



November, 2012
Volume 22, Issue 11

Bulletin Board Newsletter Michigan Home Health Association



Published by the Michigan Home Health Association

Board of Directors

Jill Roby-Snyder

◆ November is **Home Care Month** so there is no better time to reflect on the importance of home care than with the devastation of Hurricane Sandy is weighing heavy on our hearts. Our thoughts and prayers go out to our friends on the east coast as they deal with the devastation of their communities. It is disasters such as Sandy that remind us of the important role we in home care play in not only responding and averting crisis but also the day-to-day services we provide to our patients. They depend on us to protect them from harm and help make their lives fulfilling. In 1982, there were 3000 homecare agencies in our nation and today we have 33,000 serving over 1.3 million patients in their homes. The progress of our industry has been substantial as MHHA once again honors this special month. ◆ MHHA Executive Director, Barry Cargill and I just returned from the National Association of Home Care & Hospice Annual Conference. I was pleased to see other MHHA members attending as well because the national education and networking opportunity was valuable. MHHA participates with the NAHC Forum of States Associations and prior to the NAHC Conference, Barry and I had the opportunity to meet with the other state associations to share experiences and collaborate on trends and issues impacting our state associations. Our Forum colleagues include home care agencies in all of the east coast states and we have since been in contact with each of them regarding the important emergency response role they play. MHHA has offered our assistance and will continue to work with our east coast colleagues to help in any way we can. In the meantime, I urge you to make your donation to the American Red Cross and other organizations responding to the crisis.

◆ Natural and unnatural disasters can happen at any time. For home care providers, this is the time to review your emergency preparedness plan and to create a plan if you do not have one. By preparing proactively, we can be ready when emergencies strike our community and to assist other communities when they need our help.

◆ Bob Fazzi is coming to MHHA December 11. My hat is tipped to the MHHA Education Committee for all they are doing to educate our members to prepare for the future. Many of you are familiar with Fazzi Associates. It is one of several programs MHHA will host to help our members react to the implementation of the Affordable Care Act. Mark your calendars and plan to attend. On November 28, Abby Green will be conducting a workshop on Cost Calculation models. MHHA members are facing changes as never before and I appreciate all the work the Education Committee is doing to help MHHA members prepare your

Inside This Issue

Board of Directors • Rehab • Ethics	1
Regulatory • Public Policy • IV/Infection Control	2
Clinical Operations • Private Duty • Education	3
Membership • Hospice • Reimbursement	4
HME/Infusion	4
Links of Interest	5

agency for the future. ◆ You are all well aware that home care is facing a reimbursement crisis with a disastrous trend of Medicare cuts and government regulations. While MHHA is actively working to influence our elected leaders to make changes, I remind you that research conducted by AARP shows that nearly 90 percent of seniors wish to remain in their own homes as they age to live independently. The Future for home care is very bright but we may need to be creative in offering our services. I encourage all of you to take full advantage of MHHA education programs so that you can position your agency and career to thrive. ◆ Last but certainly not least, please vote on November 6.

Rehab

Ruth Benjamin

◆ The Rehab Committee did not meet in October. Next meeting: Wednesday, November 14th at 9:30. Be prepared to discuss Annual Conference education ideas, possible participation in LSVT BIG workshop and nominate the person next to you to be the rehab representative on the Education Committee. Please send additional agenda items to Ruth at ruth.benjamin@midmichigan.org. Hope to see you there!

**VOTE NO
ON PROPOSAL 4**

[\(CLICK TO LEARN MORE\)](#)

Ethics

Sue Clemen-Stone

Committee in process of reviewing MHHA resource document related to ethics in home care. Committee is also defining topics for the business and clinical ethics presentations for the 2013 Annual meeting. Input would be appreciated. Please contact MHHA office with suggestions regarding a committee membership. Next meeting November 26, 2012 from 10:00 to 12:00.



Regulatory

Joan Taylor & Paula Stopjik

◆ Regulatory Committee met on October 18, 2012. Chris Garfield shared a recent federal court case which clarified that a failure to meet a Condition of Participation did not implicate a false claim as identified in the False Claims Act. This is good news for all Medicare providers who may at any place in time be out of compliance with a specific condition of participation. Chris also shared information on the Proposals on the ballot in November. From a legal perspective, most of the proposals are vague and therefore cause concern as they will then be added to the Michigan constitution. MHHA has taken an opposition position to Proposal 4 as it does not support the “agency model” for home service delivery. ◆ Pam Wozniak shared the handouts from CMS’ survey protocols presentation which were rolled out in May 2011. This will be particularly valuable to agencies especially if the new intermediate sanctions for home health agencies are approved in the upcoming final rule. ◆ The group began work on an ICD-10 Assessment tool for home health providers. Key impact areas have been identified and the group will continue this work over the next several months. ◆ The next Regulatory Meeting is scheduled for November 15, 2012 after the Clinical Operations Committee at the MHHA Office. The HPPPS Final was issued November 2nd. And will be discussed in at the November meeting.

Public Policy

Linda Rutman & John Ruswinckel

◆ God bless America and especially those who are suffering the rage of Hurricane Sandy, and those who are responding to those in need! Only in America can the Federal state and local governments located in the eye of the storm, physically shut down and continue to serve the needs of their citizens. Only in America in a crisis, can partisan rhetoric take a back seat to human need. As the storm subsides and we see the mass destruction it caused, we see the great infrastructure in place as government through FEMA nationally and state and local programs locally beginning the work of restoration and recovery. Please consider helping through those programs which support disaster relief. ◆ By November 6th, we should each have exercised our right to vote for candidates and issues. This right is also a serious responsibility to study the pros and cons of each candidate and proposal at all levels of government. Search on line for biographies of candidates, proposal pros and cons, etc. When the dust settles after the election, our committee will be about the business of fostering effective, efficient legislation which supports the people we serve and our agencies of service.

WHY DO I OPPOSE PROPOSAL 4?

MHHA member, Joanne Sraj Sopko, RN, MSN, Owner/CEO of Alpha Omega Home Health in Elkton, Michigan offers her perspective on why she opposes Proposal 4 on the November 6, General Election Ballot. In an effort to share her perspective to appeal to the hearts of “regular voters” Joanne posted her thoughts on several online locations and offered to include it in the MHHA Bulletin. Here is what Joanne has to say about Proposal 4.

1. *Aide's would be working without workman's comp insurance, if they hurt themselves, they would not get their medical bills paid, nor be reimbursed for the time off they might have to take.*
2. *The private individuals who hired the AIDE would have to pay the Aide's social security tax. It is quite common for such folks NOT to pay this tax. Social Security requires that a person work at least ten calendar quarters while paying into the Social Security system. These Aide's would either get no social security or a reduced social security check when they want to retire.*
3. *Another area of concern is that they would have background checks on hire, but what about drug testing on hire & randomly?*
4. *Aide's would be working without the supervision of an RN. This would not only make it impossible for them to renew their license, but have them making patient care decisions they aren't trained for. If a lawsuit should result, they wouldn't be covered by malpractice insurance.*
5. *Lastly, Proposal 4 would REQUIRE that Nurse Aides be union members. That should be for the Aides, not voters, to decide. If the Aides want to back out of the union, would we have to change the constitution AGAIN?*

Please share your own views on Proposal 4 with your friends, and co-workers. Vote November 6th

IV/Infection Control

Deb Opalowski & Rachel Aultman

◆ The Infection Control/IV Subcommittee last met on October 18th. The group continues to work on revising the IV policy and procedure book to compliment the Intravenous Nursing Society (INS) standards of practice. 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 November 15th, directly following Clinical Ops. ◆ Rachel Aultman has resigned her co-chair position, and Melody Ford has volunteered to co - chair with Debbi Opalewski. Thank you so much Rachel for your dedicated service to this committee. Welcome Melody, I look forward to working with you.



Clinical Operations

Donna Kleinschmit & Sara Simonds

◆ The Clinical Operations Committee met on October 18, 2012. Sara Simonds will serve as new Committee Co-chair. ◆ BCBSM update provided by Donna Kleinschmit. There is a meeting tentatively scheduled for 11/10/12. Rachel Aultman from Mid-Michigan Home Health will be attending. Please forward questions for the BCBSM group to the MHHA office. ◆ Subcommittees: IV/Infection control is continuing work on the updated Policy and Procedure manual. Psych Subcommittee has a focus on dementia and re-hospitalization related to behavioral issues. Rehab subcommittee is meeting next in November. ◆ New business Missouri Alliance Fall Risk assessment has been approved as a validated tool to use in the community setting. The rehab subcommittee members caution not to use this tool for all patients, as the TUG is perhaps more appropriate for patients who are able to participate in it. The suggestion is to use the MAHC-10 tool for non-ambulatory or cognitively impaired patients. There is a request for state associations to partner with the Missouri Alliance to do similar benchmarking as was done in the past with the Infection Control benchmarking project. With participation, there would be a discounted price for agencies. In the past, however, this was a very manually intensive project for the MHHA staff. ◆ Discussion surrounding educational sessions and showcases which are upcoming. See the Education committee minutes. ◆ Survey reports - One agency had a CHAP survey. Issues with bag technique - staff using their own bag unknown to the agency - had no dirty/clean area differentiation. D/C summary process was an issue - did not like the agency process of hand delivering the summary as there was no "proof" of delivery. ◆ An agency had a report back from NGS regarding failing the re-validation process as the site visitor was unable to document any one was on the premises. Suggestion is to pursue this actively with office personnel and legal counsel to resolve ASAP. ◆ Suggestion to add Medicaid liaison as a standing agenda item to the Regulatory update so that when issues do come up, there is a reminder. ◆ OASIS auditing process - discussion about individual processes. ◆ Proposed CHAP standards that just became final. No crosswalk is currently available from the old to the new. It should be coming out according to CHAP. ◆ Benchmarking software - discussion regarding use, benefits, etc. ◆ Scanning documents into the EMR - discussion as to the shredding of original documents.



Private Duty

Sheila Doeden & Tom Mann

◆ The Private Duty Committee held a meeting on Tuesday October 16, 2012 in Okemos. We had our schedulers at the meeting and there was good conversation about best practices. There was discussion about Benchmarks for # of hours each scheduler can be expected to schedule on a weekly basis. Thanks to all who participated and shared thoughts and ideas of how we can better position ourselves in our businesses. ◆ Licensing continues to be discussed and the fact that registry's need to be included. ◆ Proposal 4-MHHA stance is vote no. It all sounds good but means that if you are taking care of a loved one at home and receiving so much as a stipend from Medicaid, you'll be considered a government employee and union dues will be deducted from those Medicaid payments. The funds acquired would be used to provide training to family caregivers (those not employed by an agency) and this is direct competition for the MHHA members. ◆ Auto No Fault for caregivers working in Private Duty for an agency and requirements of minimums of 100/300 in coverage. ◆ The Education Committee continues to work with all of the committees for the Annual Conference, May 2013. ◆ The Public Policy Committee meets on the first Friday of every month and anyone who would like to attend are welcome. ◆ The next Private Duty meeting will be a teleconference on Tuesday November 20 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! ◆ There are many opportunities happening this Fall. ◆ MHHA begun a new series of teleconference for HME providers provided by national expert Miriam Lieber. The first one was held October 31, 2012 and was on Operations Management. The next one in the series is November 15th on A/R Management. ◆ MHHA held a well attended OASIS Workshop, October 31-November 2nd. ◆ With all the changes occurring with the Affordable Care Act, home care agencies need to be proactive and do things differently to be successful. To help with this, MHHA will be holding a start of a series of workshops that will assist agencies in doing business. On November 28, 2012 Abby Green will be presenting a workshop on Cost Calculation Modules and on December 11, 2012, National Experts, Bob Fazzi and Eileen Freitag and Scott Glover from the law firm of Kitch, Drutches, Wagner Valitutti and Sherbrook will be presenting on Affordable Care Act and Fraud and Abuse respectively. Both sessions will help agencies do their business better. 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.



MHHA Newsletter

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. ◆ Help me welcome the following companies to the MHHA Family:

Cardiocom

Contact: Amy Foley
7980 Century Boulevard
Chanhassen, MN 55317
Phone: 888/243-8881
Fax: 888/320-8881
E-mail: showsupport@cardiocom.com
Associate Member - Certified Hospice

Dependable Home Healthcare

Contact: Rad Malas
18620 W 10 Mile Road
Southfield, MI 48075
Phone: 248/424-4807
Fax: 248/424-4810
E-mail: Rad_malas@msn.com
Regular - Certified

National Staffing and Home Care

Contact: Delores Haw
PO Box 160
Whitmore Lake, MI 48189
Phone: 734/449-9050
Fax: 877/783-2651
E-mail: delores@nationalstaffingandhomecare.com
Regular - Private Duty

Reimbursement

Chris Kisell & Amy Gil

◆ The Reimbursement Committee met on site October 17th, 2012. Please join us for the next meeting by teleconference at 9:30 on December 19th. **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. ◆ The benchmarking results will be ready for the December meeting. We will be sending out the form to fill out. This is useful data from agencies in your area to compare to. Take the time to submit your information. The due date will be in November. ◆ The Committee discussed the 2% Sequestration that could be coming in February and how to account for it. We also discussed the Finance Track for the Annual Conference. There were a lot of good suggestions. The track looks to be very informative. More to come when speakers are confirmed. ◆ 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 HME/Infusion Committee met via teleconference on October 15th and the call was well attended. Amongst the topics discussed was Competitive Bidding. CB Round 2 remains perhaps the most pressing issue on the minds of Home Medical Equipment Providers. H.R. 6490, a bill that would replace competitive bidding with a market-pricing program (MPP), was introduced in September by Rep. Tom Price, R-Ga. The bill currently has 23 co-sponsors. MHHA Members are encouraged to contact their Congressmen and ask them to support H.R. 6490. We continue to work on issues relating to BCBSM Participation requirements. ◆ MHHA is in the process of scheduling a BCBS liaison meeting to clarify questions received from our members on this topic. ◆ Barry Cargill in October represented MHHA at the HME industry's largest trade show - "Med Trade" in Atlanta, Ga. We look forward to hearing from Mr. Cargill at the next HME/Infusion teleconference which is scheduled Monday, November 19th at 10:00 a.m.



MHHA Board President Jill Roby-Snyder, Kimberly Costello of Holland Hospital Home Health, and MHHA Executive Director Barry Cargill "ham it up" at the Care Anywhere Sponsored Reception at the NAHC Fall Conference.

Hospice

Laura Bonde & Rene Wheaton

◆ Next meeting is November 7, 2012



MHA Newsletter Links of Interest

[Hospice Education: Using Assistive Devices in the Home](#) - November 8, 2012

[HME Teleconference - A/R Management - A Practical Approach](#) - November 15, 2012

[Visit Cost Calculation Workshop](#) - November 28, 2012

[HME Teleconference - Data Scouring to Maximize Profitability](#) - December 6, 2012

Affordable Care Act Workshop with Bob Fazzi - December 11, 2012 (registration material will be available soon)

[Hospice Education: Is Humor Okay in the Hospice Setting??](#) - December 11, 2012

[The Aide's Role in Working with Patients with HIV/AIDS](#) - December 13, 2012

[Hospice Education: What Competencies are Necessary for the Hospice Aide](#) - January 8, 2012

[The Aide's Role in The Aging Process](#) - January 10, 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](#) – November 7, 2012

[Executive Committee Meeting](#) – November 8, 2012

[HME Committee Teleconference](#) – November 19, 2012

[Private Duty Committee Teleconference](#) – November 20, 2012

[Reimbursement Committee](#) – November 21, 2012

[Clinical Operations Committee Meeting](#) – November 15, 2012

[Education Committee Meeting](#) – November 8, 2012

[Regulatory Committee](#) – November 15, 2012

[Rehab SubCommittee](#) – November 14, 2012

[IV/ Infection Control](#) – November 15, 2012

[Ethics Committee](#) – November 26, 2012