



# NDLTCA Newsletter

## October 1, 2024

**All Members - *All Members***

**Assisted Living - *AL***

**Basic Care - *BC***

**Nursing Facilities - *NF***

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Thank you, Sysco for your generous Platinum Sponsorship! Your support is greatly appreciated!

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## **NDLTCA Update**

### **Fall Conference Success!**

***All Members***

Our Fall Conference was a notable success this year, with an increase in attendance and engaging presentations from a lineup of excellent speakers. The PAC events brought plenty of enjoyment, with laughter filling the room, and the expo provided a fantastic opportunity for sponsors to showcase their offerings. We're grateful to the planning committee as well as everyone who participated and helped make this event memorable.

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### **Planning on Building New?**

***All Members***

A group of providers will be gathering virtually on October 10th at 1 p.m. CDT to discuss new construction projects and strategies for financial viability. This is a great opportunity to share insights and explore solutions with peers. If you're interested in learning more or would like to join this discussion, please reach out to: Nikki [nikki@ndltca.org](mailto:nikki@ndltca.org).

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# Advocacy

## Human Services Committee Update

### *NF and Geropsych*

On September 25, 2024, Nikki testified before the interim Human Services Committee about key challenges in long-term care, especially for residents with psychiatric needs. She highlighted workforce shortages, unsustainable reimbursement rates, rising behavioral health demands, and limited access to acute psychiatric care. Proposed solutions include improved funding, specialized training, expanded geropsychiatric services, and better crisis intervention resources to support residents and caregivers in these facilities. [Watch the recording here...](#)

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## Guidehouse Basic Care and Assisted Living Study

### *AL and BC*

Thank you to everyone that was able to join the virtual debrief of the Guidehouse study and provided comments. If you couldn't join and would like to share any comments with me, please send them via email [nikki@ndltca.org](mailto:nikki@ndltca.org). If you are able, please join me at the Roughrider room at the Capitol on Oct. 2nd around 10 am.

- **Oct. 2 | 9 am | Health Care Committee | [More info.](#)**

### [Access the Full Report Here](#)

Attendees expressed significant concern over the proposal to streamline basic care, assisted living, and specialized basic care into a single licensing structure. This shift would require compliance with the Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) Settings Rule, which restricts basic care and assisted living facilities from being co-located with nursing facilities or hospitals. Our analysis suggests that this change could potentially impact and displace 230 basic care residents and 293 assisted living residents across the state.

Another significant concern was the recommendation to improve regulation and survey oversight for basic care and introduce it assisted living facilities. Currently, basic cares are surveyed infrequently, and assisted living facilities are not subject to regulation in North Dakota. Many attendees felt that increased oversight might not align with the nature of assisted living, where tenants are often independent and choose to live there out of convenience rather than necessity. Assisted living is private pay, and residents have the freedom to move elsewhere if desired. Given that both of these are lower levels of care, there is apprehension that new regulations could impose unnecessary constraints on a system that is working well for many residents without heavy oversight.

NDLTCA waited for the Guidehouse report in the hopes that it would address the current basic care payment system that would be funded during the 2025-2027 biennium. Since the report did not address some of the more basic reimbursement mechanisms, our membership will meet to address our positions. With regard to changes in the basic care reimbursement system, there a few issues that need to be addressed in the next legislative session; Continue recalculation every year and rebase the limits every 4 years, explore a property system that can reimburse facilities in excess of their costs, and a true annual inflator on our prior allowable costs.

We will be presenting our comments at the Health Care Committee meeting tomorrow, followed by a meeting with Sarah Aker and her team to voice our concerns. Both Sarah and Commissioner Salter have expressed their commitment to working collaboratively with NDLTCA and our providers. Your continued engagement is crucial as we navigate the legislative session. We'll need your input and support to ensure all your needs are addressed in the coming months.

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## **CMS Announces Training for HCBS Provisions of the Medicaid Access Rule**

### ***BC and AL***

CMS has announced an upcoming training series on the home- and community-based services provisions of the Medicaid Access Rule. It will host training sessions covering several key provisions of

the access rule.

[Read more...](#)

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#### ***All Members***

Keep it Local is a statewide coalition against Measure 4 that seeks to abolish property tax in North Dakota. The coalition is a diverse group spanning various political ideologies and community interests with a central goal of maintaining local control and keeping North Dakota communities great places to live.

#### **TV and Digital Ads Launched**

TV and digital ads for the Keep It Local campaign launched mid-September! The ads are a vital part of our efforts to raise awareness about Measure 4 and its potential consequences for North Dakota communities. [View the ad on YouTube.](#)

#### **Engage on Social Media**

There has been a lot of commendable effort by members on social media. Thank you to those who have posted, shared or commented to share the message about Measure 4. If your organization hasn't engaged on social media and isn't sure where to start, here are a couple great examples from members:

- [North Dakota Association of Builders Facebook Post - NDAB President Shares His Thoughts](#)
- [North Dakota United's Facebook Post - Plan to End Property Taxes All Smoke & Mirrors](#)

We also invite you to share any material from the Keep It Local Facebook or LinkedIn accounts on your organization's or your personal social media.

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## Quality

### Nursing Facility Incentive Payment Program Update

*NF*

Several members involved in the development of the Nursing Facility Incentive Program (NFIP) recently met with Sarah Berreth and LeeAnn Thiel to review the program's success in its first year and explore potential enhancements. After a productive discussion, the following changes were agreed upon:

- **Regarding serious mental illness (SMI)**
  - Facilities with  $\geq 30\%$  SMI diagnoses will get an additional 30 points rather than 20. These points will be added to their antipsychotic quality measure points.
  - Sarah Berreth and this group will monitor the effect of  $\geq 30\%$  SMI on NFIP at least annually.
- **Fund Distribution**
  - Use a weighted distribution of 100%, 85% and 60% to distribute all funds to Tiers 1, 2 and 3 respectively resulting in no redistribution of funds in a second cycle.

We are happy with these enhancements and look forward to this coming year. If you have any questions, please reach out to Nikki or Sarah Berreth [sberreth@nd.gov](mailto:sberreth@nd.gov).

Would you like to improve your quality measures? Consider participating in the opportunities offered through the Civil Money Penalty Reinvestment Program. Check out the opportunity below with HealthCare Interactive and Carmen Bowman who many of you heard speak at the Fall Conference has a unique program. Contact me, [nikki@ndltca.org](mailto:nikki@ndltca.org) and I will get you in contact with either or both.



**FREE** cares Dementia  
**5-Step Method Online  
Training Grant Opportunity**

- Up to \$15,000 Value (no match required)
- Deadline **November 30, 2024**
- Grant Writing Assistance Provided

 **North Dakota  
Long Term Care**  
ASSOCIATION

The evidence-based CARES® Dementia 5-Step Method® is an award-winning, published, and nationally recognized approach to care for long-term care staff. The State of North Dakota is accepting applications through its CMP program for three CARES® online training programs, staff certification and specialist credentialing. The grant covers three years of access at no cost.

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Here is another opportunity that could help improve your quality measure on reducing antipsychotic medications!

## Frontline Caregiver Training

### CARES® Serious Mental Illness™ Training Program

*All Members*

**Time is running out! Register your staff now** for the CARES® Serious Mental Illness™ Training Program.

Seats are limited. This training focuses on how you can develop care strategies for those with serious mental illness and how it differs from dementia.

**Bismarck October 22, 8:30 am - 4:00 pm**

**Fargo October 23, 8:30 am - 4:00 pm**

This program does a deep dive into each of these illnesses and provides helpful strategies for caring for people living with a serious mental illness who may be in your care. This program has 4 modules. The modules include Introduction to Serious Mental Illness, Understanding Serious Mental Illness, Living with Serious Mental Illness and the CARES® Approach and Providing Appropriate Care. This 4-part session will provide a certification in CARES SMI upon completion and then successfully passing of the certification exam.

For more information & to registration: [Click here](#)

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## NF and AL Customer Satisfaction Results

*All Members*

Thank you for your dedication and the incredible work you put in every day—it truly makes a difference! Your commitment shines through, and it's reflected in the latest statewide customer



satisfaction survey results. Take a moment to see how your efforts are impacting the lives of those you serve:

[Assisted Living Results](#)

[Nursing Facility Results](#)

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## **In the News**

### **Senator Cramer Delivers Floor Speech on Unworkable Nursing Home Rules, Bureaucratic Intransigence at CMS**

#### ***All Members***

U.S. Senator Kevin Cramer (R-ND) spoke on the Senate floor last Tuesday, criticizing the new federal minimum staffing rule for nursing homes. He argued that the mandate would worsen staffing shortages, limit access to care, and could result in more nursing home closures, particularly in rural areas. He also spoke on the dangers of administrative bureaucracy the punitive nature of survey fines experienced by LTC facilities. [Click here](#) for the press release and video of his speech.

[McKnights Long Term Care News article](#)

Read the full story in the Lewiston Sun Journal [HERE](#).

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# Workforce

## ND Long Term Care Association is Hiring!

*All Members*

Please pass along qualified and interested candidates for our Education Assistant position as well as our NEW position, Vice President of Government Affairs. Stacy is collecting resumes and cover letters and is available for questions [stacy@ndltca.org](mailto:stacy@ndltca.org).

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## USCIS Reaches H-2B Cap for First Half of Fiscal Year 2025

*All Members*

On September 19, the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) [announced](#) that it has reached the congressionally mandated cap on H-2B visas for temporary nonagricultural workers for the first half of fiscal year 2025. September 18 was the final date for new cap-subject H-2B petitions requesting an employment start date before April 1, 2025.

[Read more...](#)

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Contact us at 701-222-0660 or email Nikki at [nikki@ndltca.org](mailto:nikki@ndltca.org) or Peggy at [peggy@ndltca.org](mailto:peggy@ndltca.org).

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