

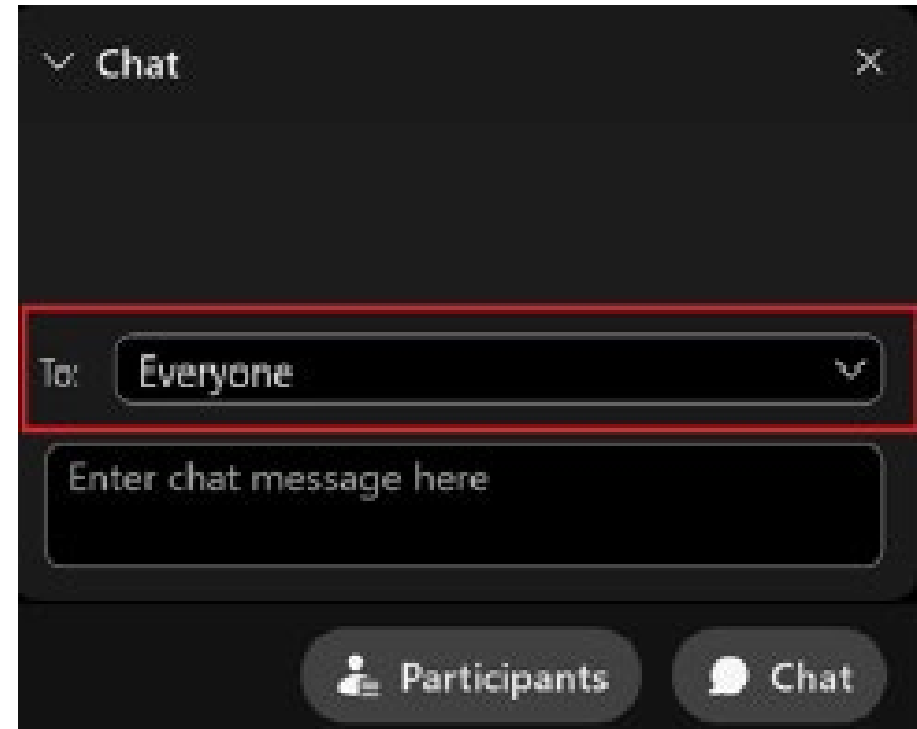


Home Care and Assisted Living Program Advisory Council Meeting

January 22, 2024 | 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Webex Participants

- **Participants are muted.**
- **To ask a question**, click on the chat bubble to open the chat, select “Everyone”, and ask a question or provide a comment. Messages sent privately may not be addressed due to logistics.
- We will answer as many questions as we can at the end of our time today.



1.22.2024 Agenda

Time	Topic
1:00 p.m.	Welcome & Meeting Introduction
1:10 p.m.	2019 Advisory Council Recommendations & Discussion for 2024 Recommendations
1:55 p.m.	2024 Advisory Council Meeting Schedule
3:00 p.m.	Adjourn

Welcome New Council Member!

Patricia Fitzgibbon, Public Member #2 (Home Care)



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2019 Advisory Council Recommendations & Discussion for 2024 Recommendations

2019 Advisory Council Recommendations

The HCALP Advisory Council submitted a letter dated January 15, 2019, to the Minnesota House and Senate Health and Human Services Committees regarding special projects to improve home care in Minnesota. The letter contained eight (8) recommendations made by the Advisory Council to the Legislature to improve the current state of home care.

The Assisted Living Licensure Laws (Minn. Stat. 144G) were passed by the 2019 Minnesota Legislature.

Recommendation 1

Recommendation 1:

MDH should change the survey process to allow desk audits for Level 1 and Level 2 corrections orders.

2023 MDH Update:

- Since 2019, MDH has utilized a desk audit process for Level 1 and Level 2 correction orders.
- In 2023, MDH successfully proposed legislative language in Minn. Stat. 144A passed by the Legislature to require MDH no longer to conduct a reinspection for Level 1 and Level 2 correction orders categorized as “widespread” in scope, thus, MDH now has discretion whether to conduct a reinspection of the licensee cited with Level 1 and Level 2 correction orders.

Recommendation 2

Recommendation 2:

The legislature should appropriate funds to develop a training program for existing licensed home care providers (200K), and MDH should engage the request for proposal (RFP) process to create the training program.

2023 MDH Update:

- At the time of this 2019 recommendation, the Council had access to at least \$557,133.00. As of August 1, 2021, the Council had access to \$1.37 million dollars at the time of assisted living licensure implementation that has since grown to over \$3.6 million as of the end of FY 2023 (June 30, 2023).
- MDH has significantly expanded its website to include survey self-audit tools, a resource library of licensing-related forms, and educational resources with answers to Frequently-Asked Questions (FAQs), live WebEx forums and trainings for assisted living licensees. MDH's home care website received a refresh in 2023 and is currently being reviewed to identify opportunities for additional content.
- In 2021, the MDH Health Regulation Division (HRD) added the Planning & Partnerships section with additional roles focused on external outreach to MDH licensees, including an Outreach & Engagement Manager and Strategist and Strategic Communications Lead.

Recommendation 3:

Promote opportunities for a home care career path.

2023 MDH Update:

- Due to the pandemic and ALL implementation, MDH-HRD has not actively engaged in student focused or vocation promotional activities. MDH-HRD does not currently have a staff position with these job responsibilities.

Recommendation 4

Recommendation 4:

Training and administrative items, like TB testing and NetStudy 2.0, should be portable so employees can change jobs and work additional jobs more easily rather than engage in repeated training or requirements. MDH should utilize the RFP process to create a standardized training program for home care providers.

2023 MDH Update:

- As of December 2023, MDH has not submitted an RFP to create a standardized training program for home care or assisted living. As of December 2023, MDH does not have the capacity to fund an RFP to create a standardized training program.
- NetStudy 2.0 background studies, if a provider with multiple facilities has an existing background study at one facility, the provider can affiliate the person's background study with another facility if the Sensitive Information Person (SIP) is the same.
- A baseline TB screening is required at the hire for all health care personnel in Minnesota. A TB test dated within 90 days of hire is acceptable.
- The Assisted Living Updates Workgroup's focus is a legislative mandate directing MDH and DHS to identify the regulatory burdens of Minn. Stat. 144G with assisted living providers with a resident capacity of 10 or less and provide recommendations to the Legislature. Portability of staff training is one Workgroup topic identified for proposed draft language revisions to make staff orientation training that is not specific to the facility or resident population be portable from one assisted living provider to another.

Recommendation 5

Recommendation 5:

MDH should improve its communication to the consumer, particularly with its website.

2023 MDH Update:

- MDH-HRD refreshed its website in 2023 with assisted living content created in 2021 and 2022, and home care and assisted living content reviewed on an on-going basis for updates.
- In 2023, MDH soft-launched a new MDH provider directory that enables consumers to find home care and assisted living providers with greater ease and makes the last survey and substantiated maltreatment findings accessible. It is anticipated the MDH provider directory will be accessible on the MDH website to consumers in 2024.

Recommendation 6

Recommendation 6:

MDH should create standardized forms that would be optional for providers to use.

2023 MDH Update:

- MDH posts all home care and assisted living survey forms utilized by MDH evaluation staff during the survey process on the MDH website. MDH highly encourages providers to conduct self-audits utilizing the posted survey forms to check their compliance with statutory regulations.
- MDH has not created templates of the above suggested forms as MDH does not currently have resources to create and maintain the wide variety of forms necessary to carry out home care and assisted living services that may vary considerably from provider to provider.

Recommendation 7

Recommendation 7:

MDH and the Advisory Council should collaborate to examine the most cited items and determine if administrative or statutory changes are needed.

2023 MDH Update:

- MDH will provide the Council with the most cited items in home care and assisted living surveys on an on-going basis at Council meetings for review.
- From March to October 2023, the Minnesota Assisted Living Updates Workgroup addressed portability of licensure and training, MN Food Code revisions, provider reimbursement, staffing, facility closures, and physical environment. Most of these topics encompass the most cited survey items where providers have had difficulty achieving compliance with the current Minn. Stat. 144G requirements.
- In 2023, HRD Planning and Partnerships section initiated a Collaborative Safety mapping project with providers to target two topics of frequent home care and assisted living provider noncompliance, TB and Individual Abuse Prevention Plans.

Recommendation 8

Recommendation 8:

The Council recommends using the funds collected from MDH enforcement actions to create grant programs for providers to improve areas that address deficiency.

2023 MDH Update:

- In 2022-2023, the Council administered two application rounds of the Social Isolation Grant for home care and assisted living providers to apply for to support their facilities with technology and/or resource needs to protect against and alleviate client/resident isolation created by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The Advisory Council awarded thirty-five (35) Social Connection Grants in the amount of \$140,699.53 during the first round of grand submissions and forty-four (44) Social Connection Grants in the amount of \$151,955.76 during the second round of grant submissions.

2024 Recommendations...The Road Ahead.



2024 Advisory Council Meeting Dates

To continue meeting on a quarterly basis on the second Mondays of the month:

- March 11th
- June 10th
- September 9th
- December 9th

Thank You!

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