply for an absentee ballot. More information and resources will be added as we near the November election. MHHA is working with the Council of State Home Care Agencies to launch the campaign in all 50 states. We recommend you visit the site and contact the MHHA office if you have questions about implementing a get out the vote campaign at your agency. ◆ Citizens for Affordable Home Care is one of the Constitutional Ballot questions that Michigan voters will be asked to vote on in November. Unfortunately, the name does not describe the actual proposal. The Public Policy Committee discussed this issue in depth and recommended that MHHA oppose this ballot question. In summary, the proposal will place into the Michigan Constitution provisions to make contract home care workers who are providing services to state home care programs to become state employees. We believe the proposal creates a registry for homecare workers within state government and jeopardizes the agency model that is working well in the private sector and supported by the Michigan Home Health Association. ◆ **Musical Co- Chairs.** Two of our Public Policy Chairs are playing their own version of musical chairs as each pursues new opportunities in home care. Public Policy Co-Chair Michael Bartz is leaving his position at Beaumont Health System on August 3 to take a new position with Allina Health System as President at their Home & Community Services Division. And the Co-Chairs keep moving with an announcement by John Ruswinckel that he has joined Beaumont Health System as the Director of the HME Division. We congratulate these two gentlemen on their new endeavors and appreciate all they do and have done for MHHA and the home care industry.



## HME/Infusion Pharmacy

Julie Johnson

◆ Hope all of you are enjoying your summer. MHHA representatives attended the Region B Council Meeting on July 12<sup>th</sup> to discuss the oxygen audits along with other issues facing the industry. They will give an update at our August teleconference. Please plan to participate. ◆ Just a reminder that the Jurisdiction B DME MAC one-day conference is being held in Novi on August 15<sup>th</sup>. ◆ The next teleconference will be held on: Monday, August 20<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m.

## Reimbursement

Chris Kisell & Amy Gil

◆ The Reimbursement Committee met via teleconference on June 18th, 2011. Please join us for the next meeting on site in Okemos at 9:30 on August 15<sup>th</sup>. ◆ We talked about the Affordable Care Act and its impact as it continues to roll out through 2014. There was continued discussion regarding the dual eligible population and the government's goals to realize cost savings by enhanced care coordination, simplification and alignment of Medicare and Medicaid rules. There was also more discussion about Accountable Care Organizations and their growth nationally. ◆ The new BCBSM reimbursement rates and payments continue to be a challenge for providers. We discussed the low reimbursement rates and the correct use of the assessment revenue code. The group decided that there needs to be some clarification and will contact BCBSM for instruction. ◆ The results are in for the Benchmarking period in 01/01/12 - 03/31/12 that was due by May 11<sup>th</sup>. The report was dispersed at the Annual Meeting and was emailed to those who participated. The Committee has tabled the discussion of the results to the August meeting. Again, the group would like to see an increase in participation of this benchmark. The more agencies that take part, the more meaningful the data becomes. ◆ The Billing Committee had a meeting on June 26<sup>th</sup>. The meeting generated a lot of discussion and questions which were forwarded to the Reimbursement Committee. We are looking into getting speakers from Humana and the Cofinity Network to address reimbursement issues and questions. The next meeting will be on October 26th. ◆ 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](mailto:ckisell@crittentonhc.com) or by phone at (248)-537-0651. Chris Kisell, Chair of Reimbursement Committee. Amy Gil, Co-chair can be reached by e-mail at [Agil@uhhs.org](mailto:Agil@uhhs.org) or by phone at (734) 981-8820.

## Membership

Tom Mann

◆ The Membership Committee will be meeting in the next few months to discuss the results of the membership survey and put in place goals and an action plan to get and retain members. **Help me welcome the following companies to the MHHA Family:**

### ACE Home Care & Hospice

Contact: Muhammad Rehman  
1116 S. Linden Road #14  
Flint, MI 48146

Phone:

E-mail: [info@acehomecareinc.com](mailto:info@acehomecareinc.com)

Regular Member - Certified

### Active Home Health Care, LLC

Contact: Anthony Fischer  
20600 Eureka Road, Suite 808  
Taylor, MI 48180

Phone: 734/720-7192

E-mail: [activehomecaremi@gmail.com](mailto:activehomecaremi@gmail.com)

Regular - Certified

### Philips Home Monitoring

Contact: John Ryan  
111 Lawrence Street  
Framingham, MA 01702

Phone: 508/988-3218

Fax: 508/988-1243

E-mail: [john.c.ryan@philips.com](mailto:john.c.ryan@philips.com)

Associate Member

### RX Family Home Care Services, LLC

Contact: Julia Kiddle  
67515 S. Main Street, Suite #5  
Richmond, MI 48062

Phone: 586/430-1105

Fax: 586/430-1583

E-mail: [rxhs@comcast.net](mailto:rxhs@comcast.net)

### The van Halem Group, LLC

Contact: Wayne van Halem  
934 Glenwood Ave., SE, #200  
Atlanta, GA 30316

Phone: 404/343-1815

Fax: 404/798-1115

E-mail: [wayne@vanhalemgroup.com](mailto:wayne@vanhalemgroup.com)

Associate Member

## IV/Infection Control

Deb Opalowski & Rachel Aultman

◆ The IV/Infection Control Subcommittee met last on June 21, 2012. We did not meet in July. The group is continuing the revision of the MHHA Infusion Policies and Procedures. We are looking for additional members to join this committee, so please contact the MHHA office if you are interested. Our next meeting is scheduled for August 16, 2012, following the Clinical Ops meeting.



## MHA Newsletter Links of Interest

[ICD-9 CM Coding Fundamentals for the Beginner Coder – Intro Coding Fundamentals](#) – August 7, 2012

[Aides Role in Vital Signs and their Warnings Teleconference](#) - August 9, 2012

[ICD-9 CM Coding Fundamentals for the Beginner Coder - Coding and Its Impact on Reimbursement](#) = August 14, 2012

[Hospice Education: End Stage Pulmonary Disease](#) - August 14, 2012

[ICD-9 CM Coding Fundamentals for the Beginner Coder](#) - - August 21, 2012

[Hospice Education: End Stage Liver Disease](#) - September 11, 2012

[The Aide’s Role in Building Trust and Maintaining Client Dignity](#) - September 13, 2012

[ICD-9 Coding Workshop and Testing - Intermediate and Advanced](#) - September 17-19, 2012

[Hospice Education: Failure to Thrive in the Hospice Patient](#) - October 2, 2012

[The Aide’s Role in Post Traumatic Stress Disorder](#) - October 11, 2012

[Blueprint for OASIS Accuracy Workshop](#) - October 31- November 2, 2012

### *MDCH 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.mhha.org/ViewCalendar.aspx>

## MHA Committee Calendar

Hospice Committee Meeting – September 5, 2012

Board of Director’s Meeting – September 13, 2012

[HME Committee](#) – August 20, 2012

[Private Duty Committee Teleconference](#) – August 21, 2012

[Reimbursement Committee](#) – August 15, 2012

[Clinical Operations Committee Meeting](#) – August 16, 2012

[Education Committee Meeting](#) – August 23, 2012

Public Policy Teleconference – September 7, 2012

[Regulatory Committee](#) – August 16, 2012

Rehab SubCommittee – September 20, 2012

[IV/ Infection Control](#) – August 16, 2012