Association Testifies at CT Healthcare Cabinet "Cost Containment" Hearing

CT Lt. Governor Nancy Wyman's Healthcare Cabinet, comprised of state agency commissioners, department heads, healthcare advocates and provider representatives, are nearing the end of their responsibility of recommending comprehensive and sweeping changes to reducing state spending on the state employee health plan and the Medicaid program.

The recommendations, which will have an impact on all CT Medicaid providers, will be finalized by year end. Susan Adams, VP Integration for Masonicare and incoming chair of the Association's Board of Directors, has a seat on the Cabinet and has been attending the meetings for over a year. Any resulting action will be announced in early 2017.

The Cabinet heard public comment on Nov. 15 on an amended set of recommendations to control costs in both programs. Deborah Hoyt testified on behalf of the Association and the Association submitted joint written testimony with CHA, Leading Age CT, CAHCF and CSMS.

Read Deborah Hoyt's testimony
Read joint testimony from the Provider Association Collaborative

Join our Federal APRN Legislation Push!

The U.S. Congress is preparing legislative bills for action during the post-Trump election "lame-duck session" (Nov. - Dec. 2016).

This is a brief window for us to make another aggressive grassroots advocacy push for S.578/H.R.1342, the "APRN" bill or "Home Health Care Planning Improvement Act."
This bipartisan-sponsored bill would allow nurse practitioners, physician assistants, clinical nurse specialists and other non-physician advance-practice professionals to order and certify
Medicare home health services.

We hear that there is a renewed effort by U.S. Senator Charles Schumer from NY, to take the lead and "get this bill done" during the next 6 week window.

Please take 1 minute to click on the action alert link, input your name and address and click send. We are using the Homecare Association of NY action center link to build on the growing response from home health providers across the country aimed directly to Senator Schumer.

**Action Alert Link**

You are also encouraged to email or call your CT member of the U.S. Senate (Murphy and Blumenthal only).

A link to their contact info. is here: [http://ctdems.org/elected-officials/congressional-delegation/](http://ctdems.org/elected-officials/congressional-delegation/)

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**Medicare PPS Final Rates Effective January 1, 2017**

Calendar year 2017 final wage adjusted non-LUPA episode and LUPA visit rates were published in the November 3, 2016 Federal register. The rates are pre-sequestration which we expect to continue. View them here as Excel Spreadsheet.

The national pre-wage index adjusted rate increased from $2,965.12 to $2,989.97.

The national rural pre-wage index adjusted rate will be $3,079.67.

For Medicare PPS revenue budgeting, a key is the PPS episodic % change from the prior year highlighted in yellow on the attached spreadsheet. We suggest you consider reducing the applicable % by the case mix budget neutrality of 2.14% for purposes of budgeting the change in PPS revenue per episode.

Contact Brad Borbidge, [bborbidge@berrydunn.com](mailto:bborbidge@berrydunn.com) or 603-518-2676 with questions.

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**New Survey: 78% of Connecticut Voters Want to Stay in Community, but Important Resources Lacking**

In a recent survey by AARP Research, 78 percent of registered Connecticut voters encompassing a wide age and demographic spectrum feel it is important for them to live in their community and the state for as long as possible, with 50 percent saying it is very important.

However, a majority of the one-thousand registered voters age 25-plus surveyed also expressed the need for state leaders to address community features important to residents - such as job opportunities, public transportation, affordable housing and hospitals - that are either insufficient or non-existent and could cause population erosion.

"The report shows us Connecticut voters want to remain in their communities, while signifying the need for our state to address gaps in the quality of important safety, economic and health resources available," said AARP Connecticut State Director Nora Duncan.
A majority of Connecticut voters, regardless of age, believe their communities do include safe neighborhoods, public libraries, parks or recreation centers, and good public schools, but many people indicated that certain important community features do not exist and their community needs them.

**State of CT Budget woes intensify as government projections emerge**

*Source: HBJ*

Two state government reports put Connecticut's budget deficit as high as $1.3 billion, citing increased pension and retiree healthcare costs as primary drivers.

**Continue Reading**

**CT Legislative Leadership Named**

Democrats in the House voted unanimously to elect Rep. Joe Aresimowicz (D-Berlin) as their next Speaker and Rep. Matt Ritter (D-Hartford) as the next Majority Leader. The full House will vote on Rep. Aresimowicz's appointment when it convenes for the 2017 legislative session. He will lead Democrats in a House that has seen a narrowing of their vote margin to 79 over 72. Aresimowicz vowed to work with Republicans in an inclusive, bipartisan manner. The House Republicans met last night as well. The caucus chose their current Minority Leader, Rep. Themis Klarides (R-Derby), to continue in that role.

The Senate Democrats met yesterday and voted unanimously to reelect Senator Martin Looney (D-New Haven) as its President Pro Tempore and Senator Bob Duff (D-Norwalk) as its Majority Leader. The full Senate will vote on Senator Looney's appointment when the Senate convenes in January for the 2017 legislative session. The Senate Republican Caucus also met and unanimously reelected Senator Len Fasano (R-North Haven) as its Minority Leader and Senator Kevin Witkos (R-Canton) as Minority Leader Pro Tempore.

**Register Now: Boston North East Home Health Leadership Summit**

January 17-19, 2017

The agenda for the annual North East Regional Leadership Summit and reservation information for the Colonnade Hotel in Boston is available here: [http://nehomehealthsummit.com/](http://nehomehealthsummit.com/). Join your colleagues for two days of intense leadership inspiration and networking.
Upcoming Events

For all upcoming events check out our online calendar of events.

https://ui.constantcontact.com/visualeditor/visual_editor_preview.jsp?agent.uid=1126453230135&format=html&print=true
Driving Decisions with Data
Date: 11/30/2016
Location: Wallingford, Connecticut
Time: From 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM

Register*

*Special: Register 5 attendees and get an additional registration complimentary! To take advantage of this promotion, please contact Courtney Verissimo!

Quality Improvement Committee Meeting
11/30/2016
Location: Wallingford, Connecticut
Time: 1 - 3 pm

Education Committee Meeting
12/1/2016
Location: Wallingford, Connecticut
Time: 9 - 11 am

Future of Healthcare at Home Committee Meeting
12/1/2016
Location: Wallingford, Connecticut
Time: 1 - 3 pm

Home Care Institute Demo
12/1/2016
Time: From 2:00-3:00PM
Members Only

Board of Directors Meeting
12/2/2016
Location: Wallingford, Connecticut
Time: 9 - 11 am

The Gold Standard: Understanding the Background & Importance of Compression for Wound Care Patients
12/5/2016
Time: 2:00-3:00 PM
Register

Hospice & Palliative Committee Meeting
12/7/2016
Location: Wallingford, Connecticut
Time: 2 - 4 pm

Fall 2017 Home Health Aide Teleconference Series: The Aide's Role in Understanding Mental Illness
12/8/2016
Time: From 3:00-4:00 PM
Register
New Home Health CoPs: A Roadmap for Agency Success  
12/8/2016  
Location: Wallingford  
Time: 9:00AM-3:30PM  
Register

Confidently Auditing Therapy Documentation  
12/13/2016  
Time: 11:30AM-1:00PM  
Register

Hospice Quality Reporting and Customer Service: Yes...there IS a connection!  
12/15/2016  
Time: 2:00-3:30PM  
Register

All workshops and meetings are held at 110 Barnes Road, Wallingford - unless otherwise noted. Please register for SIG meetings on www.cthealthcareathome.org.

Please call (203) 265-9931 with questions or register online by visiting www.cthealthcareathome.org

Career Center

Featured Jobs
To view all Jobs, click here

Hospice Program Director  
VNA Community Healthcare  
Guilford, CT

RN Case Manager  
KeepMeHome LLC  
CT

RN-Community Health Coordinator  
Visiting Nurse & Hospice of Fairfield County  
Norwalk, CT

Website  Association  Members  Calendar  Legislative  Regulatory  Contact

CT Healthcare at Home  
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www.cthealthcareathome.org