



**North
Dakota
Long Term Care
ASSOCIATION**

Serving the Full Continuum of Care

NDLTCA Newsletter

March 24, 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

State and Federal Nursing Facility Deregulatory Advocacy

NF

NDLTCA continues to actively engage on growing concerns with how federal survey guidance is being interpreted and applied—particularly a shift toward citing facilities even when they appear to be in compliance and respond appropriately.

This issue is not unique to North Dakota, but recent trends here have elevated the urgency. In response, we've been advocating on your behalf at multiple levels, including with state legislators, the Governor's Office, Attorney General's Office, ND Health and Human Services, our Congressional Delegation, and most recently, senior CMS leadership.

During our March 10 meeting with CMS, we shared real-world examples and discussed the impact on providers, residents, and staff. CMS acknowledged these concerns are being raised nationally and encouraged continued input to help inform future direction.

We will also continue this work in an upcoming March 26 meeting with state leadership, focused on both federal concerns and potential state-level considerations.

We remain committed to advocating for clarity, consistency, and a regulatory approach that supports both strong resident protections and practical implementation—and will keep you informed as this progresses.

Care at Home Committee

CH

NDLTCA officially launched its Care at Home Committee with the first meeting held on **February 13, 2026**. This meeting served as an introduction for new members to connect with NDLTCA staff and fellow providers, review the association’s committee structure, and establish the purpose and goals of the Care at Home Committee. Chair Beverly Unrath and NDLTCA President Nikki Wegner led a discussion outlining expectations and identifying key challenges facing Care at Home providers.

To continue building engagement and peer connections, NDLTCA hosted a Care At Home Virtual Networking Session on **March 4, 2026**. This informal session provided members an opportunity to connect outside of a formal meeting setting, share insights and ask questions from their peers from their respective service lines and discuss upcoming association activities.

The next Care at Home Committee meetings on **March 25, 2026** will breakout into Skilled Care and Non-Skilled Care providers allowing each group to further refine potential legislative or policy priorities. The full committee is scheduled for **April 15, 2026** to determine which items should be advanced for further consideration.

We look forward to continued engagement and momentum as priorities are further developed.

Assisted Living, Adult Residential, & Basic Care (AL/BC)

Work

AL, BC

As a reminder, NDLTCA and NDDHHS were directed to continue studying the Basic Care and Assisted Living payment systems, as well as the feasibility of streamlining licensure. An ad hoc workgroup—including DHHS, legislative members, and NDLTCA representatives—has been meeting regularly to explore these issues.

NDLTCA has engaged HMA Associates to support ongoing Basic Care payment discussions. HMA will work alongside NDLTCA staff and Eide Bailly. Eide Bailly is currently modeling alternative payment approaches, while HMA will provide additional analysis, including federal and state regulatory considerations and comparisons to other states. HMA will also participate in upcoming committee discussions to review findings and next steps.

As discussions have progressed toward payment models and potential legislative proposals, the Funding and Reimbursement Committee was convened to align members on current work by the Ad Hoc Committee and next steps. Both committees will continue collaborating to refine proposals for consideration by the Legislative Committee and NDLTCA Board.

The interim Human Services Committee recently received an update from NDDHHS on the progress of this work. To further support legislative engagement, **NDLTCA will host a Q&A session in Fargo on March 30**, bringing together legislators and provider members to discuss the work completed to date. A similar meeting is planned for western North Dakota, with details to follow at a later date.

Legislative Road Trips

All Members

With spring approaching, NDLTCA will resume regional Legislative Road Trip meetings. These roundtables provide an opportunity to connect with legislators in their local communities while highlighting different levels of care across the continuum.

With the addition of Care at Home members, NDLTCA is exploring ways to incorporate these services into future road trips. Members interested in hosting a meeting in their region are encouraged to reach out to erica@ndltca.org, or their Regional Director.

We will continue to keep members informed as these efforts progress and as additional opportunities arise to advance our shared priorities at both the state and federal level.

Education



The advertisement features a photograph of a nurse in blue scrubs sitting and talking to an elderly woman in a wheelchair. To the right of the photo is a blue banner with white and yellow text. Below the banner are logos for AHCA, NCAL, and the University of Nebraska Medical Center.

AHCA/NCAL
Gero Nurse Prep *Smarter Nurses = Better Care Outcomes!*
SAVE \$200 THRU 4/30/26 W/CODE QUALITYRN OR QUALITYLPN
AHCA NCAL University of Nebraska Medical Center

Advance Your Geriatric Nursing Expertise with Gero Nurse Prep – Save \$200!

All Members

Looking to strengthen your skills in caring for older adults and take your nursing practice to the next level? The **Gero Nurse Prep** course from AHCA/NCAL is a comprehensive, evidence-

based online training designed to enhance gerontological nursing knowledge and competency.

Originally developed to prepare RNs for board certification in Gerontological Nursing through the ANCC, this course is now also available to LPNs/LVNs who want to deepen their expertise and advance their careers in long term care.

Participants will gain valuable clinical knowledge, skills, and competencies that support high-quality care for older adults and strengthen leadership within interdisciplinary care teams.

Exclusive AHCA/NCAL Member Savings:

NDLTCA/AHCA members can receive **\$200 off registration** when you sign up now through **April 30, 2026** using one of the following codes:

- **QUALITYRN** (for RNs)
- **QUALITYLPN** (for LPNs/LVNs)

Don't miss this opportunity to invest in your professional growth while enhancing the quality of care you provide.

👉 Register here, <https://www.geronurseprep.com/>

Help Shape the Future of NDLTCA Virtual Education

All Members

NDLTCA is exploring ways to enhance our virtual education offerings—and we need your input. Whether you've participated in our webinars before or not, your feedback will help us better understand barriers to participation, preferred topics, and the formats that work best for your schedule. We want to ensure our education is relevant, accessible, and valuable to you and your

team.

This short survey will ask about:

- Your past participation in virtual offerings
- Barriers that may prevent you from attending
- Topics you want to see more of
- Preferred formats and timing
- Overall interest in virtual learning

Your responses will directly guide how we design future education opportunities.

👉 <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/353C3MX>

Thank you for taking a few minutes to share your feedback and help us strengthen NDLTCA's education programs.

Upcoming Alliance for Care at Home Events

CH-Alliance Members

- March 24: [Reviewing New Trends and Data in the 2025 Home Health Chartbook](#)
 - March 25: [We Honor Veterans Program Overview](#)
 - March 26: Webinar: [Pain Management and Opioid Rotation](#)
-

Setting Up Systems to Prevent Weight Loss

AI, BC, NF

Great article! Preventing weight loss requires a shift in mindset—from “adding calories” to building reliable daily care systems. [Read More](#)

Workforce

Update: Cherokee Federal Workforce Program

All Members

The ND Department of Commerce shared an update on Cherokee Federal’s workforce program, which has supported nearly **150 candidate placements and over 60 hires across rural North Dakota**—with the majority being long term care providers. Without additional employer engagement, the program may begin winding down or shift to other states.

Cherokee currently has prescreened candidates ready and can connect providers with both entry-level and highly skilled, credentialed individuals. However, the model has been subsidized with the expectation of broader participation, which has not yet materialized.

If this is a resource you’d like to see continue in North Dakota, we encourage you to consider engaging. To learn more, contact Kerri Babin at kerri.babin@cherokee-federal.com.

U.S. Department of Labor Issues Guidance on Registered Apprenticeship

All Members

The U.S. Department of Labor has issued guidance on the Registered Apprenticeship system, which gives program sponsors direction on how to design Registered Apprenticeship programs that fit their workforce's needs. [Read more.](#)

More information on the guidance will be provided in ETA's public webinar on March 27 at 1pm ET. [Register for the webinar on WorkforceGPS.](#)

ETA will also release new training modules for the guidance in the [Registered Apprenticeship Academy](#) after the webinar.

Where Students and Community Meet: Transforming Workforce and Resident Experiences Together

All Members

Join us for an insightful webinar on **March 25th at 2 pm ET** where you will hear from AHCA/NCAL state affiliates, providers, and other leaders on how [HOSA \(Future Health Professionals\)](#) and [CAPS](#) can help foster meaningful LTC partnerships in your communities for practical ways to strengthen CNA pipelines and other LTC positions while preserving care quality, culture, and resident experience.

[Register](#)

Nurse Corps Scholarship Program Accepting Applications

All Members

The Nurse Corps Scholarship Program provides scholarships to Registered Nursing students, including Advanced Practice Registered Nursing students, dedicated to working in health care facilities with a critical shortage of nurses. [Read More](#)

Regulatory

HHS Issues Healthcare Transactions and Electronic Signatures Final Rule

CH

On March 20, 2026, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Office of the Secretary issued a [final rule](#), titled 'Administrative Simplification; Adoption of Standards for Health Care Claims Attachments Transactions and Electronic Signatures. This final rule establishes for the first time HIPAA-adopted standards for health care claims attachments transactions. The rule mandates the electronic exchange of clinical and administrative documentation to support claims-related processes, replacing fax and other manual methods. The rule also adopts a standard for electronic signatures to be used in conjunction with health care claims attachments transactions. The rule applies to all HIPAA-covered entities, including health plans, health care providers, and clearinghouses that conduct electronic transactions. *The final rule is effective May 24, 2026, and compliance is required by May 26, 2028.*

The Alliance published an article covering the rule [here](#).

AHCA Highlights Recent Compliance Guidance From CMS

NF

Hawley Hunt, senior director of regulatory and quality services at the AHCA/NCAL, wrote in [Provider Magazine](#) (3/6, Hunt, 151K) that "the end of 2025 and beginning of 2026 brought meaningful changes and updates to compliance-related guidance from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services." In September 2025, CMS released a memo detailing updates to the Civil Money Penalty Reinvestment Program (CMPRP) "that reversed course on the decision to remove several reinvestment options in 2023." Hunt states that "in perhaps the most significant change, CMP funds can now be used for workforce development purposes, which were not allowed in prior years." The new update also made it "easier than ever for providers to apply for the funds. AHCA has long advocated making the application process easier, and CMS took note."

Advocacy



AHCA/NCAL Congressional Briefing

AL, BC, NF

Long term and post-acute care is an important part of the policy conversation, and Congress needs to hear directly from the people doing the work - YOU.

Join AHCA/NCAL members from across the country June 8-9th for Congressional Briefing 2026 at the Hyatt Regency Capitol Hill, steps from the U.S. Capitol and three blocks from Union Station.

You'll meet face-to-face with your elected representatives, hear from industry leaders and top political voices, get the latest on where legislation is headed, and earn CE credits. AHCA/NCAL staff will share important updates and education around policies that matter most to your residents and staff.

[Register Now](#)

[Reserve Your Room](#)

Legislation to end H-1B fee for healthcare workers introduced

All Members

On Tuesday, Reps. Lawler (R-NY), Bishop (D-GA), Salazar (R-FL), and Clarke (D-NY) **introduced** H.R. 7961, the ***H-1Bs for Physicians and the Healthcare Workforce Act***. The legislation would exempt physicians and other health care workers from the new \$100,000 fee for H-1B petitions. It also prohibits new H-1B fees from being imposed on health care workers

that exceed the existing fees. The highly skilled healthcare workforce brought to rural areas through H-1B nonimmigrant visas is instrumental in combatting chronic workforce shortages, especially in rural areas.

AHCA/NCAL Supports Effort to Reform Medicare Part B Therapy Payment Policy

AL, BC, NF

AHCA/NCAL has joined forces with a coalition of organizations advocating for Congress to repeal the Multiple Procedure Payment Reduction (MPPR) policy. [Read More](#)

Insurance

BCBS Wants Your Feedback

All Members

Once per quarter, Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Dakota reaches out to our group leaders and decision-makers to invite feedback on how we're doing and what we can do to improve our products and services.

Your responses make a difference. Based on past responses, we've revised many of our offerings, developed new products and updated the way we interact and communicate with our employer groups.

Follow this link to [Take the Survey](#)

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