



NDLTCA Newsletter

August 19, 2025

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

Important Updates

We are thrilled here at NDLTCA!!:

Emily O’Brien named deputy commissioner of North Dakota HHS

All Members

NEWS: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

VIEW THIS RELEASE ONLINE: hhs.nd.gov

BISMARCK, N.D. (Aug. 18, 2025) – The North Dakota Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is pleased to announce that Emily O’Brien will join the agency as deputy commissioner, effective Aug. 20.

O’Brien brings extensive experience in health and human services and a deep understanding of HHS operations. Since 2017, she has served in the North Dakota Legislature representing District 42 in Grand Forks. During the past two legislative sessions, she served on the Human Resources Division of the Appropriations Committee, which oversees the HHS budget.

In addition, O’Brien served as chief operation officer at the Bioscience Association of North Dakota. Her background provides valuable insight as she steps into the deputy commissioner role.

As deputy commissioner, O’Brien will focus on aligning HHS programs and services with the agency’s strategic vision for North Dakota to be the healthiest state in the nation. She will lead a comprehensive cross-agency and inter-agency performance measurement system that tracks the flow of dollars coming into and going out of the agency. In addition, O’Brien will serve as the

legislative liaison within HHS, facilitating effective communication and collaboration between HHS and the ND Legislative Assembly.

“We are thrilled to welcome Emily as our new deputy,” said Pat Traynor, interim commissioner. “She brings a proven track record of leadership, deep experience in public service, and a strong commitment to using data to guide decisions. With Emily’s expertise and vision, we are confident our agency will continue advancing health and well-being for the people we serve.”

REMINDER: MDS & Resident Assessments Roles and Responsibilities

NF

In recent months, federal and state regulators have demonstrated an increased attention on MDS practices. AHCA/NCAL wants to provide some reminders on key requirements for MDS roles and responsibilities as well as highlight resources we have for providers.

Regulations require nursing homes to initially and periodically conduct a comprehensive, accurate, standardized, reproducible assessment of each resident's functional capacity. This process utilizes the Resident Assessment Instrument (RAI) which consists of the Minimum Data Set (MDS) and Care Assessment Areas (CAAs), and are used to develop a person-centered care plan for each resident.

[Read more](#)

Interim Legislative Calendar

All Members

- This one would be a good one to tune into: Aug. 26 | 10 am | Legislative Task Force on Government Efficiency | [More info](#)
 - Sept. 15 | 9 am | DHHS Public Hearing - Admin Rules Basic Care Rates | [More info.](#)
 - Sept. 15 | 10:30 am | DHHS Public Hearing - Admin Rules Community Transition & Diversion Program | [More info.](#)
 - Sept. 15 | 12 pm | DHHS Public Hearing - Admin Rules Target Population Member Rental Assistance Program | [More info.](#)
 - Sept. 16 | 9 am | DHHS Public Hearing - Admin Rules Eligibility for Medicaid | [More info.](#)
 - Sept. 16 | 10:30 am | DHHS Public Hearing - Admin Rules Nursing Home Rates | [More info.](#)
-

Regulatory

Reminder: Check the OIG Exclusion List for All Hires— Monthly

NF and BC

The HHS Office of Inspector General (OIG) can exclude individuals or entities from participating in federally funded health care programs for reasons such as Medicare or Medicaid fraud.

[OIG maintains the List of Excluded Individuals/Entities \(LEIE\)](#), and hiring someone on this list can result in **civil monetary penalties**. To protect your organization, check **all names and**

aliases for every new hire and **re-check your workforce monthly** to ensure no one has been added.

[Search the list manually](#) or download the most up to date spreadsheet here: [OIG LEIE Database](#)

DOL Launches Self-Audit Programs Around Compliance with Federal Labor Laws

All Members

The U.S. Department of Labor recently sent out a news release, announcing “several programs designed to help employers, unions, and pension plans voluntarily assess and improve their compliance with federal labor laws.” [Read More](#)

Thank you to our Gold Sponsor, Roers for your continued support!



Education

Upcoming Webinar on WEDNESDAY: Pulling it All Together – Calculating Reimbursement Under PDPM

NF

Don't miss the final session in our **Mastering MDS Classification and PDPM Calculation** series—designed for MDS Nurses and IDT team members.

 **Wednesday, August 20 @ 11:30 a.m.**

Topic: Pulling it All Together – Calculating Reimbursement Under PDPM

 **Duration:** 1 hour (includes Q&A)

 Missed any of the earlier sessions? If so, you can find the recordings and handouts under the member only section of our website [here](#).

- July 16 – NTA Components
- July 30 – Speech Therapy Classification
- August 6 – Navigating the Nursing Classification Items

 Need a Microsoft Teams invite? Contact Peggy at peggy@ndltca.org.

 Please share this opportunity with your MDS and IDT teams!

8-Week Intensive Series | Wednesdays starting August 27 through October 15

NF

Is your team ready for the next survey? Join us for "Survey Prep and Understanding Post Survey Elements," an 8-week intensive workshop designed to equip key staff with the knowledge and tools needed for successful survey readiness.

Whether you're:

- ✓ New to the LTC survey process
- ✓ Looking to refresh and upskill your team
- ✓ Recovering from less-than-optimal inspection outcomes

...this training is built for you.

What You'll Gain:

- Department-specific expectations for survey readiness
- Clear understanding of the survey process
- Strategies to ensure collective preparedness
- Tools to address and overcome deficiencies

 Deadline to register is tomorrow, August 20.

 [Click here to learn more and register](#)

Fall Conference Registration is NOW OPEN!

All Members

We're excited to announce that registration for the **2025 Fall Conference** is now LIVE!

Join us for another inspiring and educational event.

 View the full conference brochure and register online by visiting our website:

 [Click here to learn more and register](#)

 **Don't miss the early bird discount** — available through **Monday, September 1!**

 **Planning to attend? Be sure to book your hotel room!**

The room block at the **Holiday Inn Fargo** will **close on Friday, August 22**. After this date, reservations will be subject to standard rates and availability.

To book, call  **701-282-2700** and select **option “0”** to speak directly with **Holiday Inn Fargo staff** (not the central reservation line).

We look forward to seeing you there!

Upcoming Webinars: Reducing Litigation Risk for SNF, AL & Basic Care

All Members

A Practical 12-Month Series for Long-Term Care Professionals

There's still time to take part in our **monthly webinar series** designed to help Skilled Nursing Facilities (SNF), Assisted Living (AL), and Basic Care providers reduce litigation risk through better practices, policies, and decision-making. These webinars are compliance and risk management focused series which will provide the healthcare professional with insight into the long-term care litigation process and best practices for avoiding lawsuits.

You do **not** need to register for the full series— join us month-by-month for the topics that matter most to you.

 **Flyer with full series topics:**

 [Download the Flyer \(PDF\)](#)

 **Upcoming Webinar Topics:**

September 16: *Communication Practices*

October 21: *Hot Topics in LTC Fraud and Abuse*

November 18: *Compliance & Ethics Program Risk Assessment Essentials*

December 16: *Tips & Recommendations if You Get Sued*

 **Cost:** \$55 per session

 **Time:** All webinars begin at 1:30 p.m. CT

 **To register:** Email Belma at belma@ndltca.org with which webinars you want to attend, and she will get you signed up!

Frontline Caregiver Training – Coming This October!

All Members

Calling all frontline caregivers! Join us for a one-day, in-person training event designed **just for YOU** – the essential team members who keep our care communities thriving.

Choose the location that works best for you:

-  **Tuesday, October 14** – Holiday Inn, **Bismarck**
-  **Wednesday, October 15** – Doubletree, **Fargo**

This conference is ideal for:

-  CNAs & NAs
-  Medication Aides
-  Dietary Aides & Dietary Staff

- ✓ Nurses & Social Workers
- ✓ Housekeeping & Environmental Services
- ✓ Staff from Assisted Living, Basic Care & Nursing Facilities

Why Attend?

- Boost your skills and confidence
- Learn practical tools for compassionate, quality care
- Connect with peers and gain fresh inspiration
- Celebrate the vital role you play every day!

👉 [More information and registration will be posted on our website as it becomes available](#)

Workforce

Preparing for Tomorrow's Care Workforce: Six Sessions You Can't Miss at Delivering Solutions 25

All Members

By 2030, one in five Americans will be over 65, driving an urgent need for skilled, compassionate caregivers—yet long term care providers are struggling with a critical challenge: attracting and keeping the right talent.

At [Delivering Solutions 25 \(DS25\)](#), we're tackling this head-on. Our agenda is packed with expert-led conversations to help providers rise to the challenge—with practical tools, fresh insights, and real inspiration.

[Read more...](#)

AHCA/NCAL

5 Must-Hear Episodes from Perspectives in Long Term Care

All Members

In long term care, there's always more to learn—whether it's navigating policy changes, supporting staff, or finding new ways to elevate resident care. That's why podcasts have become a go-to resource for busy professionals looking to stay informed and inspired on the go.

If you haven't tuned in yet, the *Perspectives in Long Term Care* podcast is a standout series that brings real conversations, expert perspectives, and practical insights straight to your earbuds. With dozens of episodes to choose from, we've made it easy by highlighting five of the most popular ones—ones that sparked big conversations, offered timely advice, or simply stuck with us.

Here are the top 5 episodes we recommend starting with.

[Check them out here...](#)

AHCA/NCAL Supports Coalition Efforts Asking Congress to Extend Telehealth Flexibilities

All Members

AHCA/NCAL recently joined in sending a stakeholder letter requesting Congressional Leadership to act and ensure Medicare beneficiaries are able to access telehealth services after September 2025. [Read More](#)



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