



NDLTCA Newsletter

April 14, 2026

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

**Thank you for your long-standing support and
Platinum sponsorship, Eide Bailly!**

Stronger today.
Stronger tomorrow. 

NDLTCA Updates



NDLTCA Members Representing North Dakota at AHCA/NCAL Quality Summit

All Members

NDLTCA members are actively engaged this week in Baltimore at the AHCA/NCAL Quality Summit, sharing expertise and helping shape national conversations.

Dawn Hummel (Bethany, Fargo) served as a panelist during Tuesday's workforce session, *"Short Staffed or Stronger? How Cross Training Transforms Quality of Care,"* alongside Dana Ritchie, highlighting practical strategies for strengthening teams through cross-training and workforce development.

Amy Kreidt is participating in national committee discussions focused on quality, survey, and regulatory issues, and provided an update to state executives on North Dakota's recent IDR

process changes. Kiara Tuchscherer is engaged as our NCAL state leader, and NDLTCA staff member Theresa Sack is connecting with peers from across the country.

These are just a few of the many North Dakota representatives attending and contributing throughout the week. We're proud to see our members' leadership and perspective represented at the national level.



McKnight's Women of Distinction Recipient

All Members

We are incredibly proud to celebrate **Maren Gemar** for being recognized as a **2026 Veteran VIP Honoree** through the McKnight's Women of Distinction program! 🇺🇸

This prestigious recognition highlights outstanding women who are making a meaningful impact in skilled nursing, senior living, and home care. Leaders who inspire others and improve the lives of those they serve every day. Maren's dedication, leadership, and commitment to excellence truly embody what this honor represents. Being named among this year's honorees is a testament to her years of hard work and the positive difference she continues to make in our community.

Please join us in congratulating Maren on this well-deserved recognition. We are so proud of all that you do!

To learn more, visit mcknightswomenofdistinction.com

2026 EXAMINER

Amber Thykeson

Silver Examiner



CONGRATULATIONS



2026 EXAMINER

We're proud to celebrate the dedicated professionals from our state who were selected as 2026 AHCA/NCAL National Quality Award Examiners! 🌟

These leaders volunteer their time and expertise to strengthen quality in long-term and post-acute care nationwide. Their commitment helps ensure a fair, rigorous review process for applicants and helps to bring valuable insights back to our local communities. Thank you for your service and leadership! 🌟



**North
Dakota
Long Term Care
ASSOCIATION**

Serving the Full Continuum of Care

Join us for Taste of Bismarck

All Members

Tuesday, May 5, 2026 - 6:30-9:30pm

Check in at The Luft Rooftop Bar, where you'll receive your drink tickets (one for each stop) and be assigned to a team. You'll visit four featured locations, enjoying a signature beverage and a delicious food sample at each stop. Get ready for great flavors, good company, and a fantastic night in Bismarck! See link for registration and details!

For planning purposes, [pre-registration is required](#) so we can have you on a team and ready to tour the establishments! Please reach out to Stacy with any questions – stacy@ndltca.org

Education

Join Us for a Parkinson's Disease Awareness Webinar

All Members

In recognition of Parkinson's Disease Awareness Month, **Acadia Pharmaceuticals**, one of our valued Gold Sponsors, will be hosting an informational webinar focused on Parkinson's disease.

This is a great opportunity to take a midday break, grab your lunch, and learn more about an important topic impacting many individuals in long-term care.

Webinar Details:

 Wednesday, April 15

 12:00 p.m. CT

 Microsoft Teams

Join the meeting:

Click here to join: [Join the meeting now](#)

Meeting ID: 214 875 823 774 5

Passcode: fJ7zn6aE

Or dial in by phone:

 +1 218-464-9047

Phone Conference ID: 437 814 321#

We encourage you and your team to take advantage of this informative session. Thank you to

Acadia Pharmaceuticals for providing this educational opportunity in support of Parkinson's Disease Awareness Month.

21 Days Until Convention – Important Information Coming Soon!

All Members

The countdown is on—just **21 days** until we kick off the 49th Annual Convention & Expo! We are looking forward to welcoming you for a fantastic few days of education, networking, and celebration.

As we get closer, **Peggy will be sending an important email** with key details to help you prepare for a smooth and successful experience. This email will include information on:

- Convention mobile app
- Awards Gala Dinner
- Certificates of attendance
- Expo details
- Session handouts
- Leadership training
- Meetings
- Name badge distribution
- And more

Attention Award Winners and Facilities:

Award recipients and their facilities will receive a separate email with important details specific to the Awards Gala Dinner, including guest confirmations and additional event information.

Be sure to watch your inbox in the coming days so you don't miss any important updates.

We can't wait to see you soon!

Simplify Skills Testing and Be Survey Ready with eCompetencies® - Webinars hosted by Healthcare Academy-A Bronze NDLTCA Sponsor

NF

Surveyors could show up tomorrow. Are you ready to prove staff competence?

Many teams find themselves scrambling until they discover [eCompetencies®](#) built in partnership with AHCA, which helps your team be survey ready 36 days a year by:

- ✓ Digitally documenting hands-on skills
- ✓ Standardizing staff competency evaluations
- ✓ Delivering just-in-time remediation
- ✓ Supporting compliance with F-Tag 726

See it in action!

Join Rob Suing, VP of Sales at Healthcare Academy, for a 15-minute webinar:

Tuesday, April 21, 2 PM CDT

Thursday, April 30, 10 AM CDT

[Register Here](#)

Can't make it live and want to be survey ready

[Request](#) a demo and we'll walk you through it!

Discount available to AHCA members.

On Our Blog:

Beyond Knowing: The Importance of Showing Competency in Healthcare

Read It [Here](#)

Advocacy Updates

Advocacy Update: Survey & Enforcement Discussions

All Members

NDLTCA continues to actively engage on concerns related to facility-reported incidents and the application of “strict liability” in the federal survey and enforcement process.

This work began with conversations alongside members and North Dakota’s congressional delegation during facility visits and meetings in 2025, and has continued through ongoing engagement with all three congressional offices, the Governor’s Office, and state legislators. There has been consistent interest and support for advancing a thoughtful, coordinated approach.

In August 2025, NDLTCA met with CMS leadership to elevate these concerns, followed by a multi-stakeholder meeting on March 10, 2026 with CMS leaders, American Health Care Association, providers, and a North Dakota legislator. That discussion focused on real-world examples where facilities had appropriate systems in place and responded as expected, yet still faced enforcement actions.

Since then, momentum has continued at the state level. On March 26, NDLTCA convened state partners, including North Dakota Health and Human Services, the Attorney General’s Office, and

legislative leaders, with strong alignment emerging across key issues. State leadership, including the Governor's Office and HHS, has also been engaging with CMS to advance a similar approach.

NDLTCA has since refined its proposal based on CMS feedback and ongoing state discussions. An updated draft was presented to CMS leadership today, with participation from the Attorney General's Office and Health Facilities to support a coordinated and transparent dialogue.

Thank you to the many providers who have shared examples, participated in discussions, and helped shape this work. Your engagement has been critical in ensuring these conversations are grounded in real-world experience.

NDLTCA will continue to keep members informed and welcomes ongoing feedback as this work progresses.

Federal Update: Key Policy and Payment Developments to Watch

All Members

Several federal developments this week are worth providers' attention. CMS issued four FY 2027 proposed Medicare payment rules, including a **2.4% proposed increase for skilled nursing facilities and hospice**, while also proposing to remove the COVID-19 vaccine measures from the SNF Quality Reporting Program and seeking input on adding an advance care planning measure.

CMS also finalized a **2.48% increase in Medicare Advantage plan payments for 2027**, a significant change from the originally proposed update, and finalized technical Medicare Advantage and Part D policy changes for 2027 and beyond.

On the Medicaid side, CMS issued guidance related to new limits on federal Medicaid and CHIP funding for certain noncitizens beginning October 1, 2026, and a federal judge denied Minnesota's request for an injunction in its Medicaid funding lawsuit involving deferred federal matching funds tied to HCBS program integrity concerns.

In Congress and the administration, lawmakers are returning from recess with reconciliation discussions still in focus, and the White House released its FY 2027 budget request, which proposes a **12.5% cut to HHS funding** compared to FY 2026. While the request is nonbinding, it offers an early signal of federal policy and spending priorities.

We will continue to monitor these issues and share updates as more information becomes available.

National Alliance for Care at Home Member Listening Sessions

CH

April 22 | 2 p.m. ET - [Member Listening Session – FY 2027 Hospice Wage Index Proposed Rule \(Operational & Policy\)](#)

The National Alliance for Care at Home will host a member listening session on **Wednesday, April 22 from 2-3 p.m. ET** to gather feedback on CMS's [FY 2027 Hospice Wage Index and Payment Rate Update Proposed Rule](#), focusing on proposed payment, quality, oversight, and operational policy changes.

👉 [Register here for the April 22 listening session](#)

May 6 | 2 p.m. ET - [Member Listening Session: FY 2027 Hospice Proposed Rule - Requests for Information \(RFIs\)](#)

The National Alliance for Care at Home will host a dedicated listening session on **Wednesday, May 6 from 2-3 p.m. ET** focused on CMS's Requests for Information (RFIs) included in the [FY 2027 Hospice Wage Index and Payment Rate Update Proposed Rule](#).

👉 [Register here for the May 6 listening session](#)

Alliance staff will listen to member perspectives, questions, and concerns to help inform advocacy and formal comments ahead of the June 1, 2026 deadlines.

Election Watch 2026

All Members

North Dakota is seeing an increase in contested races heading into the 2026 legislative elections, signaling a more active and competitive cycle across the state.

About a dozen North Dakota legislative districts will see Republican challenges in the June 9 primary, according to candidate filings that were due Monday. Voters will decide the outcome of 74 legislative seats, 24 in the Senate and 50 in the House. In total, 149 candidates met the filing deadline on Monday to run for legislative seats this year.

As these races take shape, it's important to know who your local candidates are and where they stand on issues impacting long term care. If you're interested in getting more involved—whether that's learning more about candidates or supporting them locally—please reach out to us.

For those willing to help by placing campaign signs or making local connections, we're happy to connect you with candidates and campaigns in your area.

Staying informed and engaged at the local level continues to be one of the most effective ways to support long term care priorities. Questions? Contact erica@ndltca.org

Regulatory

April 2026 QSP Update

CH

[Click here for important QSP updates](#) including training opportunities and information about the new webinar series, “Care in Practice” hosted by the QSP Hub.

Strengthening Abuse Prevention: A Leadership Perspective

NF

Abuse prevention continues to be one of the most frequently cited areas in long-term care, consistently appearing in the Top 10 F-Tags nationwide, including F600 – Freedom from Abuse and Neglect. While most organizations have policies and training in place, we continue to see opportunities for improvement—particularly around reporting timelines, investigation processes, and consistency in execution. What has become increasingly clear through Appendix PP (F600–F610) is that abuse prevention is not just a regulatory requirement—it is a reflection of how well our systems, communication, and leadership practices come together in real time. [Read more...](#)

[Download the Incident / Accident/ Investigation Checklist](#)

Workforce

Webinar Recording Now Available: Where Students and Community Meet—Transforming Workforce and Resident Experiences Together

All Members

Long term care (LTC) leaders are seeking practical ways to strengthen CNA pipelines and other LTC positions while preserving care quality, culture, and resident experience.

The [webinar recording](#) is now available 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.

Assisted Living

2026-2027 AHCA/NCAL Elections and Solicitation for Candidates

AL

The 2026-2027 NCAL election cycle is now open for members interested in serving on the National Center for Assisted Living (NCAL) Board of Directors. NCAL candidates must submit their application materials by April 24, 2026. [Read More](#)

Public Meetings

Money Follows the Person External Partners Meeting

All Members

Wednesday, May 20, 2026 from 1-3 pm CT

Virtual Meeting Information

Join by phone: 701-328-0950, Conference ID: 186 738 212#

[Click here to join meeting](#)

Individuals who need accommodations in order to participate or who would like information about joining the meeting can contact Kayla Trzpuc at 701-328-8652, 711 (TTY) or kbtrzpuc@nd.gov

Diversion Task Force

All Members

April 21, 2026, 10:00 to 11:00 am CT

Virtual Information:

Join by phone: 701-328-0950, Conference ID: 227 013 968#

[Click here to join meeting](#)



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