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Bulletin Board Newsletter Michigan Home Health Association



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Board of Directors

Jill Roby-Snyder

◆ **Happy New Year!** The Board of Directors has been busy with strategic planning this year, and we have some exciting news to share about your association. ◆ **NEW NAME for MHHA.** At the MHHA Board of Directors meeting in December, the Board of Directors recommended a name change they believe best reflects our diverse membership and forward focus. As a follow-up, a voting ballot was mailed to each MHHA voting member seeking feedback and approval for a name change to **THE MICHIGAN ASSOCIATION FOR HOME CARE.** It is our sincere hope that the information about the new name was shared with interested persons at your organization but, if not, please copy this issue of the MHHA Bulletin and distribute to help spread the news at your agency. ◆ **Why Change?** The Michigan Home Health Association (MHHA) is embarking on a new era of comprehensive home care services. As the needs of our population demand more and diverse care services, our Association and members have heeded the call to continually provide exceptional value and excellent service.

◆ At close of business on Monday, the votes came in and MHHA voting members supported the change by a 3:1 margin. Next steps will involve a branding campaign to communicate our new brand identity to members, elected leaders and other important stakeholders. ◆ **You are invited** to participate on the MHHA Membership Committee to assist with implementation of this exciting new change. Contact the MHHA office to get involved and receive notices of brand planning meetings. Next steps will involve the Membership and Executive Committees who will work closely with our public relations firm, Edge Partnerships, who will lead us in a branding campaign for the new name. Interested members are invited to participate in the brand decision-making process. ◆ If all goes as expected a press release announcing **the name change and new brand is tentatively targeted around late March or early April.** Feel free to direct questions to Membership Committee Chair Tom Mann, myself (Jill Roby-Snyder), Barry Cargill or any member of the MHHA Board of Directors. ◆ This is an exciting time for our industry! Your MHHA Board representatives are doing our very best to keep up with those changes and position the association to support our members. We appreciate your support and creative input as the branding campaign moves closer to the public announcement. ◆ I want to extend a heartfelt congratulations to **Joan Taylor** of Trinity Home Care who has accepted a new position within her organization to serve on the transition team for the merger of Trinity Health and Catholic Health East. I feel sad that her position is not in home care as she will not be eligible to continue on the MHHA Board of Directors. But I am very

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happy for her and her newest professional challenge. I understand she will be attending the MHHA Clinical Ops Committee meeting on January 17. ◆ **January 31 Vendor Showcase.** MHHA will continue our series of workshops to help you prepare your agency for the future. A daylong event at the Okemos Conference Center at the Comfort Inn/Holiday Inn Express in Okemos. This is your opportunity to meet and hear from software vendors who will display and present their products. The Education Committee is doing a great job spearheading this event and reports there are eleven vendors participating so far. If you are evaluating software options, this is a must attend event. You will find more information including registration details at the MHHA Website at: <https://m360.mhha.org/event.aspx?eventID=62993&instance=0>. ◆ **March on Washington.** MHHA will once again participate with the National Association of Home Care & Hospice "March on Washington", scheduled March 15 - 17. Our visit to Washington is timely considering the continued threat to Medicare reimbursement, co-pays as well as the continued need to pass the HME - Market Pricing Plan. We will meet with each member of the Michigan Congressional Delegation to convey home care priorities. Contact our Executive Director, Barry Cargill, if you would like to join the MHHA delegation for this important event at: Cargill.barry@mhha.org 517 349-8089 X14. ◆ MHHA is your organization. Our name may be changing soon but our commitment to our mission in support of the home care industry is NOT changing. Please make this your year to become more actively involved. It could be the best decision you make this year for your career and your agency.

Regulatory

Joan Taylor & Paula Stopjik

◆ The next Regulatory meeting is scheduled for January 17, 2013 after the Clinical Operations Committee at the MHHA Office. The group will continue work on an ICD-10 Assessment tool for home health providers.



IV/Infection Control

Deb Opalowski & Rachel Aultman

◆ The Infection Control/IV Subcommittee last met on November 15th. The group continues to work on revising the IV policy and procedure book to compliment the Intravenous Nursing Society (INS) standards of practice. We also discussed and are looking forward to the great opportunity to present a “breakout session” on SMART pumps at this year’s Annual Conference. If you have questions for the committee to address or would like to join please contact the MHHA office. The next meeting will be on January 17, 2013, directly following the Clinical Ops meeting.

Public Policy

Linda Rutman & John Ruswinckel

◆ Happy New Year! The cliff was averted but the state and federal budget and legislative issues will soon be back on our committee agenda once the new congressional delegates are sworn in. Key among them is the home health licensure in Michigan and Medicaid structure and payments as the Affordable Care Act impacts the state and nation. As providers, employers, and recipients of health care we are an integral part of the system to find fair, efficient, and effective solutions to continue these essential services. ◆ Mark your calendars: MHHA State Legislative Day is Wednesday, May 8, 2013 from 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. More information will follow at a later date. ◆ Please join us for our next meeting February 1, 2013 at 10 a.m. by teleconference.

Ethics

Sue Clemen-Stone

◆ The next Ethics Committee Meeting is February 25, 2013 from 10:00 a.m. to noon at the MHHA office. We will be working on goals for 2013-2015. Meeting is open to anyone that is interested.

Rehab

Ruth Benjamin

The Rehab Subcommittee did not meet in December. Proposal to the MHHA Board to have the Rehab Subcommittee meet with clinical ops was approved at the December 13th meeting. Next meeting is January 17, 2013 at 9:30. Attendance can be in person or by phone. The Rehab Subcommittee will meet separately as needed for special projects.

Clinical Operations

Donna Kleinschmit & Sara Simonds

◆ Clinical Operations did not meet, however issues of interest to members this month included: Interpretation of the Final Rule and implementation strategies related to changes in the therapy counts to occur with payment episodes which begin on or after January 1, 2013. ◆ The potential implementation of co-pays for home health if the “fiscal cliff” is not resolved, or if they become implemented as a bargaining chip toward a resolution of the tax issue. ◆ The OIG report on home health fraud and abuse that was issued in December 2012 which recommended: CMS (1) establish additional contractor performance standards for high-risk providers in fraud-prone areas, (2) develop a system to track revocation recommendations and respond to them in a timely manner, and (3) follow up on and prevent inappropriate payments made to HHAs with suspended or revoked billing privileges. CMS concurred with all three recommendations.

Private Duty

Sheila Doeden & Tom Mann

◆ The Private Duty Committee met December 18 via teleconference. Discussion about the New Federal ruling that will affect services provided by agencies that provide Medicare covered RN and Therapy Services. These services can now be provided to anyone who is a Medicare recipient and would benefit from Home Health Care. ◆ Senate Hearings will happen this month to discuss Medicaid’s required expansion that will require the state legislature to appropriate funding. ◆ The Affordable Care Act would mandate employers to offer insurance to its employees. MHHA is working with the National Association of Hospice and NPDA on potential solutions. ◆ Auto Insurance Reform has been deferred, there will be no change in Personal Injury Protection amounts, there has been considerable work done with CPAN and MHHA that was very effective. ◆ MDCH meeting update indicates a possible increase in re-imburement for Private Duty nursing. Tom Mann is working with Ann Baker on getting the Medicaid rate increased. In addition they are talking about billing Medicaid and not rounding the quarter hour increments down but up. ◆ Our next meeting will be held in Okemos on January 22, 2013 at 12:30.



Education

Deb Holman

◆ The Education Committee is finalizing sessions for the 2013 MHHA Annual Conference which will be May 22-24, 2013 at the Grand Traverse Resort. Mark Your Calendars! Registration materials will be available the end of January, 2013 ◆ MHHA will once again be holding a series of showcases. The first is a Software Vendor Showcase on January 31, 2013. The following vendors have agreed to participate this far: CarAnyware, Kinnser, HealthCareFirst, Healthcare Synergy, Axxess, McKesson, Procura, ContinuLink, Indura Systems and Sandata and Absolute Software. It is a great opportunity to compare and contrast the different vendors and products. Whether you are looking for software, happy with your software or just curious to see what else is out there, it's a great opportunity to see them all in one place. We also will be holding a Telehealth Showcase on February 28, 2013 and lastly on March 28, 2012 we will be holding a Medical Supplies Showcase. Mark your calendars and register early for these events. Please contact any company you would like to see at these showcases and encourage them to participate. It's a great way to compare and contrast similar companies all in one spot. ◆ 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.

Reimbursement

Chris Kisell & Amy Gil

◆ Amy and I hope that everyone had a wonderful Holiday season and that you are all rejuvenated for the busy upcoming year. The Reimbursement Committee met by Tele-Conference on December 19th, 2012. Please join us for the next meeting on site at 9:30 on January 16th. ◆ The Committee discussed the Benchmarking results on the Tele-Conference along with any possible enhancements or updates. ◆ The Committee discussed the possible delay of the 2% Sequestration slated for February and how to account for it. ◆ We also discussed the Finance Track for the Annual Conference. More to come when speakers are confirmed. **Reimbursement now has its own ListServ!!** Please email Cindy Thelen thelen.cindy@mhha.org at MHHA 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.

HME/Infusion

Julie Johnson & Brian Griffore

◆ The MHHA HME/Infusion Committee looks forward to 2013 with great anticipation. The year will undoubtedly be filled with new challenges, and with those challenges come opportunity! We will as a Committee, be meeting again on Monday January 21st, 2013. ◆ As the 112th Congress came to a close, so did any bills that were introduced during the 112th Congressional session. In spite of the 87 cosponsors that H.R. 6490 earned, it was not included into the last-minute fiscal cliff deal that recently passed in both the Senate and House. A new bill must now be introduced in the 113th Congress, which began when members of Congress got sworn in. Although H.R. 6490 is no more, this does not mean our efforts cease. The DME industry is in a position where it is gaining traction on the competitive bidding issue and members of Congress are taking notice. In the weeks leading up to the close of the 112th Congress, state associations including MHHA, providers and industry stakeholders worked diligently to communicate the issues and concerns with the flawed CB program. From meetings on the Hill to roundtable discussions in local communities, members of Congress are getting the message. They are hearing about the access issues that Medicare beneficiaries are having. They are beginning to see that this program will affect many parts of the country, including rural areas. These messages to Congress must continue in the 113th session. In spite of competitive bidding, audits, reductions in reimbursement and any number of other challenges that we face both now and invariably down the road, the people that make up our Committee and those we represent are a resilient bunch. To that we say a collective "BRING IT!"

Membership

Tom Mann

◆ The Membership Committee is looking for new members. If you are a strategic thinker in your agency and interested in sharing and building your experience as a member of the MHHA Membership Committee, please contact myself (Tom Mann) at tommann@med.umich.edu or Barry Cargill at Cargill.barry@mhha.org. The Membership Committee will be taking a greater role in the strategic thinking and evaluating innovative new services and benefits. Participation on this Committee is open to all service line members. Next meeting will be January 15th by teleconference at 10:30 a.m. ◆ If you read Jill Roby-Snyder's Board Report on page one, you know the Membership Committee will be facilitating decisions involving the new Brand to support the new name (Michigan Association for Home Care). The Membership Committee established a Branding Committee to work closely with MHHA's Public Relations Firm, Edge Partnerships. If you are interested in helping with this Subcommittee, please send me or Cindy at the MHHA Office an e-mail at Thelen.cindy@mhha.org to express your interest.



MHHA Newsletter

The new name is only a small part of the overall branding campaign and are invited to participate. ♦ Help me welcome the following companies to the MHHA Family:

Alator Home Health, Inc.

Contact: Asher Bashir
2193 Association Drive, Suite 800
Okemos, MI 48864
Phone: 517/708-3080
Fax: 517/708-3081
E-mail: asherb@alatorhealth.com
Service Line Member - Certified

Care Response Home Health

Contact: Valerie Dockter
3025 Boardwalk #165
Ann Arbor MI 48108
Phone: 734/662-2207
Fax: 734/205-5885
E-mail: vdockter@careresponse.com
Service Line Member - Private Duty

Donna Kleinschmit

205 Central Street
Battle Creek, MI 49017
Phone: 269/965-1742
Fax: 269/965-4720
E-mail: hockeymomx3@aol.com
Individual - Certified

Sandata Technologies

Contact: Sal Sparacino
26 Harbor Park Drive
Port Washington, NY 11050
Phone: 516/484-4400
Fax: 516/626-5640
E-mail: ssparacino@sandata.com
Associate Member - Certified/Hospice

Superior Health Care Management

Contact: Vicki Welty
801 W. Ann Arbor Trail #200
Plymouth, MI 48170-1694
Phone: 734/414-9990
Fax: 734/414-9200
E-mail: vwelty@superiorhealthmanagement.com
Associate Member - Private Duty



MHHA Newsletter Links of Interest

[Hospice Education: What Competencies are Necessary for the Hospice Aide](#) - January 8, 2013

[The Aide's Role in The Aging Process](#) - January 10, 2013

[Software Vendor Showcase](#) - January 31, 2013

[CD-10 Coding: Infections and Parasitic Disease; Neoplasms; Disorders of Blood](#) - February 6, 2013

[Hospice & Home Health Education: HIPAA for the Hospice Aide](#) - February 14, 2013

[Telehealth Vendor Showcase](#) - February 28, 2013

Blueprint for OASIS Accuracy Workshop - March 4-6, 2013 (Available in the next couple of weeks)

[ICD-10 Coding: Diseases of Blood and Forming Organs; Mental, Behavioral & Neurodevelopment Disorders Teleconference](#) - March 6, 2013

[The Aide's Role in Understanding the Body's Basic Requirements](#) - March 14, 2013

ICD-9 Coding and Billing Workshop - April 4-5, 2013 (Available in the next couple of weeks)

[Medical Supply Vendor Showcase](#) - March 28, 2013

[Hospice Education: Finding the Right Words for the Dying Patient](#) - April 9, 2013

[ICD-10 Coding: Diseases of the Nervous System and the Digestive System](#) - April 10, 2013

MHHA Annual Conference - May 22-24, 2013 (Available end of January, first part of February)

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>

MHHA Committee Calendar

[Hospice Committee Meeting](#) - February 6, 2013

[HME Committee Teleconference](#) - January 21, 2013

[Private Duty Committee Teleconference](#) - January 15, 2013

[Reimbursement Committee Teleconference](#) - January 16, 2013

[Clinical Operations Committee Meeting](#) - January 17, 2013

[Regulatory Committee](#) - January 17, 2013

[IV/Infection Control](#) - January 17, 2013

[Ethics Committee](#) - January 7, 2013

[Public Policy Committee](#) - January 5, 2013

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