Repeal & Replace vote delayed

As we reported to you earlier this week, the “American Health Care Act,” the bill to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act, was slated for a vote in the House of Representatives on Thursday. However, that very afternoon, House leadership announced the vote would be delayed.

As of this moment, the US House of Representatives has not yet rescheduled the vote but there is a strong possibility that it will come up today (Friday). The bill includes substantial reforms, including reductions in Medicaid funding and implementation of per capita caps, which would affect nursing centers, assisted living membership and providers who serve individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities if it becomes law. If you would like background information on the Medicaid reform provisions of the original bill, you can access a previously recorded webinar on ahcancalED. Please note the webinar requires a member login. You can review our memo on amendments to the legislation here and the full bill, H.R. 1628, here.

How You Can Help

It is as important as ever that we continue to let Congress know not to cut Medicaid for our vulnerable patients and residents. There are two ways you can help. First, participate in our grassroots letter writing campaign. More than 50,000 contacts have been made, but we need to continue our efforts to make sure our voices are heard.

This week, hundreds of AHCA/NCAL members made visits to Capitol Hill on this important issue, including MHCA Board members Chad Cloutier, John Bolduc, and Wanda Pelkey. If you can't come to D.C. but do have a relationship with a Republican House or Senate member, please let us know, and AHCA will provide you with talking points for a call or visit in district. AHCA has already prepared one-page briefs for nursing centers and assisted living communities to help explain the importance of protecting Medicaid funding for seniors and individuals with disabilities.

We know that every contact we make with a House or Senate member is important. We still need Congress to continue to take steps to protect the neediest and frailest citizens of our country. With your help, we will make a difference.

Staff Contact: Rick Erb  
President and CEO, rerb@mehca.org

Last Call for Remember ME RSVPs

If you haven’t already done so, please contact MHCA at 623-1146 or aellis@mehca.org to RSVP! This year’s event will begin at 10:30 am on Friday, April 14th in the North Wing of the Augusta Civic Center. Please join First Lady Ann LePage and MHCA as we recognize this year’s Lifetime Achievement Award recipients. Hope to see you there!

Staff Contact: Nadine Grosso, Vice President & Director of Communications  
ngrosso@mehca.org

To SUBSCRIBE to our publications, please email Dianne Chicoine at the Association office. Please include your name, title, facility, email address and the publication(s) you wish to subscribe (E-News, Education, Action Alerts, Conference Vendors). Note: All subscriptions must be done through the Association office as Capwiz does not manage our distribution lists.
Observation Stays in the national spotlight

Last week, NBC Nightly News and MSNBC featured segments that continue to shine a spotlight on the observation stays issue. For both stories, National Correspondent Kate Snow, reported on the impact of Medicare’s current law that leaves thousands of beneficiaries stuck with high medical bills after leaving the hospital if skilled nursing care services are needed. And on MSNBC, Snow interviewed Representative Joe Courtney (D-CT) about his bipartisan legislation that will help fix the current policy. The MSNBC video with Rep. Courtney discusses the Improving Access to Medicare Coverage Act. The Nightly News segment with Lester Holt discusses the importance of knowing your hospital status before being discharged.

The American Health Care Association/National Center for Assisted Living (AHCA/NCA/L) continue to keep the observation stays issue one of its top advocacy priorities.

Staff Contact: Nadine Grosso
Vice President & Director of Communications
ngrosso@mehca.org

Last chance to secure your seat in the Life Safety/Health Care Facility Code Workshops

Last summer, CMS adopted the 2012 Life Safety Code and the 2012 Health Care Facility Code. Is your long term care community on board with what’s changed? Enforcement of these codes began on November 1st.

If you’d like a comprehensive overview of the new codes, there’s still time to reserve your seat in our upcoming program, Don't Get Burned on Your Next Survey! Know the 2012 Life Safety and Health Care Facility Codes. For details, visit our website to download the April edition of our Education Quarterly publication. There are two options for participating:

- April 11, 2017 (Hilton Garden Inn, Bangor), or
- April 12, 2017 (Hilton Garden Inn, Freeport)

To register: Either (1) Fax your completed Registration Form to MHCA at 207.623.4080 and send the original, along with your payment, to MHCA at 317 State Street, Augusta, ME 04330 OR, (2) Visit our website to register online and pay with your credit card.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact MHCA at 207.623.1146. Our office hours are Monday through Friday, 8:30am to 5:00pm.

Staff Contact:
Karen Michaud
Director of Education
kmichaud@mehca.org

POLST Coalition hosts provider call and training

The next Physician Orders for Life Sustaining Treatments (POLST) provider call has been scheduled for Tuesday, April 4th, 2017 from 3:00 pm to 4:00 pm. The call-in number for the POLST provider call is 605-475-4700, 474802#.

Recently, the Coalition has received several phone calls asking for more clarification on POLST. Here are a few questions posed by callers:

- Who is appropriate for a POLST form?
- How do providers bridge the reality gap between the form and the conversation?
- What is the difference between an Advance Directive form and a POLST document?

POLST calls provide facilities with helpful information about POLST and an opportunity to ask questions like these and others. As a reminder, there is an upcoming POLST Train the Trainer on April 7th, 2017 at Androscoggin Home Care and Hospice. Go here to get more information and to register: events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event

Staff Contact: Bonny Small, Director of Quality Improvement and Regulatory Affairs, bsmall@mehca.org
Maximize your RN talent to reduce rehospitalizations

Having at least one RN who has been certified in gerontological nursing by the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC) has been correlated to achieve better outcomes in nursing facilities.

Research conducted by AHCA/NCAL in 2016 found that the rehospitalization rates in nursing facilities with at least one RN certified in gerontological nursing by the ANCC consistently have run at least two percentage points lower than the national average since 2011. AHCA/NCAL believes that assisted living settings will experience similar results by increasing their RNs’ gerontological expertise.

ANCC is the world’s largest and most prestigious nurse credentialing organization and a subsidiary of the American Nurses Association. Less than one percent of America’s RNs are board certified in gerontological nursing. That means having an ANCC Board certified RN can easily give providers an edge in the marketplace.

To help increase the number of board certified RNs, AHCA/NCAL’s Gero Nurse Prep program is designed to help RNs prepare for and pass the ANCC gerontological certification exam. RNs who complete the AHCA/NCAL Gero Nurse Prep program have a passing rate of 96 percent on the ANCC exam on their first try and receive 30 CEUs.

AHCA/NCAL Gero Nurse Prep is on sale now through April 30 and each RN registrant can save $100 off his/her Gero Nurse Prep by entering promo code QUALITY17 (all caps) at checkout. RNs who are interested in boosting their credentials and expertise can become board certified for less than $1,000 ($590 sale price for AHCA/NCAL Gero Nurse Prep and a separate $395 to take the ANCC exam).

Watch this video to learn more about AHCA/NCAL Gero Nurse Prep or click on the course preview to get a quick view of this engaging on-line curriculum designed to help RNs pass the ANCC exam.

The time to complete for the Gero Nurse Prep program is flexible. RNs have one year to complete the program and the clock does not start ticking until they start begin their coursework.

Get an edge on your competition and order now while Gero Nurse Prep is on sale and save $100 by using entering promo code QUALITY17 (all caps) at checkout.

Staff Contact:
Rick Erb
President and CEO
rerb@mehca.org

Maine Culture Change Coalition meeting next week

Please join us at our next Culture Change Coalition meeting scheduled for Tuesday, March 28th at our hosting facility at Gorham House in Gorham, ME. The meeting will begin at 10:00 am and finish at 2:00 pm and lunch is included.

We are really excited to see the Coalition grow and expand with new membership! Recently, the Maine Culture Change Coalition announced their upcoming first 5k Trail Race/Walk and Kids Dash to be held on May 20th at Pineland Farms in New Gloucester, ME. This event is to raise more awareness about long term care and Culture Change. The money raised from the event will be used for future Culture Change education. If you are interested in participating on our coalition, please contact Tim Knight, President at tknight@midcoasthealth.com or Bonny Small, Vice President at bsmall@mehca.org for more information.

To sponsor the event, click 1st_annual_culture_change_5k_walk_sponsorship_form.

To register for the event, click: 1st-annual-culture-change-5k-walk-run-tickets.

Come and join the Coalition and help implement new innovations for the quality of care and life of our Maine residents! Together we can make a difference! Hope to see you at the next meeting or at the 5k event!

Staff Contact: Bonny Small, Director of Quality Improvement and Regulatory Affairs, bsmall@mehca.org
Upcoming Event: MCEAP 2017 Elder Abuse Summit

The Maine Council for Elder Abuse Prevention will be hosting its 4th Annual Elder Abuse Summit. This is a day-long multidisciplinary event for all professionals working to prevent, detect, and respond to elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation.

**Where:** Augusta Civic Center

**When:** Thursday, May 4th, 2017

**Time:** 9:30 am to 4:15 pm (Registration starts at 9:00 am)

**Cost:** $35 per attendee

The agenda includes:

- **A Brief History of Elder Abuse: Lessons Learned from Maine and the Nation in Setting Priorities**
- **Toward a More Evidence-Based, Person-Centered Response to Elder Abuse: Recent Lessons from Goal Attainment Scaling and Prevention Research**
- **Abuse of People with Dementia**
- **Promising Practices: Fighting Elder Financial Exploitation Through Community Networks**
- **Overview of MCEAP’s Statewide Plan for World Elder Abuse Awareness Day and Closing Remarks**

Some of the speakers include:

- David P.R. Burnes, BSc, MSW, PhD, Assistant Professor, University of Toronto, Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work, Affiliate Scientist, Baycrest Health Sciences, Rotman Research Institute
- Marie-Therese (MT) Connolly, Global Fellow, Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars
- Jenefer Duane, Senior Program Analyst, Office for Older Americans, Consumer Financial Protection Bureau
- Ricker Hamilton, Deputy Commissioner of Programs, Maine Department of Health and Human Services
- Meg Hatch, CAC Network Coordinator, Maine Network of Children’s Advocacy Centers, Maine Coalition Against Sexual Assault
- Laura Mosqueda, M.D., Professor of Family Medicine and Geriatrics, Keck School of Medicine, University of Southern California, Professor of Gerontology, Leonard Davis School of Gerontology Director, National Center on Elder Abuse
- Jill Randall, Esq., Helpline & Medicare Advocacy Services Director, Legal Services for the Elderly
- Andrew S. Robinson, Esq., District Attorney, District III
- Kelley Glidden, Director of Community Education, Safe Voices

For more information on the agenda items go to: Agenda

For more information on the speakers go to: Speaker Biographies

To register go to: http://elderabuseprevention.info/this-years-summit

**Staff Contact:** Bonny Small, Director of Quality Improvement and Regulatory Affairs
bsmall@mehca.org
Upcoming education programs and special events

GENERAL SEMINARS & CONFERENCES:

- April 11, 2017—Don’t Get Burned on Your Next Survey! Know the 2012 Life Safety and Health Care Facility Codes—Hilton Garden Inn, Bangor (Code: W17042)
- April 12, 2017—Don’t Get Burned on Your Next Survey! Know the 2012 Life Safety and Health Care Facility Codes—Hilton Garden Inn, Freeport (Code: W17043)
- May 19, 2017—Assisted Living Conference—Hilton Garden Inn, Auburn Riverwatch DATE CHANGE
- May 24, 2017—The Activity Professionals Workshop—Maple Hill Farm Inn & Conference Center, Hallowell (Code: W17052)
- June 1, 2017—Food, Nutrition & Dining: Critical Components for Successful Outcomes in Long Term Care—Maple Hill Farm Inn & Conference Center, Hallowell (Code: W17064)
- June 13, 14 & 15, 2017—Leadership Symposium—Point Lookout Resort, Northport
- October 3-5, 2017—Fall Health Care Conference & Expo—Samoset Resort, Rockport

WEBINARS:

- March 10, 2017 – What Owners & Administrators Need to Do About Occupancy and Mix (10am)

CERTIFICATE COURSES

- April 7, 12, 21, 28 & May 3, 2017—CRMA 40-Hour Course—Maine Health Care Association, Augusta (Code: C17051) (Snow Date: May 11)
- May 17, 2017—CRMA Recert Course—Maine Health Care Association, Augusta (Job Code: C17052)
- June 21, 2017—CRMA Recert Course—Maine Health Care Association, Augusta (Job Code: C17061)
- July 12, 2017—ServSafe Food Safety Program for Managers—Maine Health Care Association, Augusta (Job Code: S17071)

Click below to learn more about our new Gero Nurse Prep partnership.

Notice of Rulemaking

There are no applicable proposals & adoptions this week.

Staff Contact:
Bonny Small
Director of Quality Improvement and Regulatory Affairs
bsmall@mehca.org
Upcoming MHCA committee meetings/other meetings of interest

Regional Meetings

Region I DONs and RN Consultants  – The next meeting is TBA. Chair: Larry Strickland, Kennebunk Rehab, lstrickland@nathealthcare.com

Region II Administrators & DONs  – The next meeting is at Heritage Rehab & Living Center in Winthrop on Friday, April 14th from 9-11 AM. Contact: Lori Pomelew at 786-0691 X 102 or lpomelew@northcountryassociates.com

Region II Social Workers  – Next meeting is March 16 from 1:00 - 3:00 @ Odd Fellows in Auburn. Chair: Judi Rousseau-Gagnon, LSW at 777-4261

Region III Social Workers  – Meetings are held the last Monday of every month from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Oak Grove, 27 Cool Street, in Waterville. Contact: Linda Woodside at Oak Grove Rehab & Living Center at 873-0721

Other Meetings of Interest

Southern Maine Activity Professionals Committee  – The next meeting the Southern Maine Activity Professionals Committee is Thursday May 11th @ St. Andre in Biddeford at 11:30am If you wish to join the group or RSVP to the meeting please contact Jessica Leclerc, St. Andre JLeclerc@standre.org

American College of Health Care Administrators (ACHCA)  – The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, May 5, 2017 from 9am- 3pm at Seaport Village in Ellsworth, Maine. For more information, please contact Jeffrey Lacroix at lacroije@cmhc.org

Culture Change Coalition/LANE  – The next Southern meeting is March 28th at Gorham House from 10-2. If you are interested in joining this group or wish to RSVP to the meeting, please Contact: Tim Knight Email: tknight@midcoasthealth.com

Food Service Professionals Committee  – The next meeting is April 28, 2017, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., at the Barron Center in Portland. Co-Chairs: Mary McCarthy, Barron Center at 774-2623 or MM@portlandmaine.gov and Kandi Ward, North Country Associates at 786-3554 or kward@northcountryassociates.com.

MHCA Assisted Living committee  — The next meeting is TBA. Please contact Bonny Small at bsmall@mehca.org

LTC Social Work Council  – Next meeting is TBA. Chair: Janis Rodgers, Gorham House, Gorham (Tel: 222-8959).

Maine Partnership to Improve Dementia Care in Nursing Homes  – The next meeting is Tuesday April 4th at 10:00 at the Barron Center in Portland. If you are interested in joining this group or wish to RSVP to the meeting Please contact Nadine Grosso at ngrosso@mehca.org

MDS Coordinator Support Group - The next meeting is at Maine Veterans Home in Scarborough on March 15th from 9A – 11A. Contact: Penny Hahn 289-3447 phahn@mainevets.org

Nursing Home Administrator’s Licensing Board  — Meetings are open to members of the public for observation but not for participation. If you plan to attend or have any questions concerning the agenda, please call 624-8623. Meetings are scheduled for May 24, July 26, September 27, and November 22. All meetings are held at 9am at the Office of Licensing & Registration: 76 Northern Avenue, Gardiner, ME.

Staff Contact:
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Staff Support Specialist
aellis@mehca.org or 207.623.1146 x. 200