Current News

**EVV Pushback Continues with Media Coverage, Letter to Governor**

A [9-page letter](#) was delivered to Gov. Malloy, key legislators, state officials and the CT news media on Friday detailing the months of frustrations experienced by Medicaid EVV providers, consumers and clients.

The Hartford Courant and CT Mirror posted news stories online focusing on the failings of the Sandata billing and payment systems.

We believe media pressure, combined with our ongoing and relentless advocacy campaign will have an impact when State Rep. Catherine Abercrombie and key legislators meet with DSS Commissioner Bremby at 1:00 pm today.

[Read the Hartford Courant Article](#)
[Read the CT Mirror Article](#)

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**Middlesex Hospital Homecare Names new Exec. Director**

Allison Dowe has been appointed executive director of Middlesex Hospital Homecare. She succeeds former Executive Director Debra Healey, who recently retired.

She began her career in the health care field in 1999 as chief financial officer for a homecare agency in central Connecticut and joined Middlesex Hospital in 2008. Since that time, she has served in various positions, most recently as director of business operations for the Hospital's Department of Nursing, including Homecare, Hospice and Palliative Care; the Center for Chronic Care Management and the Wound & Ostomy Center.

She currently serves on the board of directors for the Association and holds the office of Secretary.
Invitation: Feb. 28 Legislative Breakfast and Healthcare at Home "Day at the State Capitol"

All Association members are invited to attend the annual Legislative Breakfast and Healthcare at Home "Day at the State Capitol" on Tues., Feb. 28 from 8 am to 10 am at the Legislative Office Building, 300 Capitol Ave., Hartford.

The event is free. Come mingle with your colleagues and hear from state legislators, Association leaders and our lobbyists about the "State of the State" and share our united voice about home care and hospice.

Register by emailing Alison Clark at clark@cthealthcareathome.org or calling her at 203-774-4944.

View the invitation

Important Issues NAHC is Working on with the New Congress

The following are four key issues for the 115th Congress:

Increasing Access to Care

: From the last congress, H.R. 1342, the Home Health Care Planning Improvement Act would allow Non-Physician Providers (NPPs) to certify need of home care services under Medicare. Strong advocacy will continue in 2017 to seek passage for this bill.

Removing Administrative Burden:

In August of 2016 CMS launched a pilot program to audit claims filed in Illinois in an effort to reduce fraud, called Pre-Claim Review. It has been announced this program will expand to Florida in 2017 with plans to move into Massachusetts, Michigan, and Texas next. Home Health Agencies (HHAs) in Florida have bemoaned the trouble this program has caused. They have found it to be more of an audit of paperwork rather than one for fraud. In response the H.R. 6226, the Pre-Claims Undermine Seniors' Health (PUSH) Act was introduced to delay PCR until more data and information can be found from efforts in Illinois. Because PUSH was introduced so late in the last congress, there was not much time for action to occur. NAHC is working for its reintroduction to prevent further administrative headaches.

The Face to Face for certification requirement has long been a burden for HHA workers. Through its varying iterations and forms it has caused much confusion and added paperwork for physicians and HHAs alike. It has also led to thousands of denied claims that then entered the appeals process, resulting in a lengthy backlog. NAHC is pursuing legislation to

- Require CMS to consider the HHA patient record in addition to the physician patient record when making claim determinations, and
- Enable CMS to negotiate on the appealed cases so that they may be settled.

Payment Modification to Ensure Rural Access: The Rural Add-on payment modifier is essential to rural providers as they face higher overhead expenses compared to their urban counterparts. Included in the Affordable Care Act as a 3% addition, it was extended as part of the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act (MACRA) in 2015, and is set to expire at the end of 2017.
Analysis of Statewide Nursing Data Underway

The CT League for Nursing is participating in a statewide workforce initiative to provide insight into Connecticut's 61,000 licensed nurses.

The Center for Interdisciplinary Health Workforce Studies, (http://www.healthworkforceta.org) The Health Workforce Technical Assistance Center (http://www.healthworkforceta.org) and the Center for Health Workforce Studies (CHWS) at the University at Albany, State University of New York (SUNY) are co-sponsoring a webinar series on Feb. 22 and March 22 on nursing workforce data collection, analysis and research.

It is essential that Connecticut Captures data and demographics of our licensed nurses to insure:

- A robust and highly skilled nursing workforce
- Optimal capacity of our education "pipelines" for all levels of nursing education to meet the demands of our healthcare providers
- The delivery of high quality and timely care across the continuum to CT residents

Don't miss an opportunity to learn how you can support the collection, analysis and utilization of statewide nursing data to help inform your decision-making and support a robust and diverse nursing workforce.

Click this link to view webinar information
SAVE THE DATE

Helping Connecticut Live Well and Die Well
THE SEVENTH ANNUAL

NEW ENGLAND HOME CARE & HOSPICE
CONFERENCE AND TRADE SHOW

SIX STATES, ONE CONFERENCE,
HUNDREDS OF ATTENDEES

SAVE THE DATE

May 16, 17 & 18, 2017

Radisson Hotel Manchester
Manchester, NH

www.nehcc.com

VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR PREVIOUS EDITIONS
Upcoming Events

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

To register for the events below, click here

**Employee Satisfaction + Patient Satisfaction = Success (3 Part Webinar Series)**
1/25/2017 » 2/22/2017
Time: 1:00- 2:00PM

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

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

**Government Relations Committee Meeting**
2/6/2017
Location: Wallingford, Connecticut
Time: 9 - 11 am

**Care Coordination: Assisted Living, Home Health and Hospice Program**
2/7/2017
Location: Wallingford, Connecticut
Time: 9:00 AM-12:00 PM

**Quality Improvement Committee Meeting**
2/8/2017
Location: Wallingford, Connecticut
Time: 1 - 3 pm

**Spring 2017 Home Health Aide Teleconference Series: The Aide's Role in Working with Immobile Patient**
2/9/2017
Time: 3:00-4:00PM

**Business & Finance Committee Meeting**
2/15/2017
Location: Wallingford, Connecticut
Time: 9:30 - 11:30 am

**Writing, Implementing and Sustaining Plans of Correction for Federal and State Surveys**
Hospice & Palliative Care Committee Meeting
2/22/2017
Location: Wallingford, Connecticut
Time: 2 - 4 pm

Board of Directors Meeting
2/24/2017
Time: 9 - 11 am

Policy Committee Meeting
2/27/2017
Location: Wallingford, Connecticut
Time: 1:30 - 3:30 pm

2017 Legislative Breakfast
2/28/2017
Location: Hartford, Connecticut
Time: From 8:00-11:00 AM

Advanced Coding Education- ICD-10/ ACE-10
3/2/2017 » 3/9/2017
Location: Wallingford, Connecticut
Time: 9:00 AM- 4:00 PM

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
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Hospice RN Case Manager
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