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# NDLTCA Newsletter

## September 17, 2024

**All Members - *All Members***

**Assisted Living - *AL***

**Basic Care - *BC***

**Nursing Facilities - *NF***

# NDLTCA Update



## Voting Starts Next Week!

*All Members*

With absentee voting beginning next week, please prioritize sharing clear, concise information about the measure's impact, the voting process and how your community can participate. This is a pivotal moment, and your proactive efforts will help maximize voter turnout and support for our shared goal.

This measure would eliminate property taxes and prevent cities, counties, townships, and schools from taxing property based on its value. It was introduced through a citizen-led initiative to amend the state constitution. Property taxes currently fund local services like schools, police, fire, road maintenance, and parks. The measure would require the state to replace the lost revenue, but only up to the 2024 tax levels, resulting in an estimated \$1.329 billion annual

shortfall. The Legislature would have to find a way to cover the gap, likely leading to cuts in programs, specifically Medicaid, which is one of the largest of the Health and Human Services budget. A YES vote removes property taxes and leaves the state responsible for replacing the funds, likely leading to Medicaid cuts. A NO vote keeps the current system, allowing local governments to continue levying property taxes for essential services.

- Sept. 9 - Kiplinger: **Will North Dakota Property Tax Be Eliminated?**
- Sept. 7 - InForum: Opinion: **Shaw: Vote no on Measure 4 to abolish property taxes**
- Sept. 7 - Bismarck Tribune: Letter: **Arc of North Dakota urges voters to assess impact of Measure 4**
- Sept. 4 - Tax Foundation: **North Dakota Considers Eliminating Property Taxes**
- Sept. 3 - ND Farmers Union: **Union Farmer: September edition**
- Sept. 3 - ND United: **United Voices: Keep It Local and Vote No on Measure 4**

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## Guidehouse's BC/AL Study Recommendations

### *AL and BC*

The ND Department of Health and Human Services has yet to share the report or presentation with providers or NDLTCA. Last week, they presented a PowerPoint, and we've requested both the slides and the report, which they said would be available this week and posted online. We have some concerns based on the presentation, particularly around combining licensure for BC, AL, and Specialized BC, and the possibility that these services may need to comply with the HCBS settings rule. If BC and AL can no longer be co-located with nursing facilities, this could pose significant challenges, especially for rural facilities.

With the \$5 BC add-on ending this year and the study showing that BC rates still don't fully cover care costs, the issue of payment remains unresolved. We had hoped for a more collaborative

process, similar to how the NF payment system was handled, but it has been difficult to even access the report thus far.

Earlier this year, we shared our concerns about the study with Commissioner Salter, and he reassured us we'd have an opportunity to provide input after its release. Now that the study is out, we aim to meet with DHHS to understand the findings and address payment concerns.

While we had hoped to resolve these issues before the legislative session, the timeline may not allow for that. If DHHS can't address this now, we may need to consider requesting gap funding and plan to meet in May 2025 to continue discussions.

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## LTC Advisory Committee - September 13

### *All Members*

The Long Term Care (LTC) Advisory Committee is a collaboration between the state, LTC providers, and other stakeholders. The purpose is to provide a forum for LTC providers to discuss statewide issues with state agencies, learn about industry updates, and communicate concerns to the public, media, legislators, and other stakeholders. It supplements but does not replace the annual Medicare/Medicaid survey process for individual facilities.

The committee meets quarterly and currently met on Sept. 13. The meeting minutes will appear here: [Long Term Care Advisory Committee | Health and Human Services North Dakota](#). We heard updates from the following organizations:

- Nursing Home Medical Directors Association
- Board of Examiners for Nursing Home Administrators
- Quality Health Associates of North Dakota

- Long Term Care Association
- State Ombudsman
- Medicaid Fraud Control Unit
- Medicaid Program
- Disease Control
- Health Facilities
- Life Safety and Construction
- ND Pharmacy Association

And received the current [top 10 deficiencies](#) and the following QSOs:

<https://ndltca.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/QSO-24-08-NH-2.pdf>

[https://ndltca.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/QSO-24-13-NH\\_0-1.pdf](https://ndltca.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/QSO-24-13-NH_0-1.pdf)

<https://ndltca.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/QSO24-14-NH-rev0702-1.pdf>

Most current State Operations Manual 8-8-24 [SOM - Appendix PP \(cms.gov\)](#)

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## Upcoming Interim Committee Hearings

### *All Members*

We have been invited to present to the interim Human Services Committee regarding the LTC and Psychiatric Facility Collaborative. Nikki will also comment following DHHS and Guidehouse's presentation regarding the BC/AL Study. September 25, 2024 - 9:00 am to 3:20 pm CT, [stream it here.](#)

The contract nursing agency study will be discussed during the interim Health Care Committee, October 2, 2024 - 9:00 am to 2:15 pm CT, [stream it here.](#)

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# Regulatory

## A Policy May Not Always Be the Best Answer

NF

It's survey time again and surveyors are in your building. As they observe and gather information, you may be asked if you have a policy for (insert topic here). Sometimes it's easy to produce, as you may have the policy and procedure in place, but there are times you may not, which poses the question – is a policy needed to satisfy the surveyor's question or intention? This is not always an easy answer.

Here at *The Compliance Store* we carefully research the information when constructing policies and procedures for you. Some of the information may be directly written from the standards or adapted around it to clarify the language. We utilize evidence-based studies, textbooks, and electronic resources to ensure policies and procedures meet the standards of care. Our **policies and procedures** are designed to be **fully customizable**, as our resources are based on Federal guidance and current standards of practice. State, local and facility-specific information should be added to the policies to fit your organization's or facility's needs and requirements. Remember, your policies and procedures guide the expectations of your employees and the care of your residents, so when asked "Do you have a policy for \_\_\_\_?", and you do not, take a moment and ask yourself, "Do I really need a policy for this?"

[Read more...](#)

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## Education

# AHCA/NCAL Gero Nurse Prep



## Need to Demonstrate Gerontological Nursing Competency?

*Gero Nurse Prep is the Answer!*

- Significantly boosts experienced LTC RNs gerontological nursing knowledge
- 94% first time pass rate on the optional additional ANCC Board Certification Exam
- Online 24/7 & flexible with up to 12 months to complete

Save \$200 through November 15, 2024  
with promo code: **GEROBC24**

### RNs Specially Trained in Gerontological Nursing Deliver:

- Better short- & long-term outcomes
- Fewer re-hospitalizations
- Fewer deficiencies
- Stronger nurse leadership
- Clinical confidence



*All Members*

The Big Fall Sale on Gero Nurse Prep is On!



The American Health Care Association/National Center for Assisted Living's [Gero Nurse Prep course](#) significantly increases RNs' gerontological nursing competency test scores. Registrants can save \$200 on Gero Nurse Prep through November 15, 2024 with promo code **GEROBC24** (all caps).

Research conducted by AHCA/NCAL in 2023 found compelling reasons to consider the Gero Nurse Prep course and ANCC Board certification for RNs. Nursing facilities with at least one ANCC Board certified RN experienced:

- Lower rehospitalization rates for short stay and long stay residents
- Fewer deficiencies on average
- Fewer Immediate Jeopardy (IJ) citations
- More stars -- twice as likely to be a CMS 5-Star facility (44% versus 19%)

Specifically designed for registered nurses working in long term care, this curriculum provides comprehensive online training that leads to [board certification in gerontological nursing](#) by the [American Nurses Credentialing Center](#) (ANCC) for RNs.

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# Lunch and Learn

## Virtual Series (12pm - 1pm CST)

**Wednesday, Oct 2**  
Understanding Alzheimer's and Dementia

**Wednesday, Oct 16**  
Dementia Conversations:  
Driving, Doctor Visits, Legal  
and Financial Planning

**Wednesday, Oct 30**  
10 Warning Signs

**Wednesday, Nov 13**  
Healthy Living for Your  
Brain and Body: Tips  
from the Latest Research

**FREE!**



 REGISTER NOW

[ndsuhq.org/alzheimers](https://ndsuhq.org/alzheimers)

### All Members

The Alzheimer's Association and NDSU Extension is offering a lunch and learn series about Alzheimer's and other dementia in October and November. Please spread the word to families in your communities. If your facility would like to **host a watch party** and watch the classes as a group, please contact [Vanessa Hoines](#).

Register here: [Alzheimer's and Dementia Lunch and Learn | NDSU Agriculture](#)

# ND Association for Non Profit Upcoming Learning Opportunities

*All Members*

- Sept. 20, Noon - **Auditing Investments for Nonprofits**
  - Sept. 23, Noon - **Finance's Role in Your Data Goals and IT Risk**
  - Sept. 25, 9:30 a.m. - **From Burnout to Balance: The Mindset Shift You Need**
  - Sept. 25, Noon - **Successful Recruitment Strategies**
  - Sept. 25, Noon - **How to Keep All Those Donors You Worked So Hard to Get**
  - Sept. 26, 9 a.m. - **Bush Fellowship Grant Live Q&A**
  - Oct. 1, Noon - **Community Builder Program Lunch & Learn**
  - Oct. 2, Noon - **Nonprofit Focus Group**
  - Oct. 9, Noon - **Boards in Times of Adaptation**
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## Workforce

### Key Strategies for Retaining Your LTC Workforce

*All Members*

**Please join for the last of the series!**

AHCA/NCAL has been holding a webinar series this year focused on workforce related matters impacting our long term care providers across the country. During this series, hear directly from provider members – including AHCA/NCAL workforce committee members – and other experts on these matters on what has and hasn't worked from their experiences. It is also an opportunity to get your pressing questions answered.

[Registration](#) is free to AHCA/NCAL members.

If you are not able to attend live, the recording will be provided to you. A certificate of attendance will be available after webinar. (No CEs)

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## Quality

### Strive for Excellence in Quality Improvement with the Gold Award

*All Members*

Is your long term and post-acute care center or community committed to providing quality care and improving the lives of residents? The National Quality Award Program encourages you to continue your dedication to quality improvement efforts by taking the next step in your journey with the Gold Award level.

[Read more...](#)

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## AHCA/NCAL

### Learn About What You Should be Getting from Your GPO

*All Members*

September 17, 2024 By: Dave Kylo

Are you getting the most out of your Group Purchasing Organization (GPO)? Your GPO should provide more than just savings opportunities, they should be a partner in your success. From ongoing support to regular recommendations, your GPO should help you save on everyday purchases and offer tools and technology to enhance productivity and streamline spending oversight. AHCA/NCAL is hosting a free webinar on Tuesday, September 24 at 1 p.m. EDT featuring Incite Strategic Partners titled Beyond S... [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).