

## 1-22-24 Weekly Clinical Update

On January 17, 2024, the AHCA State Affiliate Network Meeting was held with several important topics discussed. The first presentation was given by staff from the Center of Excellence for Behavioral Health in Nursing Facilities (COE-NF). CMS awarded a grant to the COE-NF a year ago to provide resources and training materials to nursing facilities that are certified by CMS for training and assistance with residents with behavioral health issues. From AHCA's meeting notes:

- “COE-NF is a cooperative agreement between SAMHSA and CMS. Alliant was awarded a three-year grant. No cost to facilities.
  - **Mission** is to build capacity in CMS certified nursing facilities to care for residents with behavioral health conditions
  - **Vision** is to be the premier resource hub for mental illness and substance use training and technical assistance for nursing facilities to achieve better outcomes for residents
- Three main areas are Serious Mental Illness (SMI), Substance Use Disorder (SUD) and Co-Occurring Disorders (COD). Outside of their scope is dementia, AL/L and pediatric nursing facilities.
- Provide training (in person and on demand), resources and technical assistance.
- All services are located on website: <https://nursinghomebehavioralhealth.org/>.
- Engagement strategies include monthly newsletter, social media profile and text messaging platform.
- 77 live virtual trainings, reaching 6,396 staff and 2,067 facilities. Overall satisfaction for trainings was 95% and knowledge acquisition was 23%.
- Cohort Learning
  - 5 cohorts with 136 individuals from 67 facilities
- Over 9,300 visitors to the COE-NF website
- 758 facility consults processed
- Monthly newsletter includes 14,881 subscribers representing 6,948 nursing facilities
- Text message subscribers are 295
- Worked with facility chains to provide group training , coordinate approaches to targeted facilities or organization wide, provide reporting to chain leadership on facility activity with COE-NF
- Partnered with over 100 national and regional partners, including state affiliates

Nursing facilities are being asked to become more and more proficient in caring for residents with mental illness including substance use disorder. CMS recognized the need for increased resources, and they have provided that through this resource. Per COE's statistics, our State is not using this FREE resource, and yet we continue to see challenges to staff related to dealing with these situations. All you have to do is reach out to them. The link in the message gives you access to the services.

Another subject discussed was the changes that CMS has made to the Civil Money Penalty grants. Each state was instructed to announce the changes and update plans for the CMPPR. “As of now, only four states have even announced the changes and no plans have been updated. She asked feedback from state affiliates on what they are hearing from their members on the programs.” So we will wait and see what happens in our state.

Everyone was reminded that key dates are coming quickly to apply for the National Quality Award. Courtney provided some key reminders on the upcoming AHCA/NCAL National Quality Award application deadline.

- Deadline is January 25<sup>th</sup> at 8 PM ET
- Please help us with a final push!
- Questions? Contact [qualityaward@ahca.org](mailto:qualityaward@ahca.org)

Courtney also shared that there is a Quality Award Deadline Toolkit available with for states on the [State Affiliate Resource Center](#).

Finally, Courtney shared a sample message that can be used in member communication this week:

Post Subject: Don't Miss Your Chance to Submit a 2024 National Quality Award Application

Message:

Long Term Care providers are committed to providing the highest standard of care to their residents. One of the most powerful ways to highlight this dedication to quality care is by participating in the [National Quality Award Program](#). In fact, members on the Quality Award journey have shared that participation has a positive impact on quality improvement, workforce, and customer experience.

By participating in the Program, providers not only raise the bar for quality care, but also acknowledge the hard work and dedication of their staff and the improved quality of life for their residents.

Commitment to quality deserves to be recognized, don't let this opportunity pass by! [Submit your application by the deadline on Thursday, January 25, at 8 PM ET](#), and continue the journey toward excellence.

*Did you know?* An Intent to Apply is *not* required to apply!

Contact the Quality Award team at [qualityaward@ahca.org](mailto:qualityaward@ahca.org) with questions or for assistance.”

AHCA has a few new resources for members:

- [Medical Director Toolkit \(Free\)](#)
- [Facility Assessments 101 \(\\$50\)](#)
- [OSHA Recordkeeping Webinar \(\\$25\)](#)

Finally, AHCA staff shared some workforce information and resources.

- [Labor Department Issues Independent Contractor Final Rule](#)
- [CMS Issues Proposed Rule on Beneficiary Appeal Process for Reclassified Hospital Stay](#)
- [A broken immigration system keeps workers out of jobs the U.S. needs to fill](#)
- [Immigration Update: Visa Retrogression Date Moved Forward](#)
- [U.S. State Department to Process Domestic Visa Renewals in Limited Pilot Program](#)

We are all so fortunate to have this national advocate working for our residents, our staff and our organizations to make sure we have resources to continue with success. Don't miss out on these resources.