The Private Duty Source
Issue: October 22, 2021

FEATURE ARTICLE

Congratulations to 3 New Certified Home Care Agencies!

The National Association for Home Care & Hospice is delighted to extend our congratulations to our newest certified private duty home care agencies!

Snell Best Care Senior Services, Inc. DBA Always Best Care Senior Services

- 9002 SE Bridge Rd.
- Hobe Sound, FL 33255

JA Montgomery Ventures, Inc. DBA Always Best Care Senior Services

- 55 Country Club Drive, Suite 101
- Downingtown, PA 19335

Always Best Care Senior Services, Columbiana and Mahoning Counties

- 1324 St. Clari Avenue
- East Liverpool, OH 43920

This program is the only national certification created by private duty leaders, exclusively for the private duty community. Certification offers providers the opportunity to demonstrate their commitment to quality and service delivery excellence through formal certification and requires each agency location to conduct a comprehensive examination relating to nineteen (19) separate but
interrelated aspects of business and operations providing documentation and an attestation statement showing adherence to all Certification program standards in each category in order to achieve the distinction.

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TOP STORIES

Private Duty Advocacy in Action

Washington D.C continues to buzz with activity as Congress debates the reconciliation package. One element slated for possible inclusion in the package is the Better Care Better Jobs Act, formally known as S. 2210/ H.R. 4131. In literally seconds and with just a few clicks, you can advocate in support of this legislation at the NAHC Legislative Action Network.

Better Care Better Jobs Act

The Better Care Better Jobs Act (S.2210/ H.R.4131) led by Chairman Bob Casey (D-PA), Chairman Ron Wyden (D-OR), and Leader Charles Schumer (D-NY), with Chair Patty Murray (WA), and Senators Tammy Duckworth (D-WI), Maggie Hassan (D-NH), and Sherrod Brown (D-OH) aims to carry forth President Joe Biden’s vision for investment into Medicaid home and community-based services.

This legislation takes several steps to improve Medicaid HCBS, first through providing funding to state Medicaid programs to ready themselves for the enhanced investment, then through a 10 percent increase to the Federal Medicaid Assistance Percentage (FMAP), specifically for Medicaid HCBS.

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Provider Relief Fund Application Closing Soon
The application period for the Provider Relief Fund Phase 4 and American Rescue Plan (ARP) Rural Distributions is still open, but will close soon on October 26, 2021. You may be eligible for COVID-19 relief funding, but time is running out to apply.

Phase 4 is open to a broad range of health care providers who have been impacted by COVID-19. ARP Rural is open to Medicare, Medicaid, or the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) providers who serve rural patients. You may be eligible if you deliver health care, services, and/or support in a medical setting, at home, or in the community.

You can apply here. Applications must be submitted by October 26, 2021 at 11:59 p.m. ET. Visit hrsa.gov/provider-relief for more information including application resources and technical assistance webinars that offer guidance on the application process and portal.

The NAHC Fall Forum is Essential Education for Home Care & Hospice

Registration is now open for the NAHC Fall Forum, a live online event featuring 30 hours of essential education for home care and hospice professionals.

Although the 2021 Home Care and Hospice Conference and Expo was cancelled, the NAHC Fall Forum, November 2-10, will offer what you have come to expect from NAHC: the best education in home care and hospice, taught by the experts you know and trust.

Over the first two weeks of November, the NAHC Fall Forum will present education focused on six topics:

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The Better Care Better Jobs Act Means a Stronger Home
Tell your elected representatives in Congress to support the Better Care Better Jobs Act!

Senator Bob Casey (D-PA), long-time champion of in-home care and sponsor of the Better Care Better Jobs Act, has released a set of nationwide and individual state reports on the projected impact his Better Care Better Jobs Act will have on workers and recipients of care in the home.

These factsheets present a clear and concise picture of the need for Medicaid Home and Community-based Services (HCBS), comparison of cost of care between the home and congregate settings, as well as waitlist length for HCBS Services where applicable. In addition, the factsheets demonstrate the impact the Better Care Better Jobs Act would have on workforce shortages.

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New CMS Website Will Share Innovative State Actions to Expand Medicaid HCBS

CMS also approves earlier application for Alabama’s section 1115 demonstration to improve access to home and community-based services

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has launched a new “one-stop shop” for state Medicaid agencies and stakeholders on Medicaid.gov to advance transparency and innovation for home and community-based services. Home and community-based services allow people enrolled in Medicaid to receive services and supports in a preferred setting outside of an institution, such as in their own home. Through this new webpage, state Medicaid agencies and stakeholders can access information about states’ plans to enhance, expand, and strengthen home
and community-based services across the country using new Medicaid funding made available by the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARP).

Additionally, CMS has approved a new Medicaid section 1115 demonstration in Alabama, entitled the “Community Waiver Program,” to operate concurrently with a home and community-based services 1915(c) waiver. This new opportunity in the state’s Medicaid program will increase access to home and community-based services, and allow the state to meet the needs of additional individuals who prefer to get long-term care services and supports in their home or community rather than an institutional setting.

Congressional Report Highlights Ways to Better Support Family Caregivers

The RAISE (Recognize, Assist, Include, Support, and Engage) Family Caregiving Advisory Council recently delivered to Congress key recommendations to support the millions of unpaid family caregivers that support older adults and people with disabilities in every community in the country.

The recent congressional report is the result of a wide-ranging two-year research and information-gathering effort. Recommendations fall under five goals, which include:

- **Increasing Awareness of Family Caregivers** to increase public understanding of the contributions caregivers make, including helping individuals self-identify as caregivers so that they can get the support they need.

- **Engaging Family Caregivers as Partners in Healthcare and Long-Term Services and Supports** to better integrate family caregivers into healthcare processes and systems.
Biden's $400B plan to overhaul home care is 'more of a repair effort than a new direction'

If the scope of President Joe Biden's social spending plan is too large to grasp, then consider Nancy Slomba of Western New York state.

She spends 84 hours a week caring for her son Joe Slomba, who has cerebral palsy and needs assistance to bathe, get in and out of bed and leave the family’s house.

The 59-year-old resident of a small Wyoming County town about 35 miles east of Buffalo gets paid $12.50 an hour to care for Joe through a New York state-based program. She and Joe’s twin brother, Ben, split the caregiving hours throughout the week.

But they’re making less per hour than they’d make working at McDonald’s. Joe’s care needs mean they can’t get other jobs, and there aren’t home care workers available in their rural county to share some of the caregiving duties.

READ THE REST @ the Democrat & Chronicle

Vaccine Conversation Guide

NAHC has added a Vaccine Conversation Guide to the Coronavirus Resources Page to the Coronavirus Resources Page on the NAHC website and to the Private Duty Resources Page on the website. This new guide, from myCNAjobs, is intended to assist in starting a productive dialogue about the COVID-19 vaccines and how to bring that conversation to a successful conclusion.

We strongly recommend you take a look at the guide and see how it can help your agency, your employees, and your patients.

It’s also a good idea to look around both of the Coronavirus Resources Page and the Private Duty Resources page for more information about effective
responses to the COVID-19 crisis and what you can do about it.

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.

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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