



**North
Dakota
Long Term Care
ASSOCIATION**

Serving the Full Continuum of Care

NDLTCA Newsletter

February 10, 2026

All Members - *All Members*
Assisted Living - *AL*
Basic Care and Adult Residential - *BC*
Care at Home - *CH*
Home Health - *HH*
Nursing Facilities - *NF*

NDLTCA Updates



A Growing Continuum, A New Look

All Members

As you know, NDLTCA has expanded its membership to include home care, home health, and hospice providers—an important step in strengthening the full continuum of long term care in North Dakota. As our association evolves, so too does how we represent who we are.

We're excited to introduce NDLTCA's refreshed logo, designed to reflect the coming together of providers across settings—from care delivered at home to care provided in residential communities. The new mark represents connection, collaboration, and a shared commitment to quality care wherever North Dakotans call home.

This update is more than a visual change—it’s a reflection of a stronger, more unified association and the collective voice we’re building together. We’re proud to welcome our new members and look forward to continuing this work side by side.

Call for National Anthem Singer

All Members

We are currently seeking a talented individual to perform the **National Anthem** at our **Opening Keynote on Wednesday** of the 49th Annual Convention & Expo.

If you—or someone you know—would be interested in this opportunity, we’d love to hear from you! This is a wonderful chance to be part of our opening program and help kick off the Convention on a meaningful note. Please reach out to Peggy at peggy@ndltca.org or give her a call at 701-354-9774 for more information or to express interest.

Education



Save the Date: 49th Annual Convention & Expo “The Magic of Caring. Celebrating the Everyday Moments that Matter Most”

All Members

We’re excited to announce that planning is officially complete for our **49th Annual Convention & Expo**—and it’s shaping up to be one you won’t want to miss!

The **schedule is set, sessions and speakers are finalized**, and the **Convention Brochure** and **Attendee Collection Form** are now available on our website. This means you can start exploring sessions, mapping out your must-attend presentations, and planning your conference experience early.

 **View and download materials here:**

<https://ndltca.org/events/conventionexpo/>

Registration will go live on Monday, February 23, so now is the perfect time to review the offerings and be ready to register as soon as it opens.

This year’s Convention & Expo will feature:

- Engaging educational sessions led by industry experts
- Valuable networking opportunities with peers and partners
- A robust Expo showcasing products and services that support your work

Mark your calendar, start planning your schedule, and get ready for an energizing and informative event. We can’t wait to see you there!

Save the Date!

Quality Measure Deep Dive – 7-Week Webinar Series

NF

Navigate the Quality Measures (QMs) that define Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF) performance with practical, real-world strategies you can apply immediately. This 7-week webinar series will help you strengthen compliance, improve outcomes, and protect reimbursement by understanding how QMs are defined, coded, and calculated—and how daily clinical practice drives overall facility performance.

Each session includes:

- ✓ Practical strategies
- ✓ Real-world examples
- ✓ Focused documentation guidance
- ✓ Tools to improve data accuracy and resident care

 **Wednesdays | April 15 – May 27**

 (Time to be announced)

Weekly Topics:

- **April 15** – Anchoring ADLs: Functional Status Measures for 5-Star Success
- **April 22** – Turning the Tide on Falls & Falls with Major Injury
- **April 29** – Below the Surface: Exploring the Pressure Ulcer QM
- **May 6** – Navigating Psychotropics, Depressive Symptoms & Behaviors
- **May 13** – Ship Shape QMs & Other Considerations
- **May 20** – Smoothing Sailing with VBP
- **May 27** – Diving In to QRP

 **Registration details coming soon — mark your calendar now!**

Office hours - Navigating Consent for Residents Seeking Companionship

AL, BC, NF

These one-hour sessions, held every three weeks, provide a safe and supportive space for long-term care professionals to bring forward real-life scenarios, concerns, and questions related to resident consent and companionship. Guided by trained facilitators who are **Skills2Care® certified** and **creators of the C.A.R.E.™ Checklist**, participants will explore best practices and gain practical strategies for navigating complex situations with compassion, respect, and regulatory alignment.

Feb. 11, 2026 2:00 PM CT

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 810 1524 2958

Passcode: 013233

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ND Board of Examines for NHA posts

NEW Licensed Nursing Home Administrator List Now

Available

NF

We're pleased to share that a **list of licensed Nursing Home Administrators in North Dakota** is now available on our website.

This resource allows users to verify that an individual is **currently licensed and in good standing** in North Dakota. It is especially helpful for **agencies, employers, and organizations** that need quick, reliable license verification. We encourage members and agencies to bookmark this page and use it as a reference when confirming licensure status.

👉 **View the licensed administrator list here:** <https://www.ndnha.nd.gov/licensees>

If you have questions about the list or notice any updates that may be needed, please contact the Peggy at the ND Board of Examiners for NHA, peggy@ndltca.org or 701-354-9774.

Partner Associations

All Members

 **ND Nadona** · Follow
Jan 30 · 🌐



eventbrite.com
2026 North Dakota Directors of Nursing (NADONA) Conference

📣 REGISTRATION IS LIVE! 📣

Join us for the North Dakota NADONA Annual Conference on March 25–26 at the ClubHouse Hotel | Fargo, ND!

- ✅ Registration is ONLINE this year
- 💳 Pay by credit card
- ✉ Or select pay by check at registration and mail payment to avoid credit card fees

👉 Register here:
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/1981891484782?aff=oddtcreator>

Regulatory

Federal Survey & Enforcement Updates from AHCA

NF

AHCA recently submitted comments to CMS in support of repealing the federal minimum staffing mandate. We emphasized that providers remain committed to strengthening and stabilizing the workforce and noted that recent workforce data shows progress — while also recognizing that workforce challenges continue.

CMS also released several important updates affecting surveys and enforcement:

Special Focus Facility (SFF) Program Updates

CMS made changes to improve consistency and reduce survey predictability. Most notably:

- SFF candidate selection will now be based on the **two most recent standard health surveys** (instead of three).
- CMS is replacing staffing as a “tie-breaker” selection factor with a facility’s **long-stay prevalence of falls** measure (not publicly reported, but available in CASPER/IES quality measure reports).

[See memo](#)

State Operations Manual (SOM) Updates (Effective March 30)

CMS released a major update to the State Operations Manual. Highlights include:

- IDR decisions are expected within **60 days**, with a written rationale.
- Expanded allowance for **offsite/desk reviews for lower-level revisits** (when on-site observation isn’t needed).
- Additional clarification on enforcement cycle timelines.

[See memo](#)

CMP Guidance (Also Effective March 30)

CMS also included guidance related to expanded CMP authority, which could allow **per-day and per-instance CMPs on the same survey**, depending on circumstances. AHCA is continuing discussions with CMS to seek clarity and ensure fair implementation, and we will keep members updated as more details are released. [See memo](#), pg. 186.

CMS Proposes 2027 Medicare Advantage and Part D Payment Policies to Improve Payment Accuracy and Sustainability

All Members

CMS will accept comments on the CY 2027 Advance Notice through 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time February 25, 2026, before publishing the final Rate Announcement on or before April 6, 2026.

The CY 2027 Advance Notice may be viewed at: <https://www.cms.gov/files/document/2027-advance-notice.pdf>.

To read the CMS fact sheet on the CY 2027 Advance Notice, visit:

<https://cms.gov/newsroom/fact-sheets/2027-medicare-advantage-part-d-advance-notice>.

Government Fully Reopens

All Members

Congress has funded the federal government through September 30, 2026. The spending package includes five funding bills, which cover the departments of Defense, Transportation,

Housing and Urban Development, Health and Human Services, and Labor and Education. It also includes a stopgap measure funding the Department of Homeland Security for two weeks.

Specific to long term care, the funding extends several telehealth policies through December 31, 2027, including:

- *Geographic Limit Waivers:* These preserve telehealth access nationwide whether in a facility or in a beneficiary home such as assisted living and ID/DD settings.
- *Expanded list of telehealth providers:* This preserves the ability for PT/OT/SLP services via telehealth.
- *Delay of in-person requirements for mental health services furnished via telehealth and telecommunications technology:* This preserves access to mental health care especially in provider shortage areas.
- *Extending the waiver to permit audio-only telehealth services:* This preserves access to distant site care providers when telehealth is not available or per patient preference.
- Extended use of telehealth for *hospice recertifications*.

Also included is an extension of the work geographic floor index multiplier of 0.0 through January 1, 2027, preventing rate cuts for Part B services in certain rural locations.

QSP Update

February 2026 QSP update

CH

Find important reminders for HCBS billing and the updated QSP handbooks, [click here](#).

AHCA/NCAL

AHCA/NCAL Launches “Live Fully” National Campaign

AL, BC, NF

AHCA/NCAL has launched a new national campaign, **Live Fully**, designed to highlight the value of long term care and strengthen our voice with policymakers in Washington, D.C. The campaign spotlights the essential role long term care plays in the health care system and supports AHCA/NCAL’s policy agenda, **The Better Way**—focused on workforce solutions, sustainable funding, and a more rational regulatory environment.

A new campaign website is now live at livefullyltc.com, and the first [video, *Value of Care*](#), is already being shared on digital platforms. We encourage you to check it out—and consider participating. The campaign includes a “**Share Your Story**” feature where providers, staff, residents, and families can upload photos and videos that reflect real moments of care, connection, and impact. (As always, please ensure you have the proper permissions before submitting any resident or staff content.)

Workforce

Health Care Student Loan Repayment Programs

All Members

ND offers support for service programs focused on the health care workforce. New and established health care professionals, including dentists and dental hygienists, are encouraged to **apply now through Feb. 28, 2026**, for health care student loan repayment programs.

Qualifying health, behavioral health and dental professionals can learn more at

<http://hhs.nd.gov/.../primary.../nd-health-service-corps>

Other Announcements

Community Conversations

All Members

Adult and Aging Services encourages providers and the public to come and share comments on the Older Americans Act (OAA), the Multigenerational Plan, and the Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) Medicaid Waiver. All three programs are interconnected to support individuals, families, and communities across the lifespan. Learn about support services and share ideas about other needed services.

Location of in-person meetings:

Date: February 19, 2026

Time: 1 p.m. CT

Location: Parker Senior Center

Address: 21 1 Ave S.E., Minot

Date: February 25, 2026

Time: 12 p.m. CT

Location: Grand Forks Senior Center
Address: 620 4 Ave S., Grand Forks

Date: March 5, 2026

Time: 12 p.m. CT

Location: Wahpeton Senior Center
Address: 520 3 Ave S., Wahpeton

Date: March 6, 2026

Time: 1 p.m. CT

Location: Clapp Park Senior Center
Address: 2801 32 Ave S., Fargo

Date: March 10, 2026

Time: 1 p.m. CT

Location: James River Senior Center
Address: 419 5 St. N.E., Jamestown

Date: March 12, 2026

Time: 1 p.m. CT

Location: AgeWell Center (Formally the Burleigh County Senior Center)
Address: 315 N. 20 St., Bismarck

Date: April 16, 2026

Time: 12 p.m. CT

Location: Valley City Senior Center
Address: 139 2 Ave S.E., Valley City

Virtual Meetings

Date: February 18, 2026

Time: 9:30 a.m. CT

Click here to meeting

Join by phone (audio only):
(701-328-0950)
Conference ID: 357726195#

Date: March 16, 2026

Time: 1 p.m. CT

Click here to meeting

Join by phone (audio only):
(701-328-0950)
Conference ID: 177907285#

Mind Matters Conference

All Members

The ND Brain Injury Network is hosting a conference in Fargo on March 26-27, [click here for more information.](#)



Do What You Love to End ALZ

All Members

Join the Alzheimer's Association and our newly branded Do What You Love to End ALZ fundraising campaign. It's all about YOU and your community joining together to make a difference. It's simple and flexible and all about doing something you love and enjoy and turning it into a fundraiser to end Alzheimer's and all other dementia. The funds you raise advance the care, support and research efforts of the Alzheimer's Association.

For more information on how you can participate in [Do What You Love to End ALZ](#), contact Maura Studer at mstuder@alz.org or 952-767-7564
Alz.org/DoWhatYouLove.org

Fundraising Ideas Include:

- Plan a purple themed Family Night with special entertainment and donation entry.
- Partner with the Activities Program to organize a resident art show with a silent auction.
- Showcase your culinary team by inviting residents & families to experience signature dishes and cocktails or mocktails and desserts

- Invite leadership to participate in wacky wagers where residents and staff members can donate to vote for which manager has to complete a particular challenge.
- Spread out your participation and host seasonal special events such as boujee bag Bingo, a lemonade stand and bake sale, holiday market with gift wrapping, car show and more.



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