



NDLTCA Newsletter

January 14, 2025

All Members - *All Members*

Assisted Living - *AL*

Basic Care - *BC*

Nursing Facilities - *NF*

NDLTCA Updates

Join us on Fridays for the Weekly Legislative Update

All Members

Join us Friday at 1 PM for our weekly legislative recap! We'll cover key developments from each week of the session, preview the upcoming week, and share insights on the issues we're monitoring and advocating for. Learn how you can get involved and make an impact!

Microsoft Teams [Need help?](#)

[Join the meeting now](#)

Meeting ID: 238 625 993 299

Passcode: 6FH7jP26

Dial in by phone

[+1 701-997-5420,,93726487#](#)

Phone conference ID: 937 264 87#

Covered in last week's legislative update call

All Members

We had a productive first week meeting with legislators on the Human Services Committees, the Senate Workforce Development Committee, House leadership and many others. The level of support has been encouraging. Legislative Council is currently behind in releasing bills, with only about one-third of the anticipated total released so far. We are closely monitoring the situation and will keep you informed. Be sure to check out the bill tracking grid, which will be updated weekly for your reference [CLICK HERE.](#)

Bills Heard 01/07 through 01/10:

[SB 2081](#): Geropsych Facilities [Testimony](#); Passed Senate Human Services Committee 6-0

[SB 2113](#): Geropsych Behavior Health Bed Management [Testimony](#); Anticipate this will pass Senate Human Services Committee, it's part of a larger bill.

[SB 2031](#): Licensing of Nursing Services Agencies (Contract Nursing Standards)-[Senate Workforce Development-Testimony](#) We have some work to do here.

Huge shout out to Amy Kreidt and Blake Kragnes for your testimony! Thank you! Legislators love to hear directly from the providers.

Committee Hearings 01/13-01/17

Watch these hearings live: [North Dakota Legislative Branch Video](#)

[SB 2070](#)-Relating to Rights of Health Care Facility Residents (Bill of Rights)- [Senate Human Services](#)** 01/14, 10:00AM **Thank you to the group working on this issue and thank you to Joyce Linnerud-Fowler, Jim Cornelius, Robert Sheckler, and Michelle Slaughter for submitting written testimony!**

[HB 1154](#)- Relating to the Moratorium on Basic Care and Nursing Facility Bed Capacity.-[House Human Services](#) ** 01/15, 10:00AM **Thank you Jac McTaggart and others who have contacted their legislators on this committee!**

[HB 1012](#)-Relating to DHHS to provide an appropriation (DHHS Budget Bill)-House [Appropriations Human Resources Division](#)-** 01/13, 01/14,01/15, 01/16, 01/17

Advocating

All Members

We need your support! Throughout the session, you'll receive emails or VoterVoice emails requesting specific actions. These requests are time-sensitive, so please take a few minutes to complete them promptly. Thank you for your commitment to making a difference!

Lobbying Rules

For many public charities, the 501(h) election, also known as the expenditure test, offers a simpler and more straightforward method for measuring and reporting lobbying expenses compared to the default insubstantial test. To learn more, visit the [National Council of Nonprofits' resource page](#) or explore **Nonprofit Advocacy: A North Dakota Toolkit**.

Register as ND Lobbyist

If you are lobbying (asking legislators or the governor to support or oppose a **specific bill**) in North Dakota, you must [register](#) annually with the Secretary of State.

Workforce

Immigration Update: New Rule on H-1Bs

All Members

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) recently published a [final rule](#) implementing some changes to the H-1B nonimmigrant category. These changes and clarifications contain provisions that DHS proposed on October 23, 2023, to “modernize and improve the efficiency of

the H-1B program, add benefits and flexibilities, and improve integrity measures.” After considering the public comments on the proposed rules, the DHS has finalized some provisions.

Most of the new regulations are not a change in policy or practice, but they are now formalized into guidelines to better ensure clarity and consistency. However, there are a few new rules, including codifying the “deference policy.” This means that when an extension is filed by the same employer for the same beneficiary and no material changes to the facts, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) will defer to their previous approval. The deference policy applies to all the nonimmigrant categories.

To implement this rule, a new edition of [Form I-129, Petition for a Nonimmigrant Worker](#) will be required for all petitions beginning January 17, 2025, which is the rule’s effective date. You can read DHS’ summary on the final rule [here](#).

Health professionals can apply now for student loan repayment programs

All Members

Health-related professions are among the fastest growing and personally rewarding career fields. North Dakota Health and Human Services (HHS) is working to recruit and retain health care providers in the state, especially in underserved and rural areas, by offering student loan repayment help for qualifying health, behavioral health and dental professionals.

The Primary Care Office in HHS is accepting applications now through March 31, for three support for service programs: [North Dakota Healthcare Professional Loan Repayment Program](#), [ND Federal Loan Repayment Program](#) and [Dental Loan Repayment Program](#). Health care students graduating this year, new health care graduates and established health professionals with student loan debt are encouraged to apply.

[For more information...](#)

Post a Job on Our Website

All Members

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

If you would like to post a job opening for your facility, please contact Stacy Irey at 701.222.0660 or email stacy@ndltca.org

2024 Antimicrobial Stewardship Honor Roll

Antimicrobial Stewardship UPDATES

All Members

The North Dakota Health and Human Services Antibiotic Resistance and Antimicrobial Stewardship [webpage](#) has been updated to include more antibiograms from across North Dakota, the 2024 Antibiotic Use and Stewardship Report, and the 2024 Antibiotic Stewardship Honor Roll.

Check out these new resources highlighting areas North Dakota is improving with antibiotics and areas for continued stewardship.

Please join me in congratulating the 2024 Antimicrobial Stewardship Honor Roll facilities listed below. To learn more about each facility's stewardship initiatives, check out the following webpages:

[Hospital Honor Roll](#)

[Long-term Care Honor Roll](#)

Platinum LTCF and Hospital Awardees

- Missouri Slope
- Northwood Deaconess Health Center (LTCF)
- Mercy Hospital
- Essentia Hospital (Fargo)
- Sanford Health (Fargo)

Gold LTCF and Hospital Awardees

- Elm Crest Manor
- Marian Manor Healthcare Center
- Jamestown Regional Medical Center
- Altru Hospital

Silver LTCF and Hospital Awardees

- Bethany Retirement Living 42nd Campus
- Bethany Retirement Living University
- North Dakota Veterans Home
- SMP Health Maryhill
- CHI St. Alexius Devils Lake
- Northwood Deaconess Health Center
- Pembina County Memorial Hospital
- West River Health Services

Bronze LTCF and Hospital Awardees

- SMP Health Ave Maria
- SMP Health St. Catherine North
- SMP Health St. Catherine South
- Pam Rehab Hospital

Congratulations and thank you for all the work that goes into ensuring appropriate antibiotic use to improve of the health of North Dakotans.

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid

Upcoming Observation Status Appeals Webinar

All Members

On January 22, 2025, the Center for Medicare Advocacy (CMA) will host a [complimentary second webinar](#) focused on the *Medicare Programs: Appeal Rights for Certain Changes in Patient Status* final rule. AHCA/NCAL members should consider attending, as the webinar will review the basics of both types of new appeals (retrospective and prospective), who can appeal, and steps that people who think they are class members can take. It will also provide any updates or insights CMA has learned since the “retrospective” appeals became operational on January 1, 2025. If you are unable to attend, CMA hosted a webinar on this issue last month, of which the recording is [here](#), as well as additional resources.

As noted in previous AHCA/NCAL communications, on October 11, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) [finalized](#) the *Medicare Program: Appeal Rights for Certain Changes in Patient Status* rule, which established court-ordered appeals processes for Medicare

beneficiaries admitted as hospital inpatients but later reclassified as outpatients receiving observation services during their hospital stay.

The final rule remained largely as proposed but offers expanded timelines and additional beneficiary protections, which AHCA/NCAL advocated for and supports as part of its [coalition efforts](#). You can [read a summary](#) of the rule, along with further details on this issue.

Quality

Quality Award Application Resources for Success

All Members

The National Quality Award Program is here to support your commitment! Apply now and use these essential resources as you get started.

[Resources here](#)

Data Tracking and Trending – It’s Not Just for SNFs Anymore!

AL and BC

Data plays a key component in our current landscape. There is so much data that it can be challenging to figure out what to collect and how to use it. This short webinar will demonstrate the value of collecting data and will share how utilizing LTC Trend Tracker and the LTC Data

Cooperative together can help your organization improve quality of care.

[Register here](#) - On-demand webinar



Contact us at 701-222-0660 or email Nikki at nikki@ndltca.org or Peggy at peggy@ndltca.org.
