Current News

Giving Thanks to Our Home Care and Hospice Members

November is National Home Care and Hospice Month, and of course, it's a time to celebrate Thanksgiving. The staff at CT Association for Healthcare at Home cannot think of a more appropriate time of year to recognize each of you for all of the life-changing work that you do.

Because of nurses, home care and hospice aides, therapists, social workers, spiritual counselors and caregivers like you, millions of Americans can get the care they need right at home. Know that you are valued, appreciated, and celebrated.

From all of us at the CT Association for Healthcare at Home, we wish you and yours a Happy Thanksgiving and a most deserving National Home Care & Hospice Month!

Serious Illness in Connecticut Summit Presented by DPH and the CT Palliative Care Advisory Council

November 12, 2019

Nearly fifty people gathered at the State Capitol last week to explore the status of serious illness care in Connecticut. Providers, consumers, state agencies, legislators and payers brought forward many issues and by the end of the discussion, a proposal was put forth to form a Coalition or Task Force to Improve Serious Illness Care in CT.
The discussion was led by the Department of Public Health Palliative Care Advisory Council Chair Karen Mulvihill. Amongst the information shared were Summit Key Messages, available here, a letter from the House Congressional leaders, available here, clarification of the differences between palliative care and hospice care, significant gaps in access to pediatric palliative care, available here, and an emotional story from a mother's point-of-view regarding the struggles her family has faced in finding adequate home services for her seriously ill two-year-old daughter.

The video recording of the day’s event can be viewed here.

Stay tuned for more information regarding the formation of a statewide coalition and the hopeful creation of a strategic plan to improve serious illness care in CT.

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**New HCAOA Executive Director Looks to Grow Membership, Strengthen Home Care's Data Capabilities**

**By Joyce Famakinwa | November 12, 2019**

The Home Care Association of America (HCAOA) is undergoing a leadership shakeup. The Washington, D.C.-based trade group announced Tuesday that long-time home care leader Vicki Hoak is taking over as executive director. Hoak takes over the role previously filled by Phil Bongiorno.

Moving forward, Hoak will be tasked with helping U.S. home care providers navigate the continued expansion of Medicare Advantage (MA) and ongoing caregiver shortage. She officially joins HCAOA this month, at which point Hoak will begin to take stock of members’ top challenges, opportunities and hopes for the organization.

Founded in 2002, HCAOA represents nearly 3,000 companies that employ more than 500,000 caregivers.

Before taking on major issues, Hoak’s first order of business will be working to further increase HCAOA’s membership and visibility, the new ED told Home Health Care News. "This sector of the home-based care industry has a wonderful future, so I'm excited about moving our agenda, which includes increasing our membership," Hoak said. "Trade associations are better when they speak with one voice but have many voices behind them. I also want to increase our visibility both at a federal and [state] level."

Growing HCAOA’s membership and general policymaking position is something Hoak is well-positioned to do.
End-of-Life Doulas and 'Death Cafes' Are Changing the Conversation Around Dying

Source: CT Magazine, Cara McDonough | October 24, 2019

The term "death doula," which a lot of people use when describing Nathalie Bonafé, makes her job sound edgy. But the proper name for what Bonafé and her company A Gentler Parting do is "end-of-life doula." And while the job does involve helping individuals and their caregivers face the existential mysteries of the great unknown, end-of-life doulas spend a lot of time facilitating the practical duties that surround the event.

These doulas - who, like birth doulas, are focused on ushering individuals from one phase of life to the next - aren't as common as the hospice and palliative care workers we associate with end-of-life care. However, they hope their work, approaching death with compassion but also a pragmatic business sensibility, will become more mainstream.

In fact, Bonafé and her colleagues refer to what they do as "a movement." In addition to their primary responsibilities, they also conduct free workshops, seminars and discussions known as "Death Cafes" to get people talking about death more often, making it a less taboo topic.

Continue Reading

2020 Northeast Home Health Leadership Summit: Vision 2020

Source: NE Health Summit

The 2020 Northeast Home Health Leadership Summit: Vision 2020 is a premier gathering of home care agency executives from New England, New York and New Jersey. This year, it will be happening in Boston, MA from January 28-30.
This three-day leadership program is led by the following state home care associations: Connecticut Association for Healthcare at Home; Home Care & Hospice Alliance of Maine; Home Care Alliance of Massachusetts; Home Care, Hospice & Palliative Care Alliance of New Hampshire; Home Care and Hospice Association of New Jersey; Home Care Association of New York State; New York State Association of Health Care Providers; Rhode Island Partnership for Home Care; and VNAs of Vermont.

To register for this event, click [here](#).