

Minnesota HomeCare Association

2019 Legislative Agenda

Approved by the MHCA Board of Directors on October 23, 2018

The MHCA believes that individuals should have access to necessary, cost effective, and evidenced-informed home care services and that the infrastructure for and access to such services be promoted in Minnesota. Accordingly, the MHCA supports and will actively work for legislative, administrative, and other initiatives that promote the following policies:

Stabilize the Home Care Infrastructure. Low funding levels for home care services are jeopardizing the sustainability of Minnesota's infrastructure of services for those individuals who need and want health and long term care services delivered in their homes. The current funding system does not support the long-term viability of home care services that are proven to be cost effective, high quality, and preferred by the individuals served.

The MHCA will lead efforts to establish a billing code for the "Start of Service" that will include a reimbursement rate that accurately reflects the true cost of starting services for individuals in need of home care services.

The MHCA will continue an active role in the long term research and development of a new rate setting methodology establishing reimbursement rates for Medical Assistance home care services.

Ensure the Safety of Home Care Professionals. Caring for individuals in need of home care services, while rewarding, can also be challenging for health care professionals because services are often provided in locations that are isolated and controlled by others. Although receiving services in the home is proven to be cost effective, high quality, and preferred by the individuals served, it does pose an increased risk to the home care professionals especially when known risks are not shared with them so they can make the appropriate assessments and take necessary precautions.

The MHCA will lead the effort to require that home care agencies are notified, prior to admission, if an individual to be served is a registered predatory offender as is currently required for facility-based providers.

Clarify Home Care Regulations. To be trusted to care for Minnesota's most vulnerable citizens is a great responsibility that requires public oversight through the use of transparent and clear government rules, regulations, and monitoring. However, provider compliance and public transparency is undermined by regulations that are unclear, unresponsive or nonsensical.

The MHCA will lead coalition efforts to clarify Minnesota laws that regulate the provision of home health care services in the state to ensure that the laws are unambiguous, provide for transparent processes, and allow for the effective enforcement and compliance.

Other Home Care Issues. Many known and unknown issues of interest to MHCA members could be brought forward in 2019.

The MHCA will engage on issues as necessary to ensure a strong and viable home care system in Minnesota. This would include, but is not limited to, engaging on initiatives concerning elder abuse, leading efforts on electronic visit verification legislation, supporting certain PCA proposals and the Spenddown legislation; and, monitoring legislation related to other issues impacting Home Care in Minnesota.