

2020 Legislative Agenda

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 will 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.

***Start of Service.** 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.*

***Home Care Rate Setting Methodology.** The MHCA will lead efforts to develop and enact a new rate setting methodology establishing reimbursement rates for Medical Assistance home care services.*

Ensure a Quality Workforce of Home Care Professionals. Receiving services in the home is proven to be cost effective, high quality, and is preferred by the individuals served. Additionally, although at times challenging, caring for individuals in need of home care services is rewarding for health care professionals. However, access to home care services in Minnesota is limited for many people because of a lack of qualified home care professionals to care for them. Accessible, quality home care services can only be provided if actions are taken to increase the number of home care professionals to serve Minnesota’s most vulnerable citizens.

***Awareness.** The MHCA will increase awareness of the home care professional shortage with state legislators and other key decision makers while working on both legislative and non-legislative strategies to increase the pipeline of potential home care professionals, to attract health care professionals to home care, and enhance the retention of workers in home care.*

Other Home Care Issues. Many known and unknown issues of interest to MHCA members could be brought forward in 2020.

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, monitoring and engaging on initiatives concerning assisted living regulation; the implementation of electronic visit verification; certain PCA reform proposals; CFSS implementation; and, monitoring legislation related to other issues impacting home care in Minnesota.