



The 10% FMAP increase is part of the recently passed COVID relief bill and is an increase in funding made available to states for Medicaid (for one year – April 21 to March 22. States must apply for this funding and it must be used for existing HCBS programs including home care. HCAoA will provide template letters for members to urge to apply for and support home care.

Save Local Business Act is the newly introduced bill to partially counter the PRO Act. The focus is on joint employer issue (for franchise systems) but has broad implications to counter the pro-union strategy. HCAoA is supporting the Save Local Business Act.

The Direct Care Opportunity Act was newly introduced in the House and provides funding to support recruiting, retention, and training of DCWs. See attached fact sheet.

On the HCAoA side, the CARE Academy is talking about a partnership with HCAoA to provide training on the CARE Academy platform that can be used toward college credit.

The next AZ Chapter meeting will be August 18, and the national conference will be in-person in Orlando on Sept. 26-27.

Steve also reported that Gov Ducey will discontinue the extra \$300 federal unemployment funding and will replace it with a bonus that would be paid when someone gets a job and stays on that job for a stipulated amount of time.

**Conference:** Monica reported that two committee calls had occurred and it's been determined that the event will be in-person only with WHOVA being used as an app only, with no live stream. The next team meeting will be on the 26<sup>th</sup> and she's planning to break the committee into teams for sponsors/exhibitors, speakers and attendees.

Linda had shared the email conversation she's had with Bob King and this will be discussed on the 26<sup>th</sup>.

**Education:** In Jude's absence, Linda reported that there were 43 RSVPs for Stephen Tweed's presentation on the 26<sup>th</sup>. Jude has confirmed that Kuno Kaushal (founder of Senior Solutions Homecare and the Independent Home Care Alliance) for the June 26 session.

Zach commented that he is familiar with Kuno who is a good speaker, but, he believes, focuses on Medicaid.

**Communications:** Zack announced that the AZNHA website is live, although there is still a lot of work to be done to correct the links, and add information that was lost in the transition. Once the site is finished, Linda will send an announcement to AZNHA members to invite them to look at the new site. And, Zach mentioned that the bulletin board will be added to the new site.

**Member Benefits:** Zach mentioned that the team had not met this month and asked Steve A if he had anything new. Steve said he had been chasing discount opportunities and hopes to have more information in time for the June meeting.

Zach said he had been focusing on caregiver recruitment opportunities, and Steve mentioned that the team would have to determine if the benefits/discounts would be in the form of a coupon book, or just how the information would be given to members to distribute to their caregivers.

## **New Business:**

### **Member Mixer in the fall**

Zach reported that Bob Roth had suggested the possibility of having a mixer for members only and asked if the board was interested. Steve A said that agency owners are missing human interaction and that he believes an event like this would be well-received. .

Zach took a vote on having a mixer in the fall and all were in favor. Keffory suggested holding the mixer at Aunt Chilada's at 16<sup>th</sup> and Glendale on their outdoor patio. All that's needed is a date (on a Friday) and for someone to confirm that the patio would be available.

Sponsorship was talked about with perhaps the first 1-3 companies purchasing a top sponsorship being advertised as the event sponsor(s). Another idea was to give everyone two drink tickets (maybe wine and beer only) and AZNHA (or sponsor) would purchase snacks. There will be no speakers at this event, it's meant for socialization only.

Lisa Mac said she can get a bunch of people from Tucson to attend. And she also offered the idea of having an AZNHA T-shirt. She also mentioned having Karaoke at the event.

At this point, Jude signed on at 12:30 PM and Zach asked if he had anything to report, other than Jude's email re. the Education Sessions. He did not.

### **Board Meetings**

The idea of in-person board meetings were brought up again, and it was agreed that the June meeting would be virtual, with an in-person meeting in July. And perhaps having every other meeting in-person. Both Lisa M and Lisa Mac will look at their available space to see if either can host the meeting. Bob's conference room is still available, but it's too crowded for 14 people.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:34 PM

The next meeting will be virtual on Thursday, June 17 from 11:30 AM to 1 PM.

Respectively submitted by  
Linda Thompson,  
Board Administrator

## The Direct Creation, Advancement, and Retention of Employment (CARE) Opportunity Act of 2021 (H.R. 2999)

Direct care workers provide daily assistance to millions of older Americans, people with disabilities, and others with chronic care needs. Direct care workers include personal care aides, home health aides, and nursing assistants. These workers are the backbone of the long-term care workforce and assist individuals with daily tasks by preparing meals, managing medications, providing transportation, and providing much needed relief for family caregivers. The direct care workforce is essential to ensuring older Americans and people with disabilities live with dignity and independence.

**There is a growing demand for direct care and but not enough workers to meet the demand.** The population age 65 and older increased from 38.8 million in 2008 to 52.4 million in 2018 (a 35 percent increase) and is projected to reach [94.7 million in 2060](#). Further, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), [one in four adults](#), or 61 million Americans is currently living with a disability. Between 2018 and 2028, the direct care workforce is projected to [add more than 1.3 million new jobs](#).

**Direct care workers care for and support some of our nation's most vulnerable people. However, the workforce itself is also vulnerable to low wages, difficult working conditions, and economic insecurity.** [Nine in ten direct care workers are women, half are people are color, and a quarter are immigrants](#). Many direct care workers do not have education beyond high school and lack access to a career pathway or advanced training. The rate of injury among direct care workers is over [three times higher](#) than other professions while the current median wage for direct care workers is [just under \\$13 an hour](#). [One in six workers lives in poverty](#) and 44 percent of direct care workers rely on some form of public assistance to support themselves and their families.

To meet the growing demand for direct care workers, improve working conditions, and create greater economic opportunity, Congress should invest in the workforce that cares for millions of people every day.

**The *Direct CARE Opportunity Act* addresses the need for a prepared, well-trained, and empowered direct care workforce now and for the future. The *Direct CARE Opportunity Act*:**

- Provides funding to states and entities to invest in strategies to recruit, retain and advance the direct care workforce pipeline;
- Implements models and strategies to make the field of direct care more attractive, such as training and registered apprenticeships, career pathways, or mentoring, allowing for local and regional innovation to address workforce shortages and needs in a high-demand field;
- Encourages retention and career advancement in the growing field of direct care;
- Responds to the needs of a growing aging population and allows older Americans, people with disabilities, and others who require direct care services to remain in their communities, when possible; and
- Supports the health and wellbeing of those who need and rely on direct care services, helping to prevent costlier institutional care.