There is a massive workforce crisis in home care and personal care services and a massive national effort will be needed to solve this crisis, said leading members of the Home Care Workforce Action Alliance during a web-based press conference on Wednesday.

The Home Care Workforce Action Alliance is a new organization devoted to attracting more people into home care and personal care services, as well as keeping them in the industry. To accomplish this task, members said, the industry must work together as it never has before.

“[Home care stakeholders] would include representatives of patients, the direct care professionals, congress, governors and state legislators, educators and many more,” said William Dombi, president of the National Association for Home Care & Hospice (NAHC). “We’ve all recognized this is a problem that needs to be addressed, but we all continue to work within our silos. By joining together, we can succeed.”
TOP STORIES

Here is Why You Need to be at FMC 2022 in Las Vegas

"FMC is THE conference to ensure I am keeping up to date on the details - finance, regulatory compliance, innovation, and networking. This conference supplies the meat and substance of the industry. Always valuable!"

– Tammy Sue Veldkamp, Executive Director, Faith Hospice

The 2022 Financial Management Conference (FMC) is the place to connect with more home care and hospice professionals than you’ll find at any other conference. So don’t miss this opportunity to join us for the ultimate uniting of industry leaders and financial decision-makers from across the U.S.

FMC2022 is the premier learning experience for financial management leaders and luminaries, with 2+ days of unmatched educational sessions and a dynamic marketplace for attendees to continue exploring.

“I have attended many conferences in the last 30 years, and by far, FMC has never failed my expectations. The conferences are engaging, the networking is amazing, and the support is like no other. Bill Dombi and his staff always knock it out of the park.”

– Joseph Ramon III, CEO/Administrator, Health Care Unlimited, Inc.

Why Attend? We’ve Got Answers.

Choose Home Care Act Picks Up Sponsors in Congress

• Click Here to Urge Congress to support the Choose Home Care Act!

The Choose Home Care Act continues to build support in Congress with the recent addition of three new cosponsors in the House of Representatives.
Reps. Lisa Blunt Rochester (D-DE), John Moolenaar (R-MI), and James McGovern (D-MA) have joined 33 of their colleagues in the House in supporting the legislation.

We thank the new sponsors of this legislation for their leadership on this issue.

The Choose Home Care Act seeks to provide an option to patients in where they receive their post-acute care upon discharge from a hospital within the Medicare program. If deemed a good fit by the hospital and home health agency for the Choose Home model, a patient could elect to continue their recovery at home with enhanced services and supports added onto the traditional home health benefit. The added services could include personal care services, meal delivery, and respite care, among several others.

5 Questions With Bill Dombi on the Homecare Workforce

The National Association for Home Care & Hospice (NAHC), the Home Care Association of America (HCAOA) and BAYADA Home Health Care recently kicked off a new initiative to improve conditions, pay and recognition for homecare workers ([read more about it here](#)). NAHC President and CEO Bill Dombi sat down with HomeCare to share more about the new Home Care Workforce Alliance and why the initiative is needed.

HOMECARE: So the new initiative sounds fantastic. What do you envision NAHC’s role in it to be?

DOMBI: Well, if it works out as planned, we will be sitting in a room with other stakeholder organizations and presenting our recommended areas of focus and priorities, and then reaching consensus with those other stakeholders on a plan of action to succeed in getting those priorities established—whether it be legislation, regulation, recommendations for the education world and in a number of other kinds of things that might come up. I don't want to prejudge
what the priorities would be … but there’s a laundry list we have of areas that we think need to be looking at.

**HOMECARE:** You said you want other stakeholders. Who should add their voice to this initiative?

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Home Care Workforce Action Alliance Formed as Providers Hit All-Time Case-Decline Highs

It is often said that storytelling can be a powerful tool for change. This is what the members of the newly formed Home Care Workforce Action Alliance are banking on with the announcement of the Voices for Care at Home campaign.

The Home Care Workforce Action Alliance is the byproduct of some of the biggest industry stakeholders on the trade association side. The Home Care Association of America (HCAOA), and the National Association for Home Care & Hospice (NAHC) are joining forces to tackle the ongoing home care staffing crisis.

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Home-Modification Bill Could Lead to Lower Costs, Partnerships for Home Care Providers

A bill allowing older adults to deduct home-modification expenses from their taxes was introduced in Washington, D.C. last week.

If passed, the Home Modification for Accessibility Act would provide a boost to aging-in-place efforts,
perhaps spurring greater partnership between home care companies and home-modification businesses.

Already, home care industry leaders and home-modification stakeholders are heralding the bill as a major step forward.

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The best reason of all to reduce staff turnover

Any long-term care professional will tell you that finding and keeping qualified employees is getting harder by the day.

For reasons that range from The Great Resignation to greener pastures elsewhere, workers in this — and many other fields as well — are giving employers the old sayonara salute.

Which means the incredibly difficult job of running a long-term care facility keeps getting that much harder. Which means the remaining employees must work even more. Which means weeks or months may pass until a suitable replacement is found, hired and trained.

READ THE REST @ McKnight's Home Care

Home-Based Care Providers See Staffing Tailwinds from Inflation, Travel Nursing Decrease

The staffing situation has been dire in home-based care for a long time, but there could finally be tailwinds slowly gaining momentum at providers' backs.

There is an increasing amount of evidence suggesting that the home
health and home care labor markets could get a boost from two somewhat unexpected types of workers: sidelined ones returning to their respective fields and travel or contract nurses finally looking to find a home.

That evidence is both data-driven and anecdotal.

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More home health aides needed by 2030, experts say

By 2030, all baby boomers will be over the age of 65, meaning one in every five people will be of retirement age.

In Florida, it’s one in three, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

As more people face retirement, home health aide workers, like Letsey Perrin, are needed more than ever.

Perrin, 40, has worked as a home health aid for almost a decade. Becoming a home health aide wasn’t her first career choice, but she quickly realized it was the best job for her.

“I always wanted to be a nurse, but I also always felt like I would be more of a benefit working at home healthcare,” Perrin told Spectrum News.

READ THE REST @ Spectrum News

Seniors' long-COVID symptoms often overlooked, confused with aging

Long COVID, or new or ongoing or health problems at least four weeks after a COVID infection, may hit seniors differently, with symptoms that mimic the effects of aging leading to oversight or misdiagnosis.

Come occurrences with long COVID include shortness of breath, an elevated heart rate and muscle and joint pain; in seniors, they also often include
respiratory failure, dementia and post-viral fatigue, as reported in the journal BMJ late last year.

**Homewatch CareGivers Targets In-Home Nutritional Support, Partners with Chefs for Senior**

Access to quality nutrition is often one of the overlooked aspects of maintaining a healthy lifestyle for seniors aging in place.

But companies that offer home-delivered meals can help boost patient outcomes and lower overall health care costs. Home-based care providers that are partnering with such organizations see the relationship as a “beautiful fit,” especially as referral sources and payers continue to focus on social determinants of health.

In April, Denver-based Homewatch CareGivers announced a collaboration with Chefs for Seniors, a culinary-focused company that makes and curates meal plans for seniors aging at home. Homewatch CareGivers is a home care franchise company that serves 33 states and seven countries through 233 total locations.

**RESOURCES**

- The Human Experience 2020: Vision for the Future of Health Care - The Beryl Institute
- PDHCA Education - PDHCA Website
Littler Operational Guidelines for the
Home Care Industry Amid COVID 19
- Littler Mendelson, P.C.

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