The Private Duty Source

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FEATURE ARTICLE

NAHC Celebrates 40 Years of Fighting for Home Care

stories

The National Association for Home Care & Hospice (NAHC) turns 40 years old on April 2, 2022, and we are celebrating four decades of fighting for home care providers, patients, and professionals.

When NAHC was created in 1982, care in the home was rare and many elderly and disabled Americans had very few options apart from living in institutional settings, away from family, home, and community. NAHC’s mission was to promote, protect, and advance the highest quality health care at home. Forty years later that is still our goal and NAHC has been at the center of every public policy battle to expand access to quality home care.

"It has been a privilege of a lifetime for me to work with NAHC members and staff," said NAHC President William A. Dombi, who has been with NAHC since the late 1980s. “The commitment and passion they have shown for high quality care for patients and expanding opportunities for care at home is authentic and deep. With the work we have done to turn this organization into the best possible advocate for home care and hospice, NAHC is poised to lead the industry into a future even brighter than today.”

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TOP STORIES

NAHC Membership Has its Privileges

- If you have not yet renewed, your membership expires on March 31!
- To renew online: https://www.nahc.org/about/renew/

“I have been a member of NAHC almost my entire career and I wouldn’t be in business if I had not been a member of NAHC.”

– Kim Gaffey, CEO of Gaffey Home Nursing & Hospice

In addition to the best advocacy, news updates, and policy analysis in the entire industry, NAHC membership entitles you to a wide variety of extremely useful discounts and other advantages. With a NAHC membership you receive, among many other things, discounts to our conferences and webinars, unique networking opportunities with current and future industry leaders, affinity programs that give you exclusive access to valuable products and services, and the NAHC mentoring program, bringing the industry’s present and future together to build a stronger tomorrow.

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Call for Proposals for Education at the 2022 Home Care and Hospice Conference & Expo

GO HERE to submit your proposals to present education

The National Association for Home Care & Hospice (NAHC) is now accepting proposals to present new education at the 2020 Home Care and
Hospice Conference & Expo in America’s Center Convention Complex, St. Louis, Missouri, October 23-25, 2022.

The deadline for submissions is April 18, 2022.

Education in health care is always critical, but never more so than during and after a major health crisis, such as the one we are going through right now. Home care and hospice agencies continue to provide valuable services and care to patients and families and we must continue to provide them with the best education possible, to enable their life-saving work.

NAHC is looking for engaging presenters with expertise vital to the professional growth of home care, hospice, and private duty organizations. Industry leaders, at all levels, who have extensive and diverse perspectives on a variety of aspects of care delivery in the home health and hospice settings are invited to submit their proposals.

While we welcome lessons learned from COVID-19 and disaster preparedness in general, we also want the proposal ideas that may have been considered before the pandemic. Please note that this year’s theme is “Connections 4.0: Link Up” and will focus on how home care and hospice professionals can forge stronger connections with each other and their patients to improve overall care delivery and foster financial strength and stability within the industry.

This is your opportunity to shape the curriculum for NAHC’s 2022 Home Care and Hospice Conference and Expo. Submit your proposal by April 18, 2022 here.

President’s FY2023 Budget Request Includes Few Home Care-Specific Policies

- **Boosts HHS Funding & Extends Sequestration to 2023**

On Monday, March 28th, President Biden released a $5.8 trillion proposed budget for fiscal year (FY) 2023, which begins October 1st, 2022. While the White House budget is simply a request and Congress has final say on government spending, it does provide a window into the president’s priorities.
and where his administration wants to direct its efforts going forward. As a reminder, lawmakers just this month finalized spending for the current fiscal year — which runs through Sept. 30 — and will soon begin negotiating funding legislation for FY2023.

The budget requests more than $127 billion to fund the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) in FY2023, a roughly 15 percent spike from 2022 funding that includes major increases for pandemic preparedness and public health surveillance. Notably, the budget also would extend the Medicare sequester cuts by one year until 2032 (they were previously extended through 2031 by The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021), which would provide savings of around $7.6 billion.

Over the coming weeks members of the Executive Branch will be testifying before key committees in the House and Senate to provide additional detail around the recommendations put forth in the budget documents. As additional relevant detail is made available, it will be covered in NAHC Report.

Provisions of interest in the Budget include:

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New Webinar: Key Findings from the 2022 HCP Benchmarking Report

- Thursday, May 5, 2022 at
- 2:00 PM ET

REGISTER

With the release of the 2022 HCP Benchmarking Report, we have detailed data on how the past year has affected home care agencies, and what it can teach us about operating an agency in the future.

Join Todd Austin, President of Home Care Pulse, as he reviews industry trends, business insights, and actionable data gathered from hundreds of agencies across the nation.

READ THE REST
Congress Debates HCBS Expansion, Improvement for Veterans

The Elizabeth Dole HCBS for Veterans and Caregivers Act, H.R. 6823 introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives earlier this month and would work to improve home and community-based services (HCBS) services for patients, their families, and their caregivers.

NAHC previously reported on it [here](#).

Specifically, this legislation would:

- Expand access to HCBS services for veterans living in US territories and to Native veterans enrolled in IHS or tribal health program.
- Raise the cap on how much the VA can pay for the cost of home care from 65% of the cost of nursing home care to 100%.
- Coordinate expanded VA home care programs with other VA programs.
- Establish a pilot project to address home health aide shortages.
- Providing respite care to caregivers of veterans enrolled in home care programs.
- Establish a “one stop shop” webpage to centralize information for families and veterans on programs available.
- Require the VA to provide a coordinated handoff for veterans and caregivers denied or discharged from the Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers into any other home care program they may be eligible for.

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Senate Debates Expansion of Medicaid HCBS

The Senate Special Committee on Aging met this week to debate the improvement and expansion of home-based services, particularly home-and-community based services, a consistent priority for committee chairman
Senator Bob Casey (D-PA). Witnesses and Senators frequently cited Casey’s Better Care Better Jobs (BCBJ) Act, strongly supported by NAHC, as it is the foundation for the HCBS provisions included in the Build Back Better (BBB) Act, the stalled health care, social service, and climate legislation that was a focus for much of 2021.

The most recent version of that legislation passed by the House of Representatives would provide $150 billion investment into Medicaid HCBS, permanency of the Money Follows the Person program, protections against spousal impoverishment for HCBS recipients, and several other policies intended to improved the provision of Medicaid HCBS.

Home-Based Care Providers at Risk of Closing Amid Legislative Medicaid Changes

Dozens of provider organizations in Michigan have gone out of business — and more are at risk of the same fate — due to the state legislature’s decision to cut the rates of home care and residential caregivers by 45%.

As a result, thousands of people in Michigan will now likely be forced into nursing homes following an April 1 deadline. Those individuals had previously received care under a unique policy that allowed auto-crash survivors with long-term needs to have their home-based care costs fully covered.

New legislation would erode use of arbitration
One new piece of arbitration legislation and a new law are expected to curb the use of arbitration agreements, an effective tool for home care providers to resolve disputes.

Most recently, the U.S. House passed the Forced Arbitration Injustice Repeal Act (FAIR Act). The bill would eliminate forced arbitration clauses in employment, consumer and civil rights cases, and allow consumers and workers to agree to arbitration after a dispute occurs.

“The FAIR Act would ensure that men and women contracting with more powerful entities aren’t forced into private arbitration, where the bigger party often has the advantage of choosing the arbitrator in an unappealable decision,” said Rep. Hank Johnson (D-GA), who sponsored the legislation.

The answer to the workforce shortage? Speak millennial

There appears to be a subtle tension at the heart of the long-term care worker crisis: Is it a question of pay or culture? Increasingly, it is becoming clear that the answer is both.

Experts noted as much in a frank discussion about the workforce shortage this week in a McKnight’s Online Forum panel discussion entitled “Workforce hurdles and solutions across the long-term care continuum.” (You can still listen to it by the way; just register.)

“There is not enough staff to go around,” panelist Eric Scharber, managing partner at healthcare consulting firm SimiTree, said. “There will be winners and losers. The difference between the winners and losers are the organizations that can build a really great culture.”
Senior Helpers CEO Peter Ross: Home Care Economics Means Making ‘Some Hard Decisions’

Home care franchise giant Senior Helpers entered this year with big ambitions, partly fueled by its April 2021 acquisition by Advocate Aurora Enterprises.

Those ambitions include new data initiatives to take the international home care provider to the next level, as well as staffing investments to help win the workforce battle, according to co-founder and CEO Peter Ross.

For our latest episode of “Disrupt,” Home Health Care News caught up with Ross to learn more about Senior Helpers’ plans in 2022 and its relationship with Advocate. During the conversation, Ross also shared his thoughts on home care M&A activity and staffing challenges.

The added value of remote patient monitoring for at-home care

Remote patient monitoring (RPM) would not be a topic of discussion if it were not for telehealth. According to a paper published in the International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health, modern telemedicine has been around since the late 1960s with projects such as those launched by NASA with the U.S. Department of Public Health and Lockheed, and the Nebraska Psychology Institute with Norfolk State Hospital.

Its popularity and reliance on the technology, however, really rose to prominence during the COVID-19 pandemic.
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 all-in-one 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. Visit our website homecaresoftware.com.

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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