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May 21, 2008

Home Care Association of Colorado Management Report

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New updates added weekly to www.hcaonline.org! Check it out!

Officers Elected, Telemedicine Discussed, Awards Presented in Vail



Sonya Neumann Assumes Presidency

Sonya Neumann, (photo, left)

Physicians Home Health Care, Colorado Springs, was named HCAC president at the annual meeting of the HCAC membership in Vail. She succeeds **Sue Brown**, (photo, right) Home Care of the Grand Valley, Grand Junction, who remains on the HCAC board of directors as Immediate Past President.

Newly elected to serve on the board were **Theresa McCoy**, Life Care at Home, Aurora, and **Eric Riewerts**, Salus Home Care, Denver. Elected for another term on the board were **Melody Wright**, Centura Health at Home, Denver, and **David Johnston**, Argus of Colorado Home Health, Pueblo. For background information and names of other newly elected leaders, [click here](#).

HCAC Convention Wrap-Up Special Edition!



[Read about elections, telemedicine and awards!](#)

Quick Links...

- [Read all about HCAC's Annual Convention in Vail](#)
- [Elizabeth Hogue on "Documentation": June 26th](#)
- [Visit Our Brand New 24/7 Virtual trade Show](#)
- [Click here for Members Only State Legislative Bulletin Board](#)
- [Check Out HCAC's Jobs and Services Store](#)

Technology Breakfast Roundtable Generates "Food for Thought"

Ten volunteers participated in an "off the top of the head" idea-generating session that brought out several pages of observations, directions and ideas for action. The need to think "partnering" and "system-wide savings" ranked high among those thoughts. [Click for full report](#)

State Officials Brief HCAC Board on Rapidly Evolving Telemedicine "Discovery" Project

Two representatives from the Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing described progress on the new telemedicine project authorized and funded by SB07-196. This bill was

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supported and promoted by HCAC. The expected outcome of the project is a plan that will reimburse agencies for using telemedicine in monitoring and treating chronic disease under Medicaid. [For details, click here](#)

HCAC Past President Dan Nicholson Honored for Innovation and Leadership

From home care telemedicine advocate and homecare telemedicine vendor, to home care telemedicine user, Dan Nicholson serves as an inspiration and an example of how important technology in home care has become. [Click here for full story](#)

Home Care Automation Report Lauds Colorado's Commitment

In a full page feature on May 14th, HCAR Editor Tim Rowan compares Colorado's approach to telemedicine with that of California. We seem to be miles ahead. [Check out the story and subscribe to this free e-publication if you are not already a subscriber.](#)

New 24/7 Virtual Trade Show Features Vail Conference Exhibitors

Here is your link to our latest and greatest year-round trade show (with links to the past four years of HCAC trade shows)! [Click here](#)

Workforce Information Needed...



The National Association for Home Care & Hospice has partnered with Georgetown University's Institute for the Study of International Migration to conduct a study to better understand the workforce needs of the nation's home care agencies. To assist in this important study, HCAC members are urged to complete the following anonymous survey (about 10 minutes in length) to collect data on the following issues:

- Issues your organization may have in hiring / retaining US workers;
- Staffing and assuring access to care for patients in areas with staff shortages;

- The need to recruit and hire immigrant workers, and
- How potential policies could improve the recruitment and hiring of foreign workers.

[Click here for the survey](#)

CMS Responds to 9th Scope of Work Inquiry

The National Association for Home Care & Hospice has received the following response from CMS regarding the exclusion of home health from the Quality Initiative's 9th Scope of Work. NAHC's Director of Regulatory Affairs, Mary St. Pierre, said this week that there is some reported discussion about how home health will be included and fit into the 9th SOW. She said NAHC will be following up with CMS regarding the burdens that will accompany the new reporting requirements mentioned in the memo below.

[Click here to read CMS Response](#)

"Documentation" by Elizabeth Hogue: June 26, 2008

"Legal Aspects of Documentation for Home Care Providers"

Thursday, June 26, 2008

11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Mountain Time

A 90-Minute Lunch & Learn Audio-Conference (designed & beneficial for all providers, including private duty!)

Presenter:

Elizabeth E. Hogue, Esq.

Health Care Attorney & Consultant
Burtonsville, MD

There is a lot of truth to the old adage, "If it wasn't documented, then it wasn't done." Documentation of care provided is indeed basic to the provision of home care services. It is certainly essential to quality of care, risk management and avoidance of fraud and abuse. The purpose of this audio-conference is to address some long-standing, yet difficult, issues associated with documentation. Can records of care be supplemented or corrected? If so, under what circumstances and how should it be done? How should providers document non-

compliance by patients and their caregivers? How can documentation help providers avoid liability for abandonment when they discontinue services to patients? The emphasis will be on clear guidance that participants can implement in their companies.

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