The Private Duty Source
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FEATURE ARTICLE

Learn How Human Resources, Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Can Make Your Agency Stronger than Ever

The NAHC Fall Forum, November 2-10, is a live online event featuring 30 hours of essential education for home care professionals. Registration is now open.

Over the first two weeks of November, the NAHC Fall Forum will offer what you have come to expect from NAHC: the best education in home care, taught by the experts you know and trust.

On November 2, the NAHC Fall Forum will present four new webinars on Human Resources and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.

- A round table discussion with industry executives and experts on implementing a diversity, equity, and inclusion program that maximizes employee potential, productivity and retention.
- Dr. Rosita Lopez delivers the keynote address on the wisdom of inclusion and how organizations can learn to talk about DEI and foster an environment of trust and equity.
- Nikki Patton, NPH discussing how the barriers home care organizations face in supporting non-Anglo families, and how to overcome those barriers.
- Attorney Joanna Kim-Brunetti leads an in-depth discussion of how to establish a DEI program and use it to create meaningful change at your agency.
The Home Care Community Must Rally to Support the Choose Home Care Act

Tell your members of Congress to support the Choose Home Care Act of 2021!

The Choose Home Care Act of 2021 is a landmark piece of legislation for the home care community. If enacted, it would enable eligible Medicare patients to receive extended care services as an add-on to the existing Medicare Home Health benefit for 30 days post-discharge. This legislation would help seriously ill individuals recover safely at home, increasing patient and family satisfaction as well as significantly reducing the risk of exposure to the SARS-CoV-2 virus and other infectious diseases.

The Choose Home model also promotes significant Medicare savings—up to an estimated $247 million annually—by offering nursing home level services in the home setting instead of in a skilled nursing facility or other institutional settings.

Further, recent polling data from Morning Consult show strong support for post-hospital care in the home with 94% of Medicare-aged respondents saying they would prefer health care at home to a nursing home. In the same poll, 86% of respondents expressed support for the Choose Home legislation, including 92% of Democrat respondents and 83% of Republican respondents.

The $8.3B ‘avoidable ED visit’ disease has a cure: Choose Home
To fully understand why the U.S. healthcare system is spending $4 trillion a year, or 18% of its gross domestic product (GDP), on a delivery system that is failing to meet our nation’s needs, listen to the stories of Robert and Martha. Both come from different social situations, and have cost Medicare, Medicaid, and the U.S. taxpayers significant, yet preventable, dollars in the last years of their lives.

Robert was a 68-year-old with no family. He lived alone in a small apartment on the fourth floor with no elevator and no air conditioning. Summer made the smell of mold in his apartment even worse. There was stale food in the refrigerator and no means of cooking or obtaining regular meals. His neighbors rarely checked on him, so Robert called 911 every few days.

The EMTs would regularly show up and transport him to the city hospital. For 264 days that year Robert was fed, laid in a clean bed and had caring people tend to him. The total cost of Robert’s 911 calls and ED visits to Medicaid exceeded $500,000 in a single year. Robert’s diagnosis: depression, social isolation and hypertension.

Providers applaud new Choose Home Care Act legislation in House

Home care and senior service organizations cheered the introduction of a bill in the U.S. House of Representatives Friday that expands access to in-home care. A bipartisan team of lawmakers introduced the ChooseHome Care Act of 2021, which lets Medicare-eligible patients receive extended care service as an add-on to the existing Medicare home health benefit for 30 days after a hospital discharge.

“Choose Home has received an outpouring of support from America’s home health community as well as consumer and patient advocates alike, which we believe demonstrates how important it is to increase access to safe, cost-
effective care at home for Medicare beneficiaries after hospitalization,” William Dombi, National Association for Home Care & Hospice President, said in a press release.

Direct Care Workers and Unpaid Caregivers Describe Low-Wage, Stressful, Physically-Challenging Work

In recent focus group interviews, 32 paid direct care workers and unpaid caregivers who assist seniors and people with disabilities with self-care and household activities describe daily work defined by low pay, physical demands and mental stress that has been made worse by the pandemic.

KFF conducted the four focus groups in July and August 2021 with 24 direct care workers and eight unpaid caregivers to help provide context for the ongoing debate in Congress about increasing federal funding for Medicaid home and community-based services (HCBS). Medicaid is the nation’s primary payer for such services. Among other uses, new funding could help raise wages for direct care workers, provide training opportunities, and offer supports to family caregivers such as respite care and peer supports.

Key takeaways from the focus groups include:

'Caregiving crisis:' New York bill to increase home care worker wages hits regulatory snag

A state bill to raise wages for home care workers in New York has hit a regulatory snag as lawmakers push to help a fast-growing industry composed predominantly by immigrant women of color who are among the lowest paid workers.
In a Zoom call Thursday, state legislators, advocates, workers and patients from Rockland and Westchester counties urged passage of the Fair Pay for Home Care Act, which would increase state funding for salaries of home care workers who take care of seniors and people with disabilities.

The bill, advocates say, would also allow more patients to live in their communities, not in facilities away from family or friends. During the pandemic, nursing homes and other group settings became hotbeds for COVID-19.

READ THE REST @ Democrat & Chronicle

Important Report on Home Modification Funding Sources

On September 30, 2021 ADvancing States and the University of Southern California Leonard Davis School of Gerontology released an issue brief regarding funding sources for home modification and repairs. This brief outlines various funding sources that State Units on Aging might consider for increasing access to home modifications and repairs. It also provides information regarding the availability of a waiver to increase the current home modification limit of $150 per person.

Click here to view the report.

COVID-19 Vaccine and Testing Tracker

As mandates emerge, providers need a way to easily record COVID-19 Vaccine and Testing information. CellTrak is holding a webinar to describe a possible solution for COVID-19 vaccination and test tracking.
The webinar will explore:
- Vaccine mandates across the U.S. and how they’re affecting Personal care
- What states have vaccine mandates in place and the nuances between states
- CellTrak’s solution for COVID-19 vaccine and testing tracking
- What happens if you choose not to comply?

Register here!

Help Make an Impact on the Future of Healthcare at Home

“Healthcare at home has gained tremendous momentum in the last year, but we must keep moving forward. This includes positioning ourselves to succeed under the emerging value-based models with best practice research. By determining where and what resources should be used to achieve the highest clinical, operational and financial outcomes, we strengthen ourselves as an industry and also our ability to become a formidable partner within the healthcare continuum.”

– Brent Korte, Chief Home Care Officer, EvergreenHealth Home Care

We need your help! Take the pledge to move our industry forward by participating in the NAHC sponsored National Healthcare at Home Best Practices Study today. [Click here](#) to register.

READ THE REST @ PD Home Care at NAHC

Home Care Training Summit on October 21
Home Care Pulse will hold the Home Care Training Summit on October 21, 2021. In this free, full-day event, Home Care Pulse’s training experts—together with other top experts we’ve gathered from around the industry—will talk about the most important topics in training and give you the knowledge you need to use it as a competitive advantage.

The conference will address topics like:

- What’s changing in training, and what you can do to provide the best training around
- How to use training programs to power caregiver recruitment and retention
- How to get caregivers to embrace new training program.
- Why training managers have one of the most important jobs in home care

Learn more about the 2021 Home Care Training Summit.

Creating a New Generation of Home Care Leaders with the NAHC Mentoring Program

The National Association for Home Care and Hospice (NAHC) is pleased to announce the launch of a new membership benefit, the NAHC Mentoring Program. This program seeks to pair individuals at the early and middle growth stage of their careers with current established leaders of the home care and community-based service industry for a structured mentorship with the goal of fostering involvement and growth in the NAHC Community through:

- Networking
- Navigating Conferences
- Committee Engagement
- Leadership Development
- Advocacy Efforts
The NAHC Mentoring Program is a great new opportunity for up-and-coming industry professionals to learn how to navigate and excel in the Association and how best to use membership to benefit their career. For established industry veterans, the NAHC Mentoring Program is a great opportunity for established leaders to give back to the industry and lay a strong foundation for the next generation of home care and hospice executives.

RESOURCES

The Human Experience 2020: Vision for the Future of Health Care - The Beryl Institute

Littler Operational Guidelines for the Home Care Industry Amid COVID 19 - Littler Mendelson, P.C.

Private Duty Home Care at NAHC is a fully integrated service line of the National Association for Home Care & Hospice focused on Leadership, Education, Advocacy, and Innovation exclusively for the private duty home care community.

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