The Private Duty Source
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FEATURE ARTICLE

The Private Duty Leadership Summit Will be a Virtual Conference

It is with regret that the National Association for Home Care & Hospice must announce that the 2022 Private Duty Leadership Summit, originally scheduled as an in-person event from February 22-24, 2022, in Hilton Head, South Carolina, will move forward as a virtual event.

This decision was not made lightly and we are enormously grateful for the support people have shown for the private duty home care community. However, despite considerable enthusiasm for the Leadership Summit, we have heard back from many who wanted to attend that the ongoing COVID-19 epidemic and the now-dominant Omicron variant that is more contagious than previous variants, has created unprecedented stress on already depleted workforces, making travel and time away from patients simply impossible.

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TOP STORIES

Remembering a Home Care Leader: Barb Byers

The home health care community lost one of its leading lights last month, when Barb Byers died at age 68, after battling cancer for over two months. Barb passed away Monday December 20, 2021, at 1:45 a.m. in her home surrounded by her husband Ron and three children.
Barb was the founder and CEO of Western Illinois Home Health Care and member of the Private Duty Home Care at NAHC Advisory Council. She was a pioneer and revolutionary in bringing the home healthcare concept to western Illinois. Her vision and compassion allowed thousands of individuals and families to be cared for at home with the empathy and dignity they so richly deserved over the last 40 years. In addition to her own business Barbara also served in the leadership of the Illinois Home Care and Hospice Council and helped shape the industry statewide. Caring and providing for others was Barbara’s life’s work and will be her legacy.

Last year, NAHC asked Barb about the most rewarding part of her job and she responded that “hearing from people in my community how we served them and their loved ones and how wonderful and important the service was.”

**Lead the Future of Home Care and Hospice: Serve on NAHC Committees, Advisory Councils for 2022**

*Apply here!*

All applications due by **Friday, January 14, 2022!**

In February 2022, the National Association for Home Care & Hospice (NAHC) will select members to serve on committees and advisory councils. Committee appointments are for one year, subject to reappointment from year to year. Advisory Council terms vary depending on each Council’s guidelines.

Members interested in serving should complete and return the committee or advisory council application as soon as possible. Please remember to indicate the committee or advisory council to which you are applying (please include any previous NAHC committee/advisory council experience in your personal statement).

**Click here to access the 2022 NAHC Committee and Advisory Council Application**

When applying, you should describe your expertise and qualifications for the appointment personal statement that may be typed into the application or uploaded. Also please be sure to include a copy of your current resume. Candidates’ applications will be presented to the NAHC Board of Directors for consideration and appointment. Each candidate will be notified of any appointment in March of 2022.

Following is a list of the NAHC Committees and Advisory Councils:
NAHC Wants Your Input for 2022 Legislative & Regulatory Agendas

The policy staff of the National Association for Home Care & Hospice (NAHC) and its affiliates — the Hospice Association of America (HAA), the Home Care & Hospice Financial Managers Association (HHFMA), and the National Medicaid Action Council — are in the process of developing their agendas for legislative and regulatory activities in the coming year. NAHC, along with its affiliated organizations, is seeking member input with regards to crafting the 2021 agenda documents.

The policy staff is seeking input to help develop these blueprints, which provide the action plans and basis for advocacy efforts for the coming year. Throughout the year as issues develop, NAHC, HAA, and the National Medicaid Action Council gather ideas for these agendas from members, state association affiliates, advisory committees, and the NAHC Board of Directors.

With the potential for big changes on the legislative and regulatory horizon for next year on Capitol Hill and in the Administration, NAHC and its affiliates are developing strategies now to protect the continued viability of home care and hospice. Please take a moment to communicate your thoughts for these agendas to guide us as an association and a community. We are particularly interested in any new issues that you believe should be included as part of NAHC’s overall advocacy agenda.

As references, previous versions of NAHC’s Legislative and Regulatory Blueprints are available on the NAHC website under Policy & Advocacy.

Meet the 2022 NAHC Board of Directors

The National Association for Home Care & Hospice has a new Board of Directors for 2022, featuring a new Board Chair, but the most important thing, a relentless commitment to improving NAHC and making it a better advocate for providers of care in the home and their patients, has not changed at all.
"NAHC 2.0 is blessed with a very high level of interest and engagement in the NAHC Board, committees, and advisory councils," said NAHC President William A. Dombi, who has worked closely with the Board to transform the association. "The 2022 Board is deep in talent and commitment. Congratulations to the 2022 officers, Ken Albert, Chair; Billy Simione, Treasurer; and Melissa Jeremiah, Secretary. A special thanks goes to Mary Myers, the Board Chair for the past three years, and to Brent Korte, the outgoing Secretary of the Board. The entire home care community can count on the continuing leadership and support from the NAHC Board in 2022."

New Board Chair Kenneth Albert is the President and Chief Executive Officer for Androscoggin Home Healthcare and Hospice in Maine. Prior to his appointment to those positions in June of 2016, Ken served as the Director and Chief Operating Office of the Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention, and the Director of the Division of Licensing and Regulatory Services within the Maine Department of Health and Human Services. Before joining the Department in March 2012, Ken practiced law for several years in Lewiston, Maine, specializing in health law, professional licensing, and regulatory and compliance law.

OSHA Injury, Illness Report Due March 2

March 2, 2022 is the deadline for electronically reporting your Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) Form 300A data for calendar year 2021. Electronic submissions are required by establishments with 250 or more employees currently required to keep OSHA injury and illness records, and establishments with 20-249 employees classified in specific industries with historically high rates of occupational injuries and illnesses. Remember, not all establishments are covered by this requirement.

Visit the Injury Tracking Application Electronic Submission of Injury and Illness Records to OSHA for more information and a link to the Injury Tracking Application. When electronically submitting OSHA Form 300A, you must provide your Employer Identification Number.

Under the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970, employers are responsible for providing safe and healthful workplaces for their employees.
Home care M&A activity could lose some steam in 2022, experts say

After perhaps the hottest year on record for mergers and acquisitions, the home care, home health and hospice industry could lose some firepower in 2022.

“The demand for home care hasn’t changed a whole lot, but what has changed has been the number of sellers heading for the exits,” Cory Mertz, managing partner at M&A advisory firm Mertz Taggart told McKnight’s Home Care Daily Pulse.

Mertz said M&A deals for the combined three segments topped 160 in 2021 compared to 152 in 2020, led by home care. Last year, COVID-19 burnout and fears of higher capital gains taxes motivated agencies to sell, but Mertz thinks those factors will have less influence in 2022. He also thinks private equity buyers could be discouraged from deals if the Federal Reserve Board raises interest rates.

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Established businesses can receive up to $26k per employee. If you opened a new business after February 15, 2020, ERC Today could help you receive up to $50k in Q3 2021 and $50k in Q4 2021.
As a member of NAHC, you will receive a 20% discount from their standard rates.

Getting started is easy! ERC Today will walk you through the entire process. This video provides a quick look at the process.

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Family & Nursing Care CEO on How the Company Recruits ‘the Best of the Best’

It’s easy for a company to burn out and eventually lose steam.

But for Family & Nursing Care, that hasn’t happened just yet. The company has been around since the late 1960s, and for the last 15 years, it has seen consistent annual growth.

Based in Maryland, Family & Nursing Care is one of the largest private-pay home care companies in the Washington, D.C., area. Currently, the company provides just under 41,000 hours of care per week.

Over the past 15 years, it has seen between 8% to 10% growth annually. Family & Nursing Care CEO Neal Kursban credits the company’s methodical approach.

“We’re sort of a slow-and-steady-wins-the-race kind of a company,” he told Home Health Care News. “This is what works for us.”

READ THE REST @ Home Health Care News

In-home senior technologies headline Consumer Electronics Show

Technology benefiting seniors aging in place is front and center at the Consumer Electronics Show kicking off in Las Vegas this week.

On Monday, San Diego-based Independa announced a new partnership with global electronics giant LG, which will include Independa’s remote engagement, education and care platform on all LG’s smart television sets sold in the U.S. and Canada this year.

Independa’s platform has been available for several years through a device that attaches to TV sets. It lets seniors engage virtually with friends and family, connect with healthcare providers and receive wellness services by simply clicking a remote control button.
Advance Your Career As A Senior Home Safety Specialist

NAHC has partnered with Age Safe® America, a national membership, training, advocacy, and services organization, to provide you with an exclusive professional development opportunity.

If you provide care, comfort, safety, and security to older adults, the Senior Home Safety Specialist™ certification might be the perfect fit for your career advancement. Home safety is the #1 concern of older adults and an ESSENTIAL component to aging successfully at home.

Enrolling in the Senior Home Safety Specialist™ will empower you with actionable ways to better help educate clients, older adults, and their family members on the serious issues of home and personal safety.

Quick Facts About the Program:

More at-home COVID-19 tests on the way

A new COVID-19 at-home test by Siemens Healthineers should be available to consumers this month following recent Food and Drug Administration approval.

Siemens, a German-based firm, received emergency use authorization of the rapid COVID-19 antigen self-test last week. It also has secured production that is expected to make tens of millions of the tests available each month. The test has been designed specifically for use in the U.S. and has been evaluated in a study designed for the American market. The test can produce results within 15 minutes and can be used by anyone aged 14 and older or can be administered by adults for children aged 2 to 13.
Unions go to court to get OSHA to release permanent COVID-19 protection standard

A collection of nursing and labor unions wants a federal court to step in and force the Biden administration to issue a permanent standard to protect healthcare workers from COVID-19.

The AFL-CIO, National Nurses United and other major unions filed a petition Wednesday in the U.S. Court of Appeals to force the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) to make a permanent COVID-19 protection standard in place of the temporary measure installed last June.

Unions say a permanent standard that details minimum standards for equipment and staffing numbers is vital as the omicron variant has helped fuel surges of COVID-19 across the country.

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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.

PDHCA Education - PDHCA Website

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Generations Homecare System is the joyful-to-use agency management solution that gives providers the power to connect care teams, simplify daily tasks, and maintain security and privacy compliance.

Key features include intuitive scheduling, Electronic Visit Verification (EVV), mobile apps, comprehensive reporting, and more. If your state requires the use of EVV, Generations has a solution for you.
With the mobile app, your team can take care of business, no matter where the day may take you.

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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