Current News

Electronic Visit Verification (EVV) Top Concern, Advocacy Focus

The Association's Board of Directors, Government Relations Committee and staff have been leading an aggressive grassroots and "grasstops" campaign over the past 6 months to inform and engage DSS, state legislators and the Executive Branch in a conversation about the unintended consequences of imposing a single vendor EVV system on CT home health agencies and the need to halt the implementation process.

Licensed providers do not oppose EVV. In fact, most all agencies have had sophisticated EVV technology in place, some for two decades. The concerns center on the DSS single vendor mandate (a vendor not used by any agencies in CT), the costs, staff resources and manual reconciliation that overlaying the second system requires. Home health agencies' current EVV systems already provide the data that DSS is requiring from the new second system. The agencies' efforts to-date to prepare for the Feb. 1, 2017 compliance date have caused significant business disruption and technology and staffing challenges. "Nonmedical" home care agencies share some of these concerns, however, have a set of distinct challenges and a more urgent implementation date of Jan. 1, 2017. The Association's advocacy has been specifically focused on the "medical" licensed agency concerns.

The advocacy campaign began with a letter from Association President Deborah Hoyt dated June 7. DSS Deputy Commissioner Kathleen Brennan responded with a letter on July 19.

The Association held a legislative public forum led by CT Rep. Cathy Abercrombie and included DSS officials including Kate McEvoy, CT Medicaid Director on October 17. The forum was televised on CTN. View the replay here.

Recent advocacy efforts included a legal letter to DSS Commissioner Bremby on Dec. 7 written by the Association's counsel, Maureen Weaver, Esq., of Wiggin & Dana., and a Dec. 15 meeting with Victoria Veltri, Chief Healthcare Policy Adviser to Lt. Gov. Nancy Wyman.

Dec. 15 meeting attendees included: CT Representative Cathy Abercrombie, Co-Chair of Human Services; Susan Adams, Masonicare and incoming Assn. Board Chair; Janine Fay, VNA Community Health Care and incoming Government Relations Chair; Tracy Wodatch, VP of Clinical and Regulatory Services at the Association; Bob Dean, VP and Gen Mgr. at McKesson; and Kinson Perry Lobbyist with Rome, Smith, Lutz.
The meeting outlined the EVV mandate and the list of licensed provider concerns including sole vendor challenges, system security concerns, lack of provider input, interface problems, added costs and administrative burdens to agencies.

Rep. Abercrombie had a private meeting with DSS Commissioner Bremby on Dec. 12 to share these concerns on behalf of the licensed "medical" home health providers.

Ms. Veltri will update the Lt. Governor and follow up with the Association.

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**McEvoy Outlines Impact of ACA and Likely Repeal on CT Medicaid**

Kate McEvoy, Director of the Health Services Division at the Department of Social Services, gave an overview of the Affordable Care Act provisions impacting Connecticut Medicaid. She identified two focus areas: (1) Medicaid and CHIP-Related; and (2) Demonstration Grants. Then she explained the impact on programs/initiatives relating to Medicaid Eligibility Expansion, Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), Medical Health Homes, Community First Choice (CFE) among several others.

Read Director McEvoy's Inventory on ACA Impact here: [Inventory of ACA Provisions Impacting Connecticut Medicaid](#).

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**Potential Medicaid Changes Under the Trump Administration**

The incoming Trump administration will focus on Medicaid reform and with the real opportunity of repealing and replacing Obamacare, we will likely see block-granting Medicaid back to the states.

Heritage Foundation policy director Nina Owcharenko, who has joined President-elect Donald Trump's HHS transition team, is advocating for premium support of Medicaid in a policy brief that lays out the group's recommendations for Medicaid reform. Advanceable tax credits would fund the premium support for able-bodied adults and their children, while federal block grants would pay for the elderly and disabled. It would probably involve converting Medicaid into a supplemental, refundable tax credit approach.

Pence has referenced Indiana's Healthy Indiana Plan ("HIP") and HIP 2.0 expansion demonstrations that were architected by Trump's pick for CMS head, Seema Verma. The state designed HIP 2.0 through the Affordable Care Act's expansion. "We actually have people on Medicaid for the first time in the history of the program that actually have to make a monthly contribution to a health savings account to receive full benefits," Pence said, referring to the state's programs.

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**Register Now: Boston Northeast Home Health Leadership Summit**

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Upcoming Events

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

Spring 2017 Home Health Aide Teleconference Series: Who Can Sleep Tight...When Bed Bugs Bite!
1/12/2017
Time: 3:00-4:00 PM
Register

Community Awareness Committee Meeting
1/13/2017
Time: 9 - 11 am
Location: Wallingford, Connecticut

Northeast Home Health Leadership Summit
1/17/2017 » 1/19/2017
Location: Boston, Massachusetts

What is Lymphedema? Understanding Disease Process, Impact and Management
1/18/2017
Time: From 3:00-4:00 PM
Register

Is Your Scheduler 2017 Ready?
1/19/2017
Time: From 11:30-1:00 PM
Register

Bereavement & Volunteer Coordinators SIG
1/26/2017
Time: 12:30 - 3:30 pm

Hospice Billing 3-Part Webinar Series
1/26/2017 » 2/28/2017
Time: 11:30am-1:00pm
Register

Board of Directors Meeting
1/27/2017
Time: 9 - 11 am
Location: Wallingford, Connecticut

Clinical Sup. & Quality Management/Therapist & Rehab Sup. JOINT SIG Meeting
1/31/2017
Time: 9 am - Noon
Location: Wallingford

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

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