



Talking Points

1. [LB442](#): carryover bill introduced by Senator Kate Bolz during the 2017 legislative session that would create a Medical Assistance Managed Care Organization Oversight Committee for Heritage Health (the Medicaid managed care program). The association supports this.
 - Highlight your agency's overall experiences with authorizations, claims, communications and reimbursement with the managed care plans and convey that there are ongoing issues that have created administrative burdens. If your agency has reduced the number of Heritage Health clients receiving cares, or is contemplating doing this, explain what the affects will be on the clients.
 - Provide recommendations on how to improve the Heritage Health Program.
2. [LB867](#): bill introduced by Senator Sue Crawford that would require DHHS to provide more transparency and accountability as it concerns their process for issuing fines and sanctions to the MCOs when they are not meeting contractual requirements. This bill would help ensure the Legislature's HHS Committee and the public know how fines and sanctions are imposed moving forward now, that we are a year into the new contracts.

The second part of the bill requires the Department to negotiate a clean claims rate to be put in the contracts with the MCO. This rate would be required in all contract renewals and new contracts moving forward. The thought behind this provision is that the MCOs will have a motivating reason to work more closely with providers in helping them submit clean claims if there is a contractual requirement they have to hit.

- The Nebraska Home Care Association is a member of the Heritage Health Provider Coalition. We support establishing accountability measures like those recommended by Senator Crawford to promote corrective measures when outcomes aren't achieved. Providers shouldn't experience delays in reimbursement or be required to resubmit claims or file appeals when there are errors or delays made by the managed care plans.
 - Share data to help explain the need for more transparency and accountability. You may wish to share data about the number of improper denials you've received from the MCOs in the past 30 days and the reasons why; the number of incorrect or unpaid claims by the MCOs in the past 30 days; the number of underpayments and overpayments made in error by the MCOs to your agency; and additional staff time that has been invested due to the issues with Heritage Health.
3. [LB866](#): bill introduced by Senator Sue Crawford requesting that when there are proposed changes in rules, regulations and waivers, the Legislature's HHS Committee would hold a public hearing within 10 days after a report with the proposed changes is issued by DHHS. A public notice and comment period regarding proposed changes must also be provided by DHHS.

- Explain that the association supports efforts to help improve the communication, transparency and stakeholder engagement when there are proposed changes to rules, regulations, waivers, programs or other items impacting citizens through the Medical Assistance Act.
4. [LB979](#): bill introduced by Senator Sue Crawford to authorize nurse practitioners and physician assistants to render expert opinions within their scope of practice.
 - Explain there are shortages of physicians in areas of our state and the work and services that physician assistants and nurse practitioners are providing for home care clients.
 5. [LB701](#): bill introduced by Senator Mark Kolterman to define telehealth and telemonitoring, allow licensed physicians and PAs to establish relationships with patients through telehealth, and allow for licensed physicians and PAs to prescribe medication through telehealth if they are authorized to do so.
 - Although the bill doesn't address telemonitoring services by home health providers, it expands the options for physicians and PAs to deliver telehealth services. The association supports efforts to expand telehealth and telemonitoring technology and use.
 - Explain how your agency does (or would) use telemonitoring services and the benefits to patients.

Bills to be aware of that the Nebraska Home Care Association is monitoring. You may wish to discuss with state senators during Legislative Day:

1. [LB924](#): bill introduced by Senator Merv Riepe to change provisions of the Emergency Medical Services Practice Act, the Occupational Therapy Practice Act, and the Uniform Credentialing Act. Purpose: Emergency services providers want to be able to provide services in hospitals and clinics.
 - In 2015, the association opposed a bill that would have allowed emergency services providers to provide skilled care services in the home. Providers must be adequately trained, certified and licensed to provide home health services and comply with scope of practice requirements.
2. [LR281CA](#): introduced by Senator Adam Morfeld. Intent: To present a constitutional amendment for the public to vote on during the November 2018 general election to state that affordable health care is a right and to expand eligibility under the medical assistance program. It would also require the state legislature to provide affordable health care under the medical assistance program for all adults under the age of 65 with incomes under 133% of the federal poverty level
 - This is an individual decision that would be made by the voters. The Nebraska Home Care Association is not taking a position regarding this study. We want citizens to be able to receive the home care services they need and at the same time ensure there are adequate resources to deliver the care and services.

Other topics to cover:

- Explain the differences between home care and home health
- Emphasize what you do and your extensive training to provide highly skilled, quality care to patients with a variety of healthcare needs including those with complex, long-term care. Explain why it's important to protect our scope of practice.
- Talk about that home health agencies, hospice providers and home care companies help Nebraskans save a significant amount of money by preventing emergency room stays and re-hospitalization.
- Home care is the most economical healthcare choice. Share examples of services your agency provides, including telehealth if applicable.
- We reduce long-term care costs through our expertise, and keep people in the safety and comfort of their home where they want to be. We help constituents have improved quality of life and increased independence.
- Share examples of how your agency has helped patients' improve their health and quality of life.