



# NDLTCA Newsletter

## February 20, 2024

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*All Members - All Members*  
*Assisted Living - AL*  
*Basic Care - BC*  
*Nursing Facilities - NF*

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**NDLTCA Updates**

## NEW DUE DATE- Allan B. Engen Scholarships

*ALL MEMBERS*

NDLTCA is providing \$1,000 scholarships this spring for nursing students.

Applications due by **May 10, 2024**.

[Application information](#)

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## Transition to PDPM

*ALL MEMBERS*

A heartfelt shoutout goes to our incredible MDS Coordinators, Vicky Peterson, Kelly Ekstrom, Aleshia Emineth, Justine, Annette Doll, Tasha Schnabel, and Kim E. Schmalz. Your dedication and expertise are invaluable in beginning to navigate the transition to PDPM scheduled for 1/1/2025. Special thanks also to Brad and Jessica from Eide Bailly for your unwavering support and insightful contributions to our discussions. Your collective efforts are making a significant difference, and we are truly grateful for your involvement.

LeeAnn Thiel shared that they have begun the data analysis with Myers and Stauffer. She is certain they will be using the nursing component of the PDPM however, is still determining whether they will also use the therapy components. She states the NTA component will likely not be chosen since she isn't sure how that would be implemented.

The group provided feedback on their concerns and requested items to make a smoother transition such as a template letter to explain the transition to long term residents, updating the resident/family booklet, creating guidelines documents, a statement at the bottom of the rate letters so residents are aware of the transition, and training opportunities for staff. We look forward to the next workgroup meeting to continue collaboration.

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## ND HHS Update

# Confirmed Hepatitis A Case in North Dakota in Grand Forks County

*ALL MEMBERS*

[For more information.](#)

Please contact the ND HHS Immunization Unit at 701.328.2378 with any questions or concerns regarding this issue.

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## Long Term Care Ombudsman Regions

*ALL MEMBERS*

Nikki met with the state's long term care ombudsmen and their region 8 (SW ND), grant funded ombudsman's term is up and as a result, they have redistributed their regions. [See this spreadsheet](#) to see which ombudsman is assigned to your facility.

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## ND Office of Legal Immigration Update

### Recruitment & Staffing Agencies

*ALL MEMBERS*

The Office of Legal Immigration has vetted some of the recruiting agencies and suggests checking out the two below who are recruiting for healthcare related positions and have pools of candidates available:

[BDV Solutions](#)

[Quinton's Global](#)

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## Find the Good Life in ND

*ALL MEMBERS*

Up and coming is an employer portal for the Find the Good Life website. You will be able to enroll your facility and post open positions. The ND Office of Legal Immigration has funding allotted for marketing campaigns to draw people to the site and your positions!

[Homepage | Find the Good Life in North Dakota](#)

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## Education

### Center of Excellence for Behavioral Health in Nursing Facilities-Substance Abuse

*SNF*

February 29, 2024: [An Introduction to Substance Use Disorders](#)

1-2pm CST

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### Mental Health First Aid Training for Rural North Dakota Communities

*All Members*

Quality Health Associates is providing Mental Health First Aid training to increase the capacity of rural communities including the workforces of critical access hospitals, long term care facilities, and community service providers to use this evidence-based practice to appropriately recognize the signs and symptoms of individuals experiencing mental illness, respond to acute needs and refer to additional available resources.

[See for registration and training dates.](#)

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## North Dakota Symposium on Adults, Aging and Disabilities

*All Members*

April 17-18, 2024: Bismarck Public Schools Career Academy | Bismarck, ND

[See for registration](#)

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## Improve Your Person-Centered Care for SNF Short-Stay Patients

*SNF*

AHCA/NCAL offers a four-module webinar to train staff about the delivery of person-centered care under the Patient Driven Payment Model (PDPM). [Person Centered Care in a PDPM World](#) is built to train senior staff about delivering short-stay post-acute person-centered care and position them to then train other facility staff.

The cost of this program is \$150 AHCA members and \$300 for non-members. Individuals can [register for this course](#) with their AHCA/NCAL usernames and passwords. The course is approved for 4.50 contact hours through the Iowa Board of Nursing. Discounts are available for group/team registrations when registering five or more individuals by following these [group registration instructions](#).

For assistance obtaining AHCA/NCAL usernames and passwords, members should e-mail [educate@ahca.org](mailto:educate@ahca.org) with their name and facility contact information.

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[More Education on our Website](#)

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## Advocacy

### Protecting Rural Seniors' Access to Care Act

*ALL MEMBERS*

Over 500 national associations, state organizations, and providers including ND Long Term Care Association signed a letter in support of the Protecting Rural Seniors' Access to Care Act -- and the anticipated House Ways and Means Committee mark-up of this bill that would prohibit the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Secretary from finalizing the proposed nursing home staffing rule. The bill would also establish an advisory panel on nursing home staffing. We received word that the Committee will likely be considering the bill, with a date TBD (we will share details as we have them).

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[PAC Membership](#)

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## AHCA Updates

### CMS Releases Medicare Advantage RFI and CY25 Advance Notice

*ALL MEMBERS*

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) published a [request for information](#) (RFI) seeking feedback from broad perspectives on Medicare Advantage (MA) data currently collected and not collected, including format that

will provide better transparency into MA organizations and their operations.

[For more information](#)

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## Train More Nurses Act Passed in the U.S. Senate

*ALL MEMBERS*

The [Train More Nurses Act](#) (S. 2853), [introduced last year](#) by Senators Jacky Rosen (D-NV), Mike Braun (R-IN), and Susan Collins (R-ME), was agreed to unanimously by the U.S. Senate on January 24, 2024. It will move next to the U.S. House of Representatives for consideration.

This bipartisan bill, which AHCA/NCAL supports, directs the Secretary of Health and Human Services and the Secretary of Labor to conduct a review of all nursing grant programs to find ways to increase faculty at nursing schools, particularly in underserved areas. It also increases pathways for Licensed Practical Nurses to become Registered Nurses. AHCA/NCAL backs efforts and policies like this one to help address the nursing shortages impacting long term care.

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## What to Know About the Independent Contractors Final Rule

*ALL MEMBERS*

What to Know About the Independent Contractors Final Rule

Last month, the U.S. Department of Labor published a final rule, entitled Employee or Independent Contractor Classification Under the Fair Labor Standards Act, which goes into effect on March 11, 2024. This rule revises the Department's guidance on how the agency determines who is an employee or independent contractor under the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA). It specifically rescinds the Independent Contractor Status Under the Fair Labor Standards Act rule (2021 IC Rule), that was published on January 7, 2021, under the Trump Administration, and essentially reverts to the agency's earlier

and broader multi-factor economic realities test.

The new standard will, in certain circumstances, make it more difficult for long term care providers to properly classify a worker as an independent contractor. Likewise, this final rule has the potential to place greater financial and legal burdens on long term care providers as existing contract workers may now need to be reclassified as employees under the new standards.

AHCA/NCAL has provided a summary for its members with additional, vital information. Please note that an AHCA/NCAL member log-in is required to view the summary. Contact Dana Ritchie with questions or comments. [See summary here.](#)

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## Career Opportunities

*All Members*

### Post a Job on Our Website

[North Dakota Long Term Care Association | Career Opportunities \(ndltca.org\)](#)

If you would like to post a job opening for your facility, please contact Casidie Fladeland at 701-354-9775 or email [casidie@ndltca.org](mailto:casidie@ndltca.org)





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## SAVE THE DATE

NDLTCA 47TH ANNUAL  
CONVENTION AND EXPO  
MAY 7-10, 2024