



# KAHCF

## 2016 Annual Report

Kentucky Association of Health Care Facilities  
Supporting Kentucky's Long-Term Care Providers since 1954



## Chairman's Message

One thing I have learned and firmly believe in my long-term career is this profession is a true calling. It takes a very special person with a caring heart and attitude for our aging population to work in this field. And it is not for everyone. But for those of us who do choose to work with the aging, it can be a rewarding choice.

We know each day will be different as we care for our residents; and we know we will have to face and work through challenges coming at us in the form of new regulations, new ways to measure how we are doing, the threat of lawsuits and ensuring a viable reimbursement rate to provide the care we want to deliver and is expected of us.

It is more important than ever to have a strong Association working on our behalf to navigate this complex world we operate. From numerous onsite and online education sessions, advocacy efforts in Frankfort and Washington, D.C., emphasizing the important role we play in health care and in our communities, and informing the public of what we do every single day of the year, this Association's board and professional staff represent and work on your behalf. I urge you to get involved and be active on committees and hosting legislators.

There may be challenges ahead of us, but working together, I know we can meet them and do what we do best – provide quality care to our residents. I look forward to serving as your chair for the upcoming year.

Sincerely,

Debra Finneran, *Vice President Clinical Quality Services  
Masonic Homes of Kentucky*

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## Reimbursement

- Kentucky nursing facilities received a .1% Medicaid inflationary adjustment for capital and non-capital components effective July 1, 2015. Early in 2016, the Association reviewed historical inflation trends with Legislative representatives and the Department for Medicaid Services to compare to past Medicaid inflationary adjustments paid to nursing facilities, indicating the need for increased payments. The Association was working on establishing an inflationary increase at the time of this writing.
- The Association worked closely with the Department for Community Based Services (DCBS) following the implementation of the eligibility call center. The personnel and workflow changes caused backlogs in Medicaid pending cases, which was further exacerbated by the rollout of the "Benefind" Medicaid eligibility system in February 2016. Standing meetings with the DCBS Commissioner and bi-monthly conference calls with the Billing Work Group helped reduce pending claims, however, issues with Medicaid pending and "Benefind" still existed at the time of this writing.
- Regarding Medicare, CMS indicated it would increase rates by a net market basket rate of 2.1 percent effective October 2016. The 2.1 percent market basket update reflects a full market basket increase of 2.6 percent reduced by 0.5 percentage points, in accordance with the multifactor productivity adjustment required by the Affordable Care Act. No forecast error was incurred.
- The Association provided information to facilities to prepare for the July 1, 2016, implementation of the Payroll Based Journal (PBJ) reporting requirement. A webinar and an educational training session was offered to member facilities to prepare for the deadline.

## Regulatory

- KAHCF led an effort to withdraw an emergency regulation mandating national background checks on prospective employees. A letter written by KAHCF president Betsy Johnson clearly established that Kentucky law does not permit the promulgation of regulation without state or federal statutory authority and no such authority exists to mandate participation. This program is now voluntary.
- In October, Mary Haynes and Johnson were able to present to the Interim Joint Committee on Health and Welfare on data that shows that Kentucky is an outlier compared to the rest of the nation when it comes to survey outcomes but that Kentucky providers are not an outlier with regard to quality measurements.
- KAHCF frequently shared information on new and updated regulations this year. A KAHCF member task force joined with an AHCA national effort and submitted comments outlining the concerns on the proposed Medicare & Medicaid Reform of Requirements of Participation expected to be released this Fall. This rule includes comprehensive guidance and changes such as the full program development of Quality Assurance Performance Improvement (QAPI) and Compliance and Ethics programs.

# Public Policy and Advocacy

KAHCF is committed to the importance of advocating on behalf of our members with legislators and those who drive public policy. We apply our diverse professional backgrounds and expertise to network with all decision-makers at the state and federal levels that affect long-term care in Kentucky.

KAHCF also understands the importance of grassroots advocacy by encouraging all of our members to interact with their local representatives, building relationships which can capitalize on personal interaction. Having our members network with legislators builds a strong working rapport that goes above and beyond what KAHCF does in Frankfort.

## Lobbying Initiatives

- Monitored 21 different bills that directly affected long-term care and initiated resolutions recognizing award-winning facilities and caregivers during the 2016 session
- Led the campaign supporting Medical Review Panel legislation
- Worked with Senate leadership, wrote the bill language and obtained a sponsor for Senate Bill 205 - Truth in Advertisement Bill
- Worked with House Minority Leadership to sponsor HB 554, which would have amended medical malpractice statute for health care providers
- Successfully fought to oppose all legislation that negatively affected long-term care which includes:
  - HB 410 which would have created a regulatory expectation on palliative care
  - HB 278 which would raise the minimum wage in Kentucky
  - SB 165 which would have affected advanced directives and health care surrogates

## Policy Initiatives

- KAHCF and its members voiced concerns at public hearing and with written comments on 908 KAR 2:065 that affected Personal Care Homes in Kentucky
- Agreed to work with Representative Reginald Meeks to revise HB 410 to create a bill that doesn't include additional regulatory oversight by the Cabinet for the 2017 session

## Grassroots Advocacy

Online Advocacy Tools and Resources:

- Identify and Contact Legislators;
- Legislative Tracking Reports;
- Issue Briefs; and
- Advocacy Templates and Resources

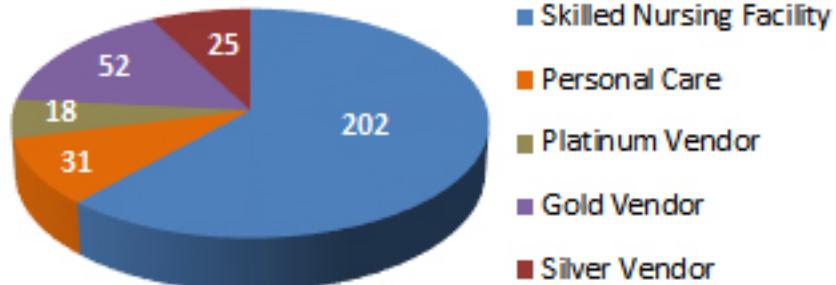
Grassroots Initiatives in Frankfort:

- KAHCF members attended the Senate Health and Welfare Committee meeting and called their legislators to support Medical Review Panel and Truth in Advertising bills
- Over 60 members attended the "Visit your Legislator" event to advocate for Medical Review Panels, Truth in Advertising legislation and the Medicaid budget
- Emphasized importance of members contacting their legislators on Health and Welfare, Appropriations and Revenue and Judiciary committees
- Numerous facilities hosted Legislators in their building in 2015



Providence Healthcare of Gallatin Administrator Stacie Darnold met with Rep. Rick Rand during KAHCF's Legislative Days event during the 2016 legislative session.

## 2015-16 Association Membership



## Quality Awards Program

The 2015 Quality Awards Program was another success with 187 nominations submitted and 53 awards presented at the Banquet in November. The Public Relations Committee and Public Affairs team put together an entertaining program, including a presentation recognizing long-time employees. The evening was capped off by Wolfe County Health and Rehabilitation receiving Facility of the Year. Most recipients were recognized in their local papers and many were honored in Frankfort by their legislators.



**Wolfe County Health and Rehabilitation  
2015 Facility of the Year**

## Professional Development

- 90 Educational Sessions Provided
- 2,628 Overall Attendees
- 301 accredited hours provided
- 850 Registered for 2015 Annual Meeting
- 130 Vendors exhibited at the Annual Meeting Trade Show

### Points of Interest:

Offered 11-part webinar series on QAPI in partnership with IHCA and ProActive Medical Review on applying the building blocks of a successful SNF QAPI program to critical performance areas for 2016. Over 400 have participated in the series.

Offered two Workforce Summits, in Lexington and Bowling Green, on understanding the expectations of the shifting workforce, building a strong company culture and making managers more effective in their roles.

## Public Relations

The Association uses mainstream and social media to promote facilities, staff and residents throughout the year. The growing use of Facebook is changing the way members and the Association market and promote our successes. Quality Award winners and National Nursing Home Week events were covered by many local papers.

*Number of stories featuring LTC and KAHCF members: 55 newspaper articles and three radio spots airing on nearly 100 stations.*

*Facebook Likes: 1,400*

*Facebook Posts: 575*

*Twitter: 750 Tweets*

*Heroes of Long Term Care issues – National Nursing Home Week 2015, 2015 Quality Award Winners, National Nursing Home Week 2016*

*CareLink: Recruiting, Retention and Long Term Care; Wellness*



## Event Sponsors

Thanks to these vendor members for sponsoring events during fiscal year 2015-16

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