



# 2021 Major Accomplishments

As the COVID-19 pandemic entered its second calendar year in 2021, OAH C's focus remained on ensuring pandemic-related and other policies and regulations benefitted the home health industry.

Our team prioritized ensuring early access to vaccines for home health workers and advocated at both the state and federal level for funding to address the increased testing and PPE costs associated with treating patients during the pandemic. We also worked throughout the year to ensure new regulations and employment laws did not cause too significant a burden for our members. At the same time, we continued to provide our regular member benefits such as our continuing education programming, and expanded our member offerings to include webinars and roundtable lunches.

We look forward to continuing to advocate for home health agencies on issues related to the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond as we enter 2022.

## Advocated for Home Care Providers at the State Level During COVID-19

- Worked with legislators and OHA to help ensure agencies had access to COVID-19 vaccinations for staff
  - Successfully advocated to change the OSHA infectious disease standard to ensure mistaken language did not put massive regulatory and financial burdens on members
  - Hosted a meeting with OHA to provide input on how home health agencies can assist in the administration of vaccines throughout the state
  - Sent letter to Governor Brown requesting home care workers be included in the 1a category for vaccine distribution
  - Sent letter to Governor Brown requesting home care workers be allowed to administer vaccines
  - Engaged in the OSHA COVID-19 Workplace Safety Rulemaking and sent four separate comment letters to the rulemaking team to ensure the final rules did not have a negative impact on OAH C members
  - Tracked the new OSHA heat rules to determine impact on home health agencies and sent summary of rules to OAH C membership
  - Submitted request to the legislature for \$10M in ARPA funds to help mitigate the costs associated with routine testing, PPE and other COVID-19 related expenditures
  - Drafted testimony for OAH C members to testify in support to the Ways and Means Committee for the \$10M allocation of ARPA dollars at virtual congressional district hearings
  - Drafted one pager requesting \$10M in one-time funds during the 2021 interim to help mitigate costs for home health agencies associated with routine testing, PPE, and other COVID-19 related expenditures
  - Testified in opposition to HB 2072 (HH Licensure fee)
  - Engaged with a coalition of healthcare entities to lobby for COVID-19 liability protections for healthcare providers
  - Ensured OAH C participation on the HCRQI Rules Advisory Committee to amend the home health agency licensing rules
  - Participated in RAC to update state rules
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## Adapted our Professional Development Opportunities

- Provided 55 educational webinars on key issues impacting home care including coding, PDGM, emergency preparedness and OASIS
- Hosted free member webinars on federal legislative updates and mandatory vaccines and OSHA requirements
- Launched the Provider Brown Bag Roundtable Luncheons, a new member benefit, to provide members an outlet to discuss topics of interest with peers
- Partnered with CAHSAH and the Home Health Academy of the APTA to offer professional development opportunities for members and staff seeking to advance their careers in home health & hospice
- Partnered with Barb Citarella with RBC Limited to offer timely webinar series on Emergency Preparedness
- Developed an on-demand section on the website for member access to webinars and education they may have missed

## Ensured our Members had Access to the Most Up-to-Date COVID-19 Information

- Provided timely information and updates on vaccines and education resources
- Provided updates, guidance, and factsheets on vaccine and testing requirements for associated staff in LTC facilities
- Encouraged use of OAHC online Legislative Action Center for Congressional outreach
- Continued partnership with BKD to provide dashboard reports to compare our members to the broader industry
- Collaborated with industry stakeholders throughout Oregon to ensure information sharing and partnership
- Surveyed members on COVID-19 related expenses to help build case for increased funding for providers

## Advocated for Home Care at the Federal Level

- Provided regular updates to our Congressional representatives to ensure awareness of COVID-19 impacts on the home health industry in Oregon
- Engaged with national advocacy organizations such as the National Association for Home Care and Hospice, Forum of States, and the Council of State Home Care Associations to ensure federal advocacy coordination
- Engaged members in federal advocacy efforts to help:
  - Extend the Moratorium of Sequestration Cuts to Medicare
  - Support the Home Health Emergency Access to Telehealth (HEAT) Act
  - Support the Better Care Better Jobs Act with FMAP increases and higher wages
  - Support the Choose Home Act of 2021
  - Support the CONNECT for Health Act of 2021
  - Support the Credit for Caring Act
  - Preserving Access to Medicare Rural Home Health Services
- Encouraged member participation in national healthcare best practices study and surveys to help provide a complete picture of Oregon's home care industry
- Provided updates and submitted comments on the proposed CY2022 Home Health & Hospice Payment Rules

## Continued to Advance OAHC as the Premier Home Care Association in Oregon

- Recruited and retained diverse membership representing a majority of all home health, hospice, home care providers, and affiliated businesses
- Facilitated organizational strategic planning to ensure industry and organizational strength in home care in Oregon
- Prioritized new strategies to improve education, advocacy and membership engagement
- Expanded coordination with other state home care associations
- Ensured OAHC representation on RACs for updating state rules to align with COPs and home health licensing rules
- Worked with OHA and other organizations on how home health agencies can assist in the administration and distribution of vaccines