Current News

**CT DSS Creating Wage and Workforce Crisis Through PCA Pay Hike**

The Association and its members have been warning CT state legislators and DSS officials about the implications of increasing wages for one specific group of Medicaid home-based worker while ignoring the pleas of agency-based home health and home care agencies.

Agencies have been the backbone of the state long term care plan for decades, however, haven’t received a reimbursement increase for 11 years (except for a 1% increase equal to .15 cents), and suffered cuts of $22-Million in reimbursement through the elimination of add-ons and restructuring behavioral health medication administration.

The State's decision to fund the self-directed care model and increase hourly wages for PCAs, while allowing agency-based home care to remain seriously underfunded, will jeopardize the $103-Million per year in savings that the agencies achieve for the State. Deborah Hoyt, Association President and CEO summarizes the deteriorating state of the CT Medicaid home-based care delivery system and resulting workforce and wage disparity crisis that is taking hold including its implications for Medicaid clients and the state general fund.

Read Deborah Hoyt's letter here: [5-30-18 DSS Association Comment Letter](#)
Read David Denvir, legal counsel for Companions & Homemakers, Inc. letter here: [Waiver Amendment Comment Letter](#)

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**NAHC Submits Comments to CMS on Medicaid Access**

The National Association for Home Care and Hospice has submitted comments on the proposed Medicaid rule allowing for "nominal" rate cuts. This proposed rule would allow states to make rate reductions of up to 4% for one year and 6% for two years and not be subject to audit. It would also exempt states where 85% of beneficiaries receive care through an MCO from reporting rate reductions.

Read the letter: [NAHC Medicaid Access letter](#)
State Associations and NAHC Collaborate to Solve the Workforce Crisis in Home Care & Hospice

The National Association for Home Care & Hospice (NAHC) has convened a national workforce task force to address the persistent staffing issues facing home care and hospice agencies across the United States.

The task force, comprised of 18 Forum of State Association Executives including Deborah Hoyt of CT, has been developing the framework for a national home care and hospice workforce summit which NAHC will convene and produce a blueprint of its work. The blueprint will provide guidance on the identified topical issues including strategies, tools and recommendations for system improvements in a format that can be used by the larger home care community. The individual states may use the blueprint for advocacy, public policy activities, systems improvements, workshop or conferences, summits or other development purposes. The National Summit is proposed for Spring 2019.

The group has met twice via conference call, developed some topical areas that will be finalized at the next meeting as well as to determine what thought leaders need to be at the table for the discussion and to find grant writers to assist in our funding the project. The group began discussing key issues including Compensation, Training standards, Education/training delivery, Scope of practice, Role of technology, Career pathway innovations, Immigration, Informal caregivers, and Costs.

Association Education Committee Seeks Member Input for 2018-19 Programming

The Education Committee invites you to complete our 2017-2018 Educational Needs Assessment Questionnaire to evaluate the educational programming offered by the Association over the past year and providing input to plan the year ahead.
The Educational Needs Assessment will be available to complete until **Friday, June 1st, 2018!**

**Click Here to Take the Educational Assessment Now!**

If you have any questions, contact Courtney at 203-774-4943 or [verissimo@cthealthcareathome.org](mailto:verissimo@cthealthcareathome.org).

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**Webinar: OASIS-C2: Wound Assessment and Documentation - June 20**

Clinicians frequently identify the integumentary portion of the OASIS-C2 assessment to be the most challenging component.

Join OASIS expert Anita Werner from Fazzi Associates, Inc. on June 20 as she helps to simplify assessment of wounds and responding to these difficult M-Items. Learn key concepts including identification of wound etiology, staging of pressure ulcers, determining the healing status of wounds, and interpretation of OASIS-C2 Guidance Manual and Q&A instructions. Accurate integumentary responses on the OASIS-C2 lead to improved wound healing outcomes, accurate episodic reimbursement, and appropriate non-routine supply payments.

View the Webinar Brochure and register: [OASIS-C2: Wound Assessment and Documentation](https://ui.constantcontact.com/visualeditor/visual_editor_preview.jsp?agent.uid=1130692032526&format=html&print=true)