

IL-HPCO GOES TO SPRINGFIELD

Developed and orchestrated by the IL-HPCO Legislative Committee, IL-HPCO's first Advocacy Day in Springfield was a success. It was held on April 4/5 and a reception was hosted at the Sangamon Club in Springfield. On April 5, leaders visited the Capitol and met with their local district legislators and attended collective meetings with the Comptroller's office and sat in on the Illinois Healthcare and Family Services hearing with Felicia Norwood, HFS Director, being interviewed. It was a successful turn-out and provides a model and incentive to conduct local Legislative meetings and another IL-HPCO Advocacy Day in early 2018.



Diane Bergan, IL HPCO, Representative Allen Skillicorn, Pam Cramer, IL HPCO



Representative Laura Fines, Diane Bergan



Mimi Noonan-GIPPCC, Art Turner-Former House Democratic Leader, Diane Bergan



Carrie Bill-IL HPCO, Senator Michael Hastings, Diane Nowak-IL HPCO, Kellie Newman-IL HPCO

Attend

JUNE 28 REGIONAL MEETING
in Dekalb. Watch the website for further information.

AUGUST 20 REGIONAL MEETING
in Belleville. Watch the website for further information.

OCTOBER 11-12 ANNUAL MEETING
IL-HPCO Annual Education Conference
Northern Illinois University in Naperville.
October 11 Reception and Dinner
Keynote Speaker, Coleman Foundation
Doctor Sean O'Mahony-Director
Palliative Medicine, Rush Medical
October 12 Conference
Keynote Speaker, M.K. Czerwicz,
Author, The Comic Nurse-Inspiration
and Comedy 6.5 CE's*
*tentative

In this Issue

- IL HPCO Goes to Springfield in April
- Save the Dates
- Legislative Update
- CMS Update
- Emergency Preparedness
- Illinois Managed Care Organizations
- IL HPCO Member Visit

Legislative Update – Betsy D. Mitchell, IL -HPCO Legislative Consultant



The House passed House Bill 109, a stop-gap budget bill focused mainly on higher education and social services. In addition, funding was included for the Funeral & Burial Fund within Illinois Department of Human Services. This is the funding source for Medicaid hospice patients which has been empty of funds since December 31, 0217. Please contact your SENATOR and urge them to take action on House Bill 109. A sample letter is at the end of this Newsletter for you to use. If you want to learn more about contacting your legislators, please contact me, Betsy Mitchell, Betsy@cook-witter.com

On April 5, approximately 20+ IL-HPCO members traveled to Springfield for the 2017 IL-HPCO Advocacy Day. Prior to Advocacy Day, IL-HPCO hosted a Legislative Reception during the evening on April 4 which provided members with the opportunity to visit with their legislators. Great ideas, good discussions and new contacts were made during the reception.

Before heading to the Capitol, the Advocacy Day began with a Legislative Briefing by IL-HPCO Legislative Chairwoman Diane Bergan and Legislative Consultant Betsy Mitchell. At the Capitol, IL-HPCO members worked in teams to visit with legislators who represent where members live and where their offices are located. It was the first time for many IL-HPCO members to meet with their legislators and all agreed this was a good threshold as they will now work to grow a strong working relationship with their area legislators.

In addition, the attendees heard from Rep. Linda Chapa LaVia (D, Aurora); former Rep. Art Turner, Sr.; Matt Hartman, Illinois Health Care Association and others. According to feedback from the attendees all said the day was well worth their time to invest in entering into a solid working relationship with their legislators. Please consider attending the 2018 IL-HPCO Advocacy Day.

CMS update

The Federal Register posted the FY2018 Hospice Wage index proposed rule for public inspection. Included in that was the following regarding Hospice Compare which is targeted for late this summer.

- CMS is developing a Hospice Compare web site which will allow consumers, providers and stakeholders to search for all Medicare-certified hospice providers and view their information and quality measure scores.
- June 1, 2016: Hospice will have chance to review and challenge results, prior to posting on Hospice Compare.
- Only the 7 HIS measures will be in Hospice Compare in 2017. The Hospice CAHPS measures will be added in the “winter of 2018.”

The proposed rule also identified new priority areas for hospice which are under consideration and development.

Cont. p.3

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS FINAL RULE

CMS conducted a webinar in late April about the Emergency Preparedness final rule. They clarified that the effective date of the final rule was 11/15/16, and the implementation date is November 15, 2017 which means that providers are expected to have completed the following by 11/15/17:

- All of the staff training requirements;• Participation in a full-scale exercise that is community-based or when a community-based exercise is not accessible, an individual, facility-based exercise;
- Conduct an additional exercise that may include, but is not limited to the following:
 - o A second full-scale exercise that is individual, facility-based.
 - o A tabletop exercise that includes a group discussion led by a facilitator, using a narrated, clinically-relevant emergency scenario, and a set of problem statements, directed messages, or prepared questions designed to challenge an emergency plan. Non-compliance will result in survey deficiencies via the established survey process.

CMS is still working on developing the Interpretive Guidelines for the emergency preparedness CoP (418.113) and advised providers on the call not to wait for their distribution to become compliant with all requirements. Here is a link to the full CMS slide set from the webinar: www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Outreach/NPC/

CMS Update

Cont. from p.2

- Potentially avoidable hospice care transitions. The goal is to reduce potentially avoidable transitions at the end of life which are burdensome to patients, families and the health care system, because they are associated with adverse outcomes, lower patient and family satisfaction, higher costs and fragmentation of care delivery.

- Access to levels of hospice care which includes focus on the provision of CHC and GIP. Measuring use of levels of care will incentivize hospice providers to continuously assess patient and caregiver needs and provide the appropriate level of care to meet these needs.

ILLINOIS MANAGED CARE ORGANIZATIONS (MCOs) | BEING MINIMIZED by 2018

Currently there are 15 MCOs in Illinois, the highest market-share goes to Blue Cross Blue Shield and Meridian. In February the state issued RFPs to rebid Medicaid Managed Care Programs, asking to consolidate multiple programs into a single streamlined program, and expand MCO care statewide. The RFP will minimize the current number of contracted MCOs from 11-12 to between three and four. The State says “when fully implemented by the end of 2018, the new managed care program will cover roughly 27 million Medicaid beneficiaries in all 102 counties.” Below is a chart of the plans, lives covered and market share

IL-HPCO MEMBER VISIT

Mary Sheehan, Board of Directors and Co-Chair of the Communications and Membership Committee, and Pam Cramer paid a visit to new IL-HPCO member Hospice of Kankakee Valley. They met with the leadership of this hospice and palliative care agency to welcome them to IL-HPCO and learn what they need from their state organization. It was clear that they need current state of Illinois news, especially regulations and legislation. They welcomed the opportunity to collaborate on advocacy in Springfield recently, and are looking forward to the Annual Education Conference in October. At the moment their biggest heartburn is “Emergency Preparedness.”



Yolanda Davis-Compliance Kankakee, Mary Sheehan-CEO Joliet, Connie Lemon-CEO Kankakee, and Pam Cramer.

Model Letter to go to Senators:

Please contact IL-HPCO if you need help in communicating with your District’s Senator.

COMMUNICATION TO SENATORS ON HB 109 Illinois Burial Fund for Medicaid Patiens

Dear Senator _____,

On behalf of the Hospice and Palliative Care Organization, I write in support of House Bill 109, the second half of the stop-gap, or lifeline budget passed recently by the Illinois House of Representative. Since December 31, 2016, the Illinois Burial Fund for Medicaid patients has been depleted. Due to no funding, Hospice providers, including _____name of your facility_____, in what communities, have often found it nearly impossible to find a way to have a Medicaid patient buried in a timely fashion if at all. More often than not, the body is dropped off at the morgue.

(Tell your story here).

Again, as a member of the Illinois Hospice and Palliative Care Organization, we support House Bill 109 because it contains vital funding for a decent and timely burial of Medicaid patients in Illinois.