



IHO Update

Bi-weekly News for Hospice Professionals in Iowa

December 5, 2008

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Fall Conference Wrap-Up

Nearly 600 hospice professionals and volunteers from across Iowa gathered November 17 – 19 in Ames for the 2008 IHO Fall Conference.

Participants had opportunities to network, attend keynote and education sessions, learn from exhibitors, and, for the first time, attend a full-day pre-conference workshop. From the pre-conference workshop on effective hospice leadership to keynotes addressing the future of hospice and caring for ourselves, the education sessions covered topics with every member of the hospice team in mind including music therapy, building a hospice house, QAPI, and pain management.

The IHO Annual Business Meeting was held on Tuesday, November 18. The IHO Board welcomed two new members, Ann Broderick, MD, Iowa City and Debbie Moores, Myrtue Medical Center Hospice in Harlan. Dr. Norma Hirsch with Hospice of Central Iowa and Nadine Schlienzy with Trinity Hospice in Fort Dodge were awarded plaques as retiring directors of the IHO Board.



Chris Oleson

Also during the Business Meeting, attendees elected Chris Oleson with Great River Hospice in West Burlington as president of the board, Lori Bishop with Hospice of Pella as president-elect; Norene Bauman with Community Hospice in Lake City, as treasurer; and Margo Nixon with Hospice of Siouxland as secretary. Joel Fry was thanked for his service as president and will remain on the board as past-president. An official press release regarding the Annual Business Meeting is attached to this issue of the *Update*.

A big thank you to all who attended and a very special thank you to the members of the IHO

Education Committee who work hard all year to ensure the Fall Conference is the best it can be. Watch your email for a photo wrap-up coming soon.

If you have any speaker ideas or topics that you would like to see presented at an upcoming conference, please contact Stacey Nay at nays@ihaonline.org. For information on being part of the IHO Education Committee, see the article below.

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IHO Board Meets

The IHO Board met December 3, 2008 at the IHO office. Discussion and action of the Board included:

- Conducted a discussion with Mary Spracklin, Bureau Chief, Medicare Services Bureau and Rosemary Kirlin, Program Coordinator, Hospice with the Iowa Dept. of Inspections and Appeals. They reviewed some aspects of the new hospice conditions of participation that have been drawing questions from providers as well as the Department's plans for surveys.
- Received a presentation by Cindy Fox, Palliative Care Case Manager with Wellmark, on the palliative care reimbursement now being offered as a benefit in some Wellmark insurance plans.
- Received an orientation regarding a governing board's fiduciary responsibilities and a review of current national and state regulation regarding nonprofit boards.
- Approved October financial report.
- Approved 2009 budget with an increase in the minimum and maximum provider dues while retaining the current dues formula.
- Approved changes to the financial policy.
- Approved the mission statement, strategic plan and action steps for 2009.
- Approved a two-year data collection and reporting agreement with OCS.
- Approved a contribution to NHPCO to offset the legal fees generated by the lawsuit against CMS.
- Approved 2009 legislative agenda and received a report regarding the elections and status of the state budget, Legislative Day and House File 2539.
- Received an education committee report from reviewing the Fall Conference, social work peer group meeting and special topics conference for the spring of 2009.

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IHO Seeks Volunteers for Committees

IHO has two great opportunities for members to serve the organization. Descriptions are below for two committees that are looking for member volunteers. If you are interested in serving on either of the committees, please see the Application Form enclosed with this week's *IHO Update*.

Advocacy Committee

The Advocacy Committee shall monitor state legislative activity that may impact the provision of hospice and end-of-life care in Iowa and subsequently IHO members. The committee shall propose an annual legislative agenda for approval by the IHO Board for consideration by the Iowa General

Assembly. The committee shall also provide direction for the Organization for addressing regulatory issues that affect IHO members with various state departments including the Iowa Medicaid Enterprise and the Iowa Department of Inspections and Appeals. The committee meets two times per year, once in Des Moines and once via conference call.

Education

The Education Committee shall plan professional development and educational opportunities as directed by the IHO Board including annually a special topics conference and the fall conference. The Education Committee shall also monitor the need for additional educational programs and make recommendations to the Board for development thereof. The Committee shall annually review the IHO Web site and newsletter and provide direction for collecting content. The committee meets three times per year, twice in Des Moines and once in Ames.

Both committees are a great way to get more involved with IHO and help enhance advocacy and education efforts for your peers!

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Hospice Claims Reviewed for Medical Necessity

Cahaba GBA has been conducting a widespread probe review for hospice patients receiving general inpatient services, for claims received between March 10 and August 31, 2008. Claims were reviewed across the provider community for determination of medical necessity. As a result of the probe review, claims were denied for reduction of level of care, missing, incomplete or untimely certifications and missing, incomplete untimely election statements.

To find more information, see the November *Home Health & Hospice Medicare A Newslines* on Cahaba's Web site at: <https://www.cahabagba.com/rhhi/news/newsletter/index.htm>. In addition, Hospice providers can sign up for Cahaba's e-mail notification service to alert you of such activities at: https://www.cahabagba.com/rhhi/news/email_service.htm.

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Medicare Home Health and Hospice Benefit Resources

Are you ever frustrated that you can't find information or key resources for the Medicare home health or hospice benefits on the CMS or Cahaba Web sites?

Then start next year off right by taking two hours on Tuesday, December 16, 2008 to join Cahaba staff for the "Navigating the Medicare Resources Sea" Webinar from 12:00 to 2:00 pm (Central Time). For more information, please access the event Web page at: https://www.cahabagba.com/apps/course_registration/ia/course_summary.jsp?EID=384. Click on the "Register" link at the bottom of the page to access the electronic registration form.

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Register to Attend Webinars to Learn More About Cahaba Connectivity Options

On October 27, 2008, Cahaba sent an email message and letter announcing changes that will affect the way you access the Fiscal Intermediary Standard System (FISS) for Direct Data Entry (DDE). This letter is available on the Cahaba Web site at:

https://www.cahabagba.com/rhhi/news/20081027_letter.pdf

As of December 31, 2008, Cahaba is discontinuing support for WebSphere® Host On Demand. Submitters who currently use HOD must now contract with a third party for connectivity to FISS. IVANS, Inc. and VisionShare, Inc. are two Network Service Vendors who offer such connectivity. Both of these companies currently have Medicare customers nationwide and are prepared to assist with transitioning providers to their products and services.

Both IVANS, Inc. and VisionShare, Inc. are hosting a series of webinars to help healthcare providers understand their new options for FISS/DDE access and how they can easily transition to these new solutions. If you are interested in learning more about the products and services IVANS and VisionShare have to offer, please visit their Web sites to register for an upcoming Webinar.

IVANS, Inc. (<http://www.ivans.com/cahabaHODmove>)

- Wednesday, December 10, 2008 from 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM EST
- Wednesday, December 17, 2008 from 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM EST
- Monday, December 29, 2008 from 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM EST

VisionShare, Inc. (<http://www.visionshareinc.com/Cahaba/>)

- Tuesday, December 9, 2008 from 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM EST
- Thursday, December 11, 2008 from 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM EST
- Thursday, December 18, 2008 from 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM EST

If you have any questions, please contact the Cahaba Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) Services department at 1 866-839-2441.

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Mentor Program for Palliative Care Nurses Announced

The Hospice and Palliative Nurses Association (HPNA) has announced the establishment of the Advanced Practice Mentoring Program. The HPNA Advanced Practice Mentoring Program is a year-long program focused on developing the roles of a palliative care Advanced Practice Nurse (APN). HPNA believes that expert mentoring provides an excellent opportunity for advanced practice nurses to improve their skills and experiences in the field of palliative care.

With palliative nursing encompassing a wide range of practice activities, HPNA created the Advanced Practice Mentoring Program to develop administrative and clinical skills for APNs who want to expand and apply palliative skills in the world of clinical practice. Experienced APNs will serve as mentors through individual and group learning experiences. Some of the key features of the program include: one-to-one (phone, e-mail, on-line, or face-to-face) and group learning experiences, six on-line modules with CEUs addressing clinical and administrative topics, six on-line complex clinical case studies for group discussion, individualized goals with an action plan negotiated between mentor and mentee, and the *Cultivating Palliative Advanced Practice Nursing Through Mentoring* Inaugural leadership event at the 2009 AAHPM/HPNA Annual Assembly in Austin, Texas.

Applications for mentors and mentees and eligibility requirements can be found at www.hpna.org. There is a \$500 fee for mentees. Application must be submitted via e-mail to HPNA on or before January 30, 2009. Applicants will be selected based on professional compatibility. Selected applicants will be notified by February 13, 2009; and the program is limited to 10 mentor/mentee pairs.

For additional information, please see the attached press release.

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NHPCO and NASW Announce the First Advanced Certified Hospice and Palliative Care Social Worker Credential

The National Association of Social Workers and the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization are pleased to announce the creation of the Advanced Certified Hospice and Palliative Social Worker credential (ACHP-SW). This is the first national credential in hospice and palliative care tailored to capture the specialized knowledge, skills, and abilities of professional social workers in hospice and palliative care settings. Developed in collaboration and partnership between NASW and NHPCO, it became available from NASW on November 1, 2008.

Hospice and palliative care social workers provide a professional continuum of services that address the psychosocial needs of patients and families. Additionally, they provide leadership within their organizations and communities, and they serve as advocates to promote equal access to high quality care and state-of-the-art social work services.

In order to secure the ACHP-SW, a social worker must be a member of both NASW and NHPCO's [National Council of Hospice and Palliative Professionals](#) (NCHPP). NCHPP is the individual membership category of NHPCO, comprised of professionals who work throughout the hospice and palliative care field. NCHPP exists to support the individual discipline and the team concept. Social workers who are employed by a organizational provider member of NHPCO can join NCHPP for free. For others, a modest membership rate applies. Student rates are also available.

More information on the Advanced Certified Hospice and Palliative Social Worker Credential is available on the [NASW Web site](#) or by calling NASW at 202-408-8600, ext. 447.

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ELNEC Certification Workshops Scheduled

Iowa Hospice has sponsored a series of four ELNEC certification seminars. The End-of-Life Nursing Education Consortium (ELNEC) Project is a national end-of-life educational program administered by City of Hope National Medical Center and the American Association of Colleges of Nursing, designed to enhance palliative care in nursing.

The final seminar in this series will be held January 22 and 23 in Fort Madison. For more information about the seminar or to register, contact Nancy Sharp at 515-276-6696.

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District 7 Meeting Scheduled

The first meeting of the newly created District 7 (which includes Greene, Boone, Story, Marshall, Dallas, Polk and Warren counties) has been scheduled for 2:00 – 4:00 p.m., Wednesday, January 14, 2009. The meeting will be held in the Board Room at the IHO offices, 100 East Grand Avenue. For more information on the meeting, contact District 7 co-chairs Dee Hiveley at hiveleyd@iowa-hospice.com or (515) 276-6696 or Rita Lepeska at rlepeska@mercydesmoines.org or (515) 643-8400.

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***Update* Holiday Publication Schedule**

Please note the following changes to the *Update* publication schedule due to the upcoming holidays. The *Update* will be sent on Friday, December 19, but there will not be an issue on Friday, January 2. The first *Update* in 2009 will be sent on Friday, January 9. As always, the deadline for submission of items for inclusion is 2:00 p.m. on the Thursday prior to the publication date.

If you have any questions regarding the *Update*, please contact Stacey Nay at 515-283-9309 or nays@ihaonline.org.