



NDLTCA Newsletter

June 3, 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

North Dakota's 2026 AHCA/NCAL Bronze National Quality Award Recipients Announced

All Members

We are pleased to announce that 4 Skilled Nursing Facilities have earned the American Health Care Association and National Center for Assisted Living (AHCA/NCAL) 2026 *Bronze – Commitment to Quality* Award. The distinction is the first of three progressive award levels through the [AHCA/NCAL National Quality Award Program](#). The program recognizes long term and post-acute care organizations that meet progressively rigorous standards of performance to improve the lives of residents.

Congratulations to the 2026 North Dakota Bronze recipients:

Bethel Lutheran Nursing & Rehab Center, Williston, ND

Elm Crest Manor, New Salem, ND

Knife River Care Center, Beulah, ND

Trinity Homes, Minot, ND

People Worth Caring About: Filming Has Wrapped

All Members

Filming has officially wrapped for *People Worth Caring About*, and I want to extend my sincere appreciation to everyone who participated. Thank you for taking time out of your busy days to share your stories, experiences, and perspectives on what makes long term care such meaningful work.

As we traveled across the state, we were reminded time and again that the heart of long term care is the people. While only a handful of stories could be featured in this project, I know there are countless others across North Dakota whose stories also deserve to be told and celebrated. To everyone who expressed interest in participating, thank you. Your passion for the people you serve and your commitment to this profession are what make these stories possible.

One memorable moment came during our visit to Valley Senior Living, where Garth Rydland welcomed us with a heartfelt rendition of *The Dance*. It was a fitting reminder that long term care is about relationships, purpose, and the moments that stay with us long after the day is over.

We look forward to sharing these stories with you in the months ahead and celebrating the people who make long term care such an important part of our communities.



Do you have a Medical Director who might be willing to serve on the Board of Examiners?

NF

The North Dakota Board of Examiners for Nursing Home Administrators currently has a **vacant physician position** on the board and is seeking interested candidates to serve. Serving on the board is an excellent opportunity to support the nursing home administrator profession and help guide the future of long term care leadership in North Dakota. Board service requires a minimal time commitment, with only two scheduled Teams meetings per year unless special meetings are needed. If your organization has a Medical Director or physician who may be interested in being considered to serve in this important role, please encourage them to reach out to **Peggy Krikava** either via email peggy@ndltca.org or 701-354-9774 for additional information. Peggy will assist interested individuals with the application process, which is submitted to the Governor's Office, as all board appointments are made by the Governor.

Education

Save the Date: 50th Annual Convention & Expo

All Members

May 4–7, 2027 | Bismarck Event Center

Mark your calendars and plan to join us as we celebrate a major milestone — the **50th Annual Convention & Expo!**

For fifty years, this convention has brought together professionals, leaders, partners, and exhibitors from across the region to learn, network, and celebrate excellence in long term care and leadership. Whether you have attended for decades or will be joining us for the first time, we invite you to be part of this historic celebration. We look forward to celebrating 50 years with you in Bismarck!

June 2026 Year-Long Webinar Series: June Webinars

All Members

NDLTCA's year-long webinar series continues in June! Below is a look at what each session will cover:

Survey & Clinical Risk Management

 Tuesday, June 9, 2026 |  1:30 PM CT

Person Centered Care: Enhancing Resident Quality of Life

This session emphasizes person-centered care principles to improve resident satisfaction and

quality of life. Participants will learn strategies to personalize care and enhance engagement.

 <https://ndltca.swoogo.com/surveyclinicalriskmanagement>

DON Playbook: Skills for Today's LTC Nurse Leader

 Tuesday, June 16, 2026 |  1:30 PM CT

Leadership Lessons: Coaching, Accountability, and Building Strong Teams

This session will focus on critical leadership lessons for how to be successful in coaching staff, holding staff accountable, and building strong teams that effectively achieve facility goals and focus on the facility mission.

 <https://ndltca.swoogo.com/donplaybook>

TEAM MDS! Insights & Coaching for Quality Coding & PDPM Success

 Tuesday, June 23, 2026 |  1:30 PM CT

Clarifying CAAs and Care Planning

In this session, we'll review how to achieve effective care planning through an Interdisciplinary Team approach by bridging the gap between MDS Care Area Assessments and planning care around the resident's goals and preferences.

 <https://ndltca.swoogo.com/teammds>

 Flyers and detailed schedules are available on each registration home page. If you have any questions, please reach out to Belma at belma@ndltca.org.

International Hiring in SNFs: What Leaders Should Know

NF

Tuesday, June 16, 2026 | 11:00 a.m. – Noon CT

[REGISTER](#)

NDHA & HSI are hosting a complimentary webinar with their partner, PRS Global, focused on international hiring in skilled nursing facilities.

While international hiring is not a quick fix, it can be a helpful part of a broader workforce strategy when planned and supported correctly. This session will provide a practical look at how international nurses are being used in SNF settings, what facilities should consider before getting started, and what needs to be in place to support onboarding, integration, and retention.

The discussion will also cover common immigration pathways, expected timelines, and real examples from SNF leaders and international nurses who have worked in similar settings.

We hope you can join us.

The ND Hospital Association is an approved provider of continuing education by the ND Board of Examiners for Nursing Home Administrators.

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Advocacy

NDLTCA Heads to Washington, D.C.

All Members

Next week, NDLTCA staff and member leaders will travel to Washington, D.C. to meet with North Dakota's congressional offices and discuss issues impacting long term care providers across our state.

These meetings provide an opportunity to share the realities facing providers and advocate for policies that support access to care, workforce stability, reasonable regulation, and the long-term sustainability of services for older adults and individuals with disabilities.

We appreciate the ongoing engagement of North Dakota's congressional delegation and look forward to bringing the voices of our members to the table.



Make Your Voice Heard – Vote June 9

All Members

The June 9 primary election is quickly approaching, and we encourage all members to make a plan to vote. The decisions made by elected leaders have a direct impact on long term care providers, the workforce, and the individuals we serve across North Dakota.

To help you prepare, the ND Monitor has published its [2026 Voter Guide](#), which provides an overview of the contested statewide and federal races on the June 9 primary ballot.

Take a few minutes to get informed, then get out and vote. Every voice matters.

Upcoming Interim Committee Meetings

All Members

- June 10 | 1 pm | [Legislative Procedures and Arrangements Committee](#)
 - June 11 | 8 am | [Legislative Management](#)
 - June 11 | 10 am | [Administrative Rules Committee](#)
 - June 17 | 9 am | [Judiciary Committee](#)
 - June 24 | 10 am | [Budget Section](#)
 - July 15 | 9:30 am | [Health Care Committee](#)
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Assisted Living

New Toolkit Available to Help Assisted Living Communities Strengthen Falls Prevention Programs

AL and BC

AHCA recently developed a new falls toolkit to support providers in strengthening their fall prevention programs through practical, evidence-informed strategies.

[Read More](#)

The QAPI Advantage: Redefining Quality in Assisted Living

AL and BC

NCAL offers a 35-minute online course titled *Quality Assurance Performance Improvement 101 for Assisted Living*.

[Read More](#)

Assisted Living Policy and Procedure Manual

AL and BC

The **Assisted Living Policy and Procedure Manual** is built for that. Customizable templates cover Infection Control, Medications and Treatments, Staff Orientation and Training, and more, so you can focus on care, not paperwork. Download and customize the templates, then organize everything in the included binder with pre-punched tabs so it is ready when you need it. [Find out more...](#)

Care at Home

Hospice PEPPER

Hospice

CMS recently resumed distribution of PEPPER reports and continues to place a strong emphasis on program integrity, billing accuracy, and compliance monitoring across post-acute care settings. PEPPER is one of the tools CMS uses to help providers identify billing patterns and utilization trends that may warrant closer review. With increased federal attention on hospice oversight and fraud prevention initiatives, providers should take time to review their PEPPER

data and understand any new or revised target areas.

The Hospice PEPPER is now available via the [PEPPER portal](#). The hospice PEPPER [User Guide](#) is also available. Hospices must download the PEPPER from the portal. The PEPPER is for FY2025 and displays claims data for the most recent three federal fiscal years.

The PEPPER - Program for Evaluating Payment Patterns Electronic Report (PEPPER) - is a Microsoft Excel file summarizing provider-specific Medicare data statistics for target areas often associated with Medicare improper payments due to billing, DRG coding, and/or admission necessity issues. Target areas are determined by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). PEPPER facilitates the prioritization of areas on which a hospital or facility may want to focus auditing and monitoring efforts. Hospitals and facilities are encouraged to conduct regular audits to ensure that medical necessity for admission and treatment is documented and that bills submitted for Medicare services are correct.

There is at least one new target area for hospices as well as some deletions and revisions. The Alliance is reviewing the details and will provide a detailed summary soon.

[May 28th MCKNIGHTS Related Article](#)

Alliance Educational Opportunities - June 2026

CH

Mark your calendars now for these upcoming Alliance [webinars](#) and [My Alliance Community Office Hours](#)!

Education & Workforce Development

- June 10: Webinar – [Beyond the Uniform: Real Talk About Women Veterans Health](#)

- June 18: Palliative Care Miniseries – [Hidden Revenue: The Palliative Patients Already on Your Census](#)
- June 25: Palliative Care Miniseries – [From Health to Hospice: Mastering the Palliative Transition](#)

Member Programs & Connection

- June 3: Alliance Office Hours – [Ways to Get Involved with the Alliance](#)
 - June 10: Alliance Partner Spotlight – [Keeping Your Staff Safe in the Field: A Conversation with OK Alone](#)
 - June 17: Office Hours – [Caring for Veterans Community: WHV Office Hours](#)
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Regulatory

Medicaid Community Engagement (Work Requirement) Update

All Members

On June 1, CMS issued regulations implementing the Medicaid Community Engagement requirements included in the One Big Beautiful Bill Act. Beginning January 1, 2027, certain Medicaid beneficiaries will be required to meet community engagement requirements, such as work, volunteering, caregiving, or other qualifying activities, unless they qualify for an exemption. States may seek a limited implementation delay under specific circumstances.

These requirements are primarily aimed at certain adults enrolled through Medicaid Expansion programs. However, the regulations include a number of exemptions and special provisions that

may be relevant to basic care, home care, home health, hospice, caregivers, and individuals with disabilities or limitations in activities of daily living.

Most nursing facility residents are not expected to be directly affected because they generally qualify for Medicaid through aged, disabled, Medicare-related, or institutional eligibility categories rather than Medicaid Expansion. However, there could be implications for some individuals before admission, during discharge planning, or while transitioning between care settings. There may also be implications for some younger adults receiving services through Basic Care who are covered under Medicaid Expansion, depending on how North Dakota implements the federal requirements and verifies exemptions.

States will now begin developing implementation plans and processes for identifying individuals who qualify for exemptions or who meet the requirements. CMS has indicated that additional guidance and data verification processes will be developed over the coming months.

NDLTCA has reached out to the Department and offered to serve as a resource as North Dakota works through implementation. Our primary concern is ensuring that any new administrative requirements do not create delays in eligibility, services, or access to care for vulnerable individuals.

Alliance members can access a more detailed analysis of the rule and its potential impacts on providers, caregivers, workers, and service recipients by [clicking here](#).

All members can read the full rule here: [Federal Register :: Medicaid Program; Community Engagement Requirement for Certain Individuals](#)

Political Action Committee

Support Federal Advocacy Through Our National Affiliate PACs

All Members

Many of the policies that affect long term care providers are shaped in Washington, D.C. Our national affiliates, AHCA/NCAL and the National Alliance for Care at Home, work every day to advocate for nursing homes, assisted living communities, home care, home health, and hospice providers on issues ranging from reimbursement and workforce challenges to regulatory requirements and access to care.

One way to support those efforts is through their Political Action Committees (PACs). PAC contributions help support candidates and policymakers who understand the challenges facing long term care and are committed to ensuring access to quality care for older adults and individuals with disabilities.

If you are able, please consider making a contribution to the AHCA/NCAL PAC and/or the National Alliance for Care at Home PAC. Your support helps strengthen our collective voice and ensures long term care providers have a seat at the table when important decisions are being made.

[AHCA/NCAL PAC Action Center](#)

[Alliance PAC - National Alliance for Care at Home | National Alliance for Care at Home](#)



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