



NDLTCA Newsletter

October 21, 2025

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

NDLTCA Updates

Congratulations to our 2025 Allan B Engen Nurse Scholarship Recipients*!*

All Members

Congratulations to this year's Allan B. Engen Nurse Scholarship recipients! Each student nurse will receive a \$1,000 scholarship in recognition of their commitment to pursuing a career in long-term care. We're proud to support the next generation of caregivers who will continue advancing our mission of quality care for North Dakota's seniors.

SMP Health - St. Catherine South's Emily Gilberts

SMP Health - St. Catherine South's Lydia Meyer

SMP Health - St. Raphael's Mandi Robinson

Prairie Pointe Bismarck's Alexis Kenison

Benedictine St. Catherine's Jordan Wendorff

Valley Senior Living Woodside Village's Natalie Glaser





NDLTCA Board Election Results

All Members

We're pleased to share that all eligible NDLTCA Board Members have been re-elected to serve their second terms! Several races were contested, reflecting the strong engagement and dedication of our membership.

Congratulations to our returning leaders for earning the continued confidence of their peers and for their ongoing commitment to North Dakota's long term care community: **Amy Kreidt, Tim Kennedy, Kiara Tuchscherer, Joyce Linnerud Fowler, Jac McTaggart, Stephanie Edland, Belinda Moen, Blake Kragens, and Tonie Stoen.**

We also extend our sincere appreciation to all candidates who stepped forward to serve. Your willingness to contribute your time and leadership strengthens our association and the future of long term care in our state.

Update: Rural Health Transformation Committee

All Members

Last week, the Rural Health Transformation Committee reviewed six potential policy options to strengthen North Dakota's federal RHTP score ahead of the January special session. Among the items discussed was possible removal of the nursing facility and basic care bed moratorium.

After thoughtful discussion, the committee voted **unanimously not to advance** that proposal—reaffirming the moratorium's vital role in maintaining system stability, protecting rural access, and aligning resources across the continuum of care. This outcome reflects strong legislative confidence in the balance and sustainability of North Dakota's long term care system.

[Watch the discussion \(begins at 11:09 a.m.\) | Thank the Committee Members | Thank Governor Armstrong](#)

The committee will **continue its meeting on October 21, 12:30-4:30 pm**. You can stream the meeting live or watch the recording here:

[➔ Rural Health Transformation Committee | North Dakota Legislative Branch](#)

Quality

2025 AHCA/NCAL Awards Ceremony

All Members

The American Health Care Association/National Center for Assisted Living (AHCA/NCAL) pay tribute to the best and brightest in long term. North Dakotans honored with awards will be recognized during Delivering Solutions 25, the AHCA/NCAL Convention & Expo in Las Vegas this evening.

Congratulations again to all of the 2025 award recipients!!!



Don't Miss Out: Submit Your Intent to Apply

All Members

The 2026 National Quality Award Intent to Apply is open, and the deadline is fast approaching: **November 13, 2025, at 8:00 PM ET.** [Read More](#)

[Reach for Peak Performance Excellence with the Gold Award!](#)

The National Quality Award Program invites you to take the final step in your quality improvement journey by applying for the Gold Award. [Read More](#)

Improving Section GG Accuracy Through QAPI

NF

PROVIDER by Jessie McGill, RN, BSN 10/21/2025

Section GG lends itself well to QAPI monitoring because it provides clear, measurable indicators of compliance. Facilities can begin by routinely auditing a sample of assessments each quarter.

[Read more.](#)

Education

Savvy Social Services Workshop

All Members

November 3 & 4 | Virtual Event

 10:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. CST each day

 Cost: \$150 members | \$300 nonmembers

 *Early Bird Deadline: October 28* (Save \$50 when you register early!)

Elevate Your Social Services Expertise

The role of the Social Services Director is both vital and multifaceted—impacting every aspect of resident care and quality of life in a nursing facility. **Savvy Social Services** is a two-day virtual workshop designed to equip Social Service professionals with the tools, knowledge, and confidence to excel in this critical position.

Whether you're new to the field or a seasoned professional, this interactive training will

strengthen your understanding of essential responsibilities, regulations, and best practices that drive exceptional care and compliance.

Workshop Highlights

Day 1: The Foundations of Effective Social Services

- Social Service Essentials: Daily, Weekly, Monthly & Quarterly Responsibilities
- Advance Directives and Related Deficiencies
- The RAI Process, CAAs, and Resident-Centered Care Plans

Day 2: Navigating Compliance and Readiness

- Grievance Process Requirements
 - Discharge Planning: Updates and Revisions
 - Survey Readiness Every Day
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Learning Objectives

1. Define the day-to-day responsibilities of the Social Services professional.
 2. Understand the role of Social Services in assisting residents and representatives with advance directives.
 3. Identify strategies to maintain survey readiness in the Social Services department.
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Who Should Attend:

Social Services Directors, Social Services Assistants/Staff, and Administrators

 **CEUs:** 6 total contact hours

 **Register Today:** <https://ndltca.swoogo.com/savvysocialservice>

Basic Care Bootcamp 🕒 Early Bird Deadline: October 30!

BC

Get your team **survey-ready** at the **Basic Care Bootcamp** — a one-day, in-person training on **Thursday, November 13, 2025**, at the Baymont Inn in Mandan, ND.

Refresh your knowledge, strengthen compliance, and build confidence before state surveys resume.

[🔗 Register now & view the agenda: ndltca.org/events/basic-care-bootcamp](https://ndltca.org/events/basic-care-bootcamp)

✅ **Space is limited — don't miss the early bird rate!**

Advance Your Career with the ADC Online Course – Taught by Industry Expert Tia Hovatter!

All Members

Are you ready to take the next step in your professional journey as an activity professional?

We're excited to share an exceptional **online learning opportunity** led by **Tia Hovatter** – a nationally recognized speaker, educator, and **NCCAP Licensed Instructor** with over **20 years of experience** training activity professionals!

Whether you're new to the field or looking to deepen your skills, the **Activity Director Certified (ADC) course** is designed to provide the **knowledge and tools you need to succeed** and deliver **life-enriching activities** that meet the highest standards set by CMS.

What You'll Learn:

- Therapeutic Activity Concepts

- Standards, Regulations & Survey
- Communication Strategies
- Aging Through the Lifespan
- Cognitive & Behavioral Health
- Documentation Skills
- Management & Person-Centered Engagement
- Staff Development & Training
- Team Leadership
- Program & Staff Evaluation

✔ **No previous experience required** – perfect for beginners or those transitioning into the field!

This is more than just a course – it’s a **career-building opportunity** that equips you to make a real impact in the lives of others.

Don’t miss your chance to learn from one of the best in the field and join a community of dedicated professionals committed to quality care and meaningful engagement.

Found out more and to Register, [Click here >>](#)

Assisted Living

Register for HealthCap’s Free Assisted Living Risk Management Webinar

AL

HealthCap® is hosting a free webinar titled *Assisted Living – Risky Business?* on Tuesday, November 11 at 2:00 PM ET. [Read More](#)

Assisted Living Providers Gain New Perspective of Dementia at NCAL Day

AL

This year's National Center for Assisted Living (NCAL) Day attendees—with record attendance of more than 300—lined up for a unique opportunity to learn more about what it is like to live with dementia. [Read more.](#)

Regulatory

CMS Update from AHCA

NF

We learned today that the majority of staff at CMS Locations/Regions have been furloughed. CMS Central Office has advised that if outreach is needed to a CMS Region/Location, contact can be made to the POC for the relevant location as noted in this [QSO-25-29-ALL](#).

- CMS Kansas City/Denver: Dianna Wardlow-Dotter, Dianna.Wardlow-Dotter@cms.hhs.gov

We are continuing to raise significant concerns to CMS Central Office about complications that are resulting from lack of revisits during the federal government shutdown, including, but not limited to, DPNAs and length of per diem CMPs. At a minimum we are asking for desk reviews

to be allowed as a revisit. We will share any additional information as soon as it becomes available.

Please feel free to let me know if you have any questions.

Holly Harmon, RN, BSN, MBA, LNHA, FACHCA
Sr. Vice President, Quality, Regulatory & Clinical Services

Advocacy

Interim Legislative Calendar

All Members

- Oct. 21 | Rural Health Transformation Committee | [More info.](#)
 - Nov. 5 | Special Education Funding Committee | [More info.](#)
 - Nov. 18 | 10 am | Health Care Committee | [More info.](#)
 - Nov. 19 | 9 am | Human Services Committee | [More info.](#)
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Public Meetings Calendar

All Members

- Nov. 12 | 1 pm | ND Olmstead Commission | [More info.](#)

- Nov. 13 | 2 pm | Medicaid Management Information System (MMIS) Modernization Project Exec. Committee | [More info.](#)
 - Nov. 18 | 3 pm | Medicaid Medical Advisory Committee | [More info.](#)
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Workforce

Immigration Update: H-1B Restrictions Lawsuit

All Members

As AHCA/NCAL shared [previously](#), the President recently signed a [proclamation](#) to restrict the entry into the United States of certain H-1B non-immigrant worker visas, requiring a \$100,000 payment to accompany or supplement H-1B petitions for new applications. The restriction applies only to new entrants and includes provisions for national interest exemptions at the Secretary of Homeland Security's discretion. The policy remains in effect for 12 months unless extended.

On October 3, a [lawsuit](#) was filed by some employers and unions in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California noting economic fallout concerns along with contending congressional authority overstepping.

AHCA/NCAL will keep its members informed of any relevant updates around this matter.

Also, HUGE THANK YOU to NF members who participated in the recent survey. The Governor's office has expressed their appreciation for your time and information and will be in touch.

E-Verify Resumes Operations

All Members

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security E-Verify program has now resumed operations. The program was down for a brief period of unavailability due to the current government shutdown.

Employers who participate in E-Verify must create an E-Verify case by Tuesday, Oct. 14 for each employee hired while E-Verify was not available. You must use the hire date from the employee's Form I9 when creating the E-Verify case. If you could not create an E-Verify case by the third business day after the employee began work for pay because E-Verify was unavailable, E-Verify will prompt you during case creation to provide a reason for the delay.

More details can be found on the official E-Verify website [here](#).

Technology

Protect Your Facility From Cyberattacks

All Members

From our sponsor, [The Compliance Store](#):

Cyberattacks are on the rise and can result in businesses being disrupted, damaged or even destroyed. The Compliance Store can help. We offer [information technology \(IT\) policies](#) as well as our robust [HIPAA category](#) that contains many great resources including our [HIPAA Security Compliance Solution](#). We are continually updating our library of [information on](#)

[cybersecurity and IT related topics](#). October is Cybersecurity Awareness Month and a good time to review your processes to ensure you will not be the victim of a cyberattack.

The Compliance Store

Because Getting It Right Matters.

Thank you to our Bronze Sponsor, Healthcare Academy for your continued support!



10% discount for AHCA members

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