



HOME CARE **HUB**

MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL HOMECARE ASSOCIATION
E-NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2023 NEWSLETTER



A Note From Caitlin...

Earlier this month, MNCHA held its Board of Directors elections. This was our first election cycle under our new bylaws. Thank you to all the nominees who expressed interest in serving the association! We will introduce our five new Directors when they take their seats in January 2024.

I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to the outgoing Directors who have so generously served the association by giving their time, energy, and leadership expertise – some for as many as ten years! There is a common theme among past and present MNCHA Directors – the gratitude they feel for one another as volunteer industry leaders and the unique bonds they share as Board colleagues propelling our organization forward. **Thank you for your service to MNCHA, Noson, Sherri, Linda, and Kelly!**



Vice President
Noson Weisbord
Executive Director
Ennoble Care Maryland



Linda J. Teodosio, PT, DScPT
Division Rehab Manager - Camellia
Division
BAYADA Home Health Care

Secretary
Sherri Hart, RN, BSN
Manager, Utilization Management
for MA & EGWP
Carefirst BlueCross BlueShield



Kelly McMahon, BBA, RN, CCM
Consultant

In Community,

Caitlin

A handwritten signature in cursive that reads "Caitlin S. Hoke".



Upcoming MNCHA Events & Member Meetings

January

- Home Health Webinar – How to Provide Compliant Maintenance Therapy – Wednesday, January 10, 2024 from 11:00AM-12:00PM ET. - [Register here](#)
- Home Health Webinar – Home Health Nuts & Bolts – four half-day sessions on January 23-26, 2024 from 10AM-2PM ET. PM. - [Register here](#)
- **2024 MNCHA Legislative Advocacy Day** – Tuesday, January 30, 2024 from 3-8PM at the Governor Calvert House in Annapolis. - [Register here](#)



Why Join the MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL HOMECARE ASSOCIATION?

MNCHA is the trade association for in-home care companies in Maryland and the District of Columbia.

Members include private duty, personal care, durable medical equipment, and Medicare-certified home health providers and the companies that support them. MNCHA's impact is only as strong as our member base. Our agenda is completely member-driven, and member involvement is encouraged in all aspects of our work. Get involved and stay involved by joining!

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

Elevate your reputation and leadership development through MNCHA membership.

- Promote a strong, positive public image for the home care industry
- Involvement in MNCHA initiatives cultivates leadership skills and creates access to industry-level professional development opportunities



It's not just who you know, it's who others know. Networking is powerful.

- Be a part of a vibrant & comprehensive network within the homecare industry
- Access our large base of community partner businesses

Enhance your purchasing power with member-only discounts and MNCHA partner services.

- Group purchasing discounts on home care-related products and services
- Discounted sponsorship, advertising, and exhibitor opportunities



Promote home care as a vital part of the healthcare delivery system. Let your voice be heard through MNCHA's advocacy efforts.

- Represent member-driven interests on local, state, and national legislative and regulatory matters via the MNCHA Legislative Committee
- MNCHA liaises with State agencies, boards, and commissions. We have a lobbyist with deep post-acute healthcare expertise.

Be in-the-know! Exclusive training opportunities on hot topics will give you a competitive edge over non-members.

- Receive curated, vital news alerts & industry reform updates directly to your inbox
- Discounts to MNCHA-sponsored in-person & virtual learning events and workshops



Gain exposure for your growing business and stand out in your community.

- Build strategic & referral relationships across MNCHA's multi-sector stakeholders
- Listing in MNCHA Member Directory, which is a publicly-available home care consumer resource

JOIN TODAY!

Partner Feature

New Accreditation Intensives from the CHAP Center for Excellence

CHAP will be offering several upcoming virtual accreditation intensives in January and March for home health and home care, respectively. MNCHA members can save 10% on the registration fee by using code 'MNCHA17'.

To learn more about the January 24, 2024 Home Health Accreditation Intensive, click [here](#).

To learn more about the March 27, 2024 Home Care/Private Duty Accreditation Intensive, click [here](#).



Industry News & Announcements

Status Update on NAHC's Home Health Payment Lawsuit

In July, NAHC filed a lawsuit against the U.S. Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services over home health payment cuts. On December 15, the Biden Administration responded by asking a federal judge to throw out this lawsuit. This was a predictable outcome according to NAHC President Bill Dombi.

Read the [full story](#) in Home Health Care News.

CMS Releases 2024 DMEPOS Fee Schedule

On December 20, CMS published the 2024 DMEPOS Fee-for-Service Schedule. The fee schedule goes into effect on January 1, 2024 and includes the 2.6%-3% CPI-U adjustments previously announced on December 11, 2023. To view the 2024 fee schedule, click [here](#).

National advocacy efforts continue for the extension of CARES Act relief rates. Legislation to extend the 75/25 blended rate for suppliers in non-rural areas was approved by the House Energy and Commerce Committee on December 6. The Senate Finance Committee passed similar legislation in early November. You can [take action](#) by using the AAHomecare advocacy tool that contains a pre-drafted message to your Senators and Representatives. There is still time before the January 19 deadline to help ensure the blended rate

extension is included among the healthcare provisions within the government funding package!

The Maryland Department of Health invites all healthcare workers and environmental services staff to MD Project Firstline!

Online Independent Study: Scan the QR code to visit the [MD PROJECT FIRSTLINE site](#) and select any of the FREE infection control courses. Earn a certificate for each course!

Group Training Sessions: Our instructors can lead FREE in-person or virtual training sessions for your team members. Project Firstline can also provide you with the presentation materials to lead your own group sessions. Scan below to request a session or materials.

mdfirstline@hqj.solutions

Scan to Visit Project Firstline

Scan to Request Group Training

PROJECT FIRSTLINE

Maryland
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

District of Columbia Updates

Direct Care Workforce Survey from the DC Coalition on Long Term Care

The DC Coalition on Long Term Care, Workforce Development Committee, continues to meet weekly to track and support workforce initiatives in the District. Several substantial legislative updates are featured below. As we prepare for the Performance Oversight and Budget Hearings in January 2024, it is critically important that the Coalition’s testimony contains current industry workforce data.

If you are a licensed **Home Care Agency or Home Support Agency in the District, please complete the following survey – Long-term Care Direct Care Workforce Survey (Facility-based and HCBS) December 2023 (surveymonkey.com)**. The survey is short - it should take only about 12 minutes to complete. Your responses are critically important and will be confidential.

[Health Occupations Revision General Amendment Act of 2023](#)

Mayor Bowser has proposed legislation that would amend the Health Occupations Revision Act of 1985. There is little in these amendments to alleviate the current healthcare workforce crisis and some provisions could make it worse by imposing new restrictions and more regulation on direct care workers and home health agency administrators. Among other things, the proposed amendments would:

- Create new authority for the Board of Nursing to license and regulate Home Health Care Administrators.
- Prohibit HHAs and CNAs from reinstating their certification if they fail to renew on time.
- Eliminate the ability of HHAs and CNAs to place their certification on inactive status.
- Lower the age of HHAs/CNAs to 16 but only under a new temporary certification that is not defined and would require new rulemaking.

A virtual hearing was held on December 7, 2023 and over 80 witnesses provided testimony. There were significant objections to the bill.

[Direct Care Worker Amendment Act of 2023](#)

This proposed legislation was introduced on November 6, 2023 by Councilmember Christina Henderson, Chair of the Committee on Health. The bill sets out to achieve the following:

- Establish a new minimum wage that is not less than 120% of the District Living Wage for all direct care workers.
- Require DC Health to establish a new universal credential for direct care workers that combines HHA and CNA competencies.
- Allow Maryland and Virginia HHAs and CNAs to work in the District.

A hearing is likely to be scheduled for January 2024, though no date has been confirmed.

Maryland Updates

The 2024 Legislative Session will run from January 10, 2024 to April 8, 2024. The MNCHA Legislative Committee, led by our lobbyist, Danna Kauffman, Esq., will convene weekly during session.

Members can sign up [here](#) for the weekly Committee meetings. It promises to be a busy session this year, don't miss your opportunity to help decide our position on proposed legislation that will be impactful to your home care business.

Registration is also open for the [2024 MNCHA Legislative Advocacy Day](#) event on Tuesday, January 30, 2024. This will be hosted as a joint event again this year with our partners at LifeSpan Network, the Hospice & Palliative Care Network of Maryland, and the Maryland Association of Adult Day Services.

Together Moving Forward
Advancing Quality Healthcare

REGISTER TODAY!

3:00 - 4:00 PM / Registration & Networking
4:00 - 5:30 PM / Presentations
5:30 - 8:00 PM / Reception with members of the General Assembly

*Governor Calvert House
Annapolis, MD*

Tuesday, January 30, 2024

Co-hosted by:

- mncha** Maryland-National Capital Homecare Association
- MAADS** Maryland Association of Adult Day Services
- LIFESPAN NETWORK**
- Hospice & Palliative Care Network OF MARYLAND**

Register For Weekly Committee Meetings

Register For Legislative Advocacy Day

Careers

Brain Health Program Coordinator

Posted December 14, 2023

[MDH Family Health & Chronic Disease Services](#)

Location: Baltimore, MD

Salary: Full time- Contract: \$29.15 - \$46.96/hour

The main purpose of this full-time contractual position is to serve as the Coordinator for the Maryland Department of Health (MDH)'s Prevention and Health Promotion Administration (PHPA)'s Maryland Building Our Largest Dementia (BOLD) Infrastructure Project. This project includes a 5-year federal cooperative agreement with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). This position will support, monitor and coordinate a wide range of strategic Statewide brain health programming, policy and planning activities for the Maryland BOLD Project.

Qualifications include:

- Bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university in Nursing, Social Work, Psychology, Education, Counseling, or a related field
- 6 years of professional experience in health services, three years of which must have been in Health Services professional clinical or administrative services in areas other than Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities or Addictions, and three years of which must have been at the managerial or supervisory level.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

Interested applicants, please [apply here](#).

[Read full description](#)

[View Career Center](#)

Articles & Resources of Interest

- ❖ Building A Formal Training Program in Home-Based Care - [View Here](#)
- ❖ Home Health Changes in 2024: 4 Areas Every Provider Should Know - [View Here](#)
- ❖ The Future of AI in Long-Term Care: Navigating the Present and Charting the Path Ahead - [View Here](#)
- ❖ Building A Winning Team in Healthcare - [View Here](#)

Thank You to Our Corporate Sponsors!



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