

NAHC Meets with CMS Leadership to Discuss Medicaid Home Care Issues

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On Wednesday, June 26, NAHC President William A. Dombi, co-chair of the NAHC Medicaid Advisory Council Dave Totaro, and Damon Terzaghi, NAHC Senior Director of Medicaid Advocacy, met with the leadership of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) to discuss home care issues in the Medicaid program.

During the conversation, participants discussed opportunities to partner more closely, particularly as CMS seeks to issue subregulatory guidance and implement the Medicaid Access Rule. Specific areas of focus included:

- Ways to accurately collect the necessary information without placing undue burden on states and providers;
- Clarifying some of the included, excluded, and exempt costs from the Access rule's 80-20 provision;
- Addressing workforce shortfalls and increasing support for direct care professionals;
- Including providers within the State Medicaid Advisory Committees and Interested Parties Advisory Group; and
- Modernizing HCBS information technology infrastructure.

CMS and the Home Care Associations agreed to establish regularly occurring meetings to continue collaborative, constructive policymaking that supports the needs of providers and direct care workers in order to improve the services delivered and the lives of individuals who use Medicaid funded HCBS.

During the meeting, NAHC was joined by partners from the Home Care Association of America (HCAOA), the Partnership for Medicaid Based Home Care (PMHC), and ANCOR. CMS officials in attendance included Daniel Tsai, the Director of Medicaid within CMS, Rachel Pryor, Counselor to the Secretary of Health and Human Services, and Hannah Katch, a Senior Advisor in the office of the CMS Administrator. In addition to leadership, numerous operational staff from CMS' Medicaid divisions joined the discussion.