

## Home Care Provider Advisory Council Minutes

**Date: April 11, 2016**

### Attendance:

Council members: Rene Cronquist, Amy Nelson, Jean Peters, Melissa Plachecki, & Suzan Sinna  
MDH Representatives: Susan Winkelmann, Cindy Vargas, Jeri Cummins, Lari Anne Mazzitello, & Kearim Meng  
Others: 15 Visitors

### Updates (Susan Winkelmann)

Ms. Winkelmann introduced herself as the Assistant Division Director for the Health Regulation Division in the Minnesota Department of Health. She is managing the Home Care and Assisted Living Program (HCALP) until a new program manager is hired. She updated the council on:

**Program Manager:** The vacant program manager position for the Home Care and Assisted Living Program has been posted. The Department plans to hire the position by June 2016.

**Advisory Council:** At the last meeting, there was discussion about possibly having the advisory council members draft their own bylaws. Instead of doing this, Ms. Winkelmann stated that the department will consider new ways for involving the council members in discussions and making recommendations to the department on various issues. The advisory council's responsibilities are already set in the home care statutes.

**Legislative Updates:** Several legislative changes are under review for this legislative session. Many changes relate to general "housekeeping" and clarifications to statutes. Proposed changes would allow immediate suspension of services and issuance of conditional licenses if specific risks to clients are present. Another proposal would make clarifications to the home management section. One proposal would provide protection for providers whose clients are authorized by the department's Office of Medical Cannabis to take medical cannabis. Finally, a proposal by Rep. Liebling would allow providers to provide "occasional minor services free of charge" to persons living in HWSs without having to establish a service plan or a home care client-relationship.

### Survey Trends (Jeri Cummins)

Ms. Cummins discussed several topics related to home care surveys. Jonathan Hill is a new supervisor for the home care surveyors, and there is an opening for one surveyor position. The team conducted 28 initial surveys and 25 follow-up surveys in March 2016. The team averages about 50 home care surveys per month, each taking approximately 53 hours to conduct. Since January 2015, around 25 surveys have been reconsidered. The number of orders range from 0 - 30 per survey. The top three survey violations are Content of the Service Plan, Comprehensive Assessments and Monitoring, and Bed Rail Assessments. Other

frequently cited violations include Employee Records, Tuberculosis Records, and Abuse Prevention Plans. Survey trends are available on the new website under the FAQ section.

### **Website Updates (Cindy Vargas)**

Ms. Vargas walked the council through various sections of the new home care website. Providers appreciated the list of common correction orders and the easy to locate home care statutes. The public requested an exportable spreadsheet for search results when searching for home care providers in your city or county.

### **Advisory Councilmember Term Changes (Lari Anne B. Mazzitello)**

Ms. Mazzitello updated the council on a pending change to member terms. The current term for most members for the Home Care Provider Advisory Council do not coincide with Minnesota Statutes 15.059. Seven of the eight seats do not meet the requirement and their term dates will be adjusted. The recommendation is to allow the seven seats to expire as currently scheduled in 2018 and transition the terms over the next 2 years to adjust the dates to meet statute requirements. Jean Peters' term is the only seat that meets statutory requirement and will remain unchanged. Her term ends January 2019.

### **Advisory Council Vacancies (Susan Winkelmann)**

Ms. Winkelmann informed the council that two seats were vacant. One seat is for a home care provider representative and the second is for a public member.

### **Workforce Shortage (Cindy Vargas)**

Ms. Vargas informed the council of projections for workforce shortages based on data from the Office of Rural Health. Work force data included demand, supply, and graduate projections. Much discussion regarded why home care, specifically, has a registered nurse (RN) shortage. Why were RNs not working in home care? Is the fingerprinting requirement difficult to comply with or are there not enough locations around the state? How does the environment of independent, part time, multiple locations impact RNs' decisions to practice in the home care field? Can providers pool resources to offer better benefit packages to prospective employees? How does home care compare to hospital and nursing home regarding wages and differences in work environments? Are there enough educators to teach nursing to college students? Are nurses not passing boards? Are new graduates hesitant to enter the home care field due to the independent environment and liability? Would job fairs or apprentice programs attract new graduates to the field?

### **Future FY 2016 meetings:**

- June 6, 2016: 3-5 pm at the Wilder Center Auditorium A