2021 Legislative Agenda

As approved by the MHCA Board of Directors on October 19, 2020.

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.

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

**Promote the Safety of Hospice Professionals.** Caring for individuals in need of hospice care in the home, 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 hospice care in the home is proven to be cost effective, high quality, and often preferred by the individuals served, it does pose an increased risk to the hospice 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 hospice agencies are notified, prior to service initiation, if an individual to be served is a registered predatory offender as is currently required for facility-based providers and home care providers.*
Increase Accessibility of Home Care Services. Receiving services in the home is proven to be cost effective, high quality, and preferred by the individuals served, and during the pandemic is a proven way to avoid the risk of contracting or spreading COVID-19 that could occur while receiving services in a facility. To increase accessibility and reduce disease spread, proven telehealth strategies should be promoted to provide the effective and safe delivery of home care services.

The MHCA will engage on issues related to the promotion of telehealth services as part of the menu of services available to support people in their own homes.

Engage in Other Home Care Issues. Many known and unknown issues of interest to MHCA members could be brought forward in 2021.

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; Personal Care Assistance program payment reform; Community First Services and Supports program implementation; and, responding to other issues impacting Home Care in Minnesota.