



Texas Association for
Home Care & Hospice
Leading ★ Advancing ★ Advocating

Winter Conference

Thursday, February 19, 2026

8:30am-9:30am

INDUSTRY UPDATE: Voices that Move Policy: Home Care Leaders on the Power of Advocacy

Presented by:

Rachel Hammon, Executive Director, TAHC&H

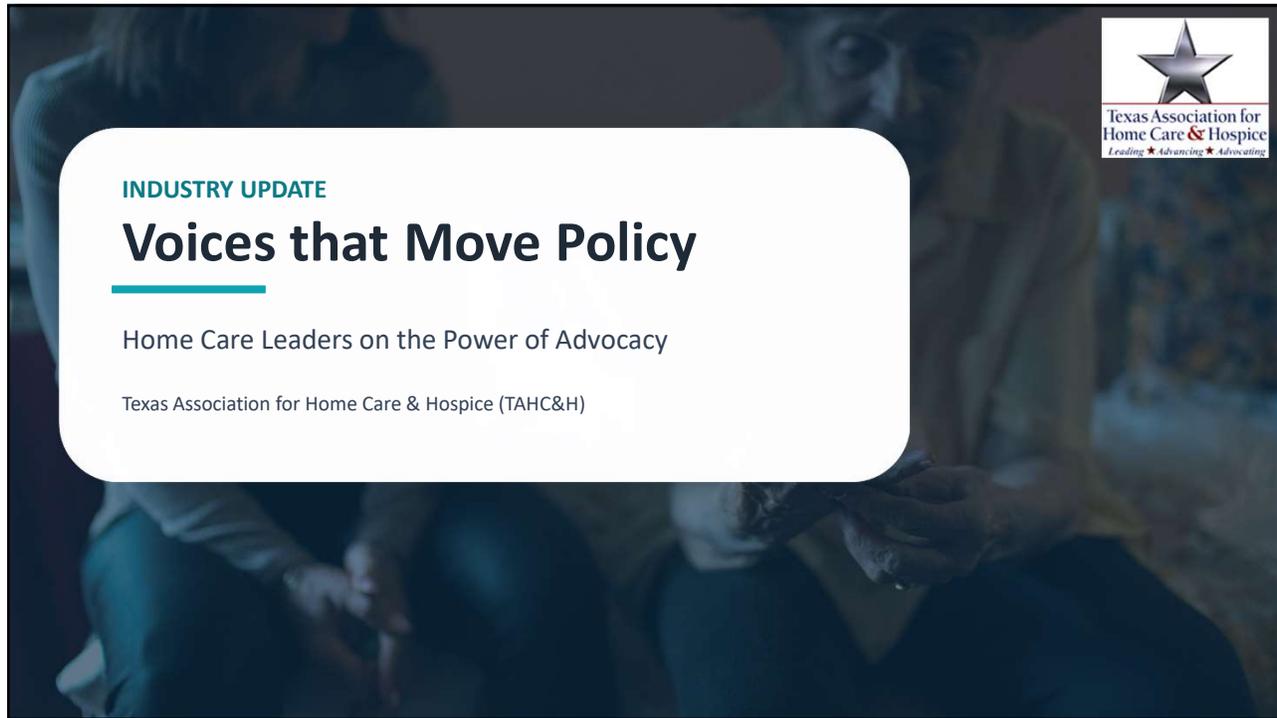
Bradley E Madison, Administrator, ComPassion Personal Care
Services & ComPassion At Home;

Dana Madison, DNP, MBA, BSN, RN, BSA ComPassion

Kandis McClure, Policy Advisor, Akin

Thank you to our Partners:







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INDUSTRY UPDATE

Voices that Move Policy

Home Care Leaders on the Power of Advocacy

Texas Association for Home Care & Hospice (TAHC&H)

1

Why Advocacy, Why Now

Translating headlines into priorities and action



Home is where people want to receive care.
But the policy and regulatory landscape is moving fast.

- Payment pressure and proposed reductions are reshaping access.
- Workforce strain is colliding with rising demand for care-at-home.
- Managed care growth and utilization controls are changing the "rules of the road."
- Targeted program integrity activity is increasing scrutiny for HH and hospice.
- State decisions on rates and oversight will determine local capacity.

Today is not a training — it's a timely, solutions-focused conversation.



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2

2

Panel

Home care leaders and public advocacy experts

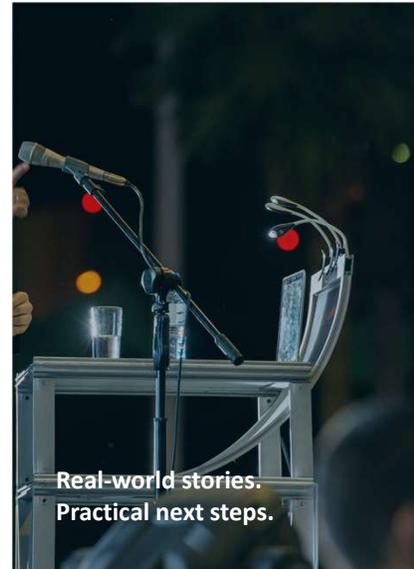


Moderator

Rachel Hammon — Executive Director, TAHC&H

Panelists

- Bradley E. Madison — Administrator, ComPassion Personal Care Services & ComPassion At Home
- Marjorie Costello, DSSW — Lifespan Home Care
- Dana Madison, DNP, MBA, BSN, RN, BSA — ComPassion Home Care / Advance Care Management / ComPassion Home Health Care
- Kandis McClure, Akin Gump Representative



3

Mission

The mission of the Texas Association for Home Care & Hospice (TAHC&H) is to advocate for ethical practices, quality, and economic viability of licensed home care and hospice providers to enhance the well-being of individuals and their families throughout Texas.

Leadership • Integrity • Innovation • Inclusion • Trust • Excellence

4

Our Advocacy Priorities

State and Federal



Federal

- Adequate Medicare home health reimbursement
- Medicare Advantage (MA) managed care oversight
- Permanent telehealth flexibility (HH & hospice)
- Protect access in Medicaid HCBS reforms
- Targeted hospice program integrity
- Veterans Affairs (VA) reimbursement and RFP changes



State

- Private Duty Nursing (PDN) rate increases
- Access-to-care standards
- Therapy rate increases
- Waitlist reporting improvements
- Community care rate enhancements (service support)
- EVV efficiencies
- Sunset process input



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5

Issue Focus (Federal)

CY 2026 Medicare Home Health Rule



What's at stake

Continued payment adjustments and policy shifts can destabilize capacity — especially in rural and high-need communities.

The signal

- CMS continues to apply payment adjustments (4B+)
- Concentrated Fraud & Abuse impacts CMS payment policy
- Access in Texas declines as margins erode

What we're saying

- In future rule making reverse payment reductions that were based on fraudulent data
- Stop cutting legitimate providers and fight fraud first
- Align policy with care-at-home growth

Advocacy In Action

What Providers are doing

- Targeted outreach to key Members of Congress
- Engaging CMS director Oz on Fraud and Abuse Issues
- Testimony at relevant hearings

Advocacy focus: protect access and stabilize capacity.

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6

Issue Focus (Federal)

Fraud & Abuse / Program Integrity (HH & Hospice)



What we support

- Targeted enforcement actions focused on known fraud patterns
- Data-driven oversight that distinguishes quality providers from outliers
- Program integrity that does not create access barriers for patients and families

What we're watching

- Overly broad policies that can delay admissions or disrupt continuity of care
- Provider burden that pulls resources away from patient care
- Misalignment across payers that increases administrative complexity



Target the bad actors.
Protect legitimate care.

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7

7

Issue Focus (Federal)

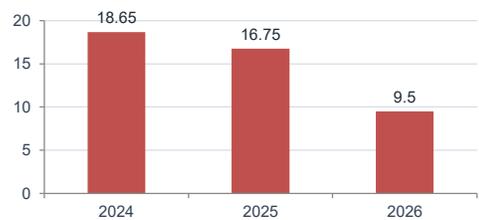
Veterans Affairs (VA): Rate reductions & RFP changes



Home care access for Veterans depends on stable reimbursement.

TAHC&H is advocating for rate stability and transparent contracting so Veterans can remain safely at home.

Illustrative VA homemaker/home health aide rate trend



Year	Rate
2024	18.65
2025	16.75
2026	9.5

Rates shown from provided VA summary (FY24–FY26).

Advocacy focus

- Elevate access impacts for Veterans (especially rural areas) to Texas Delegation
- Coordinate with media to elevate provider and patient stories
- Push for rate adequacy and predictable updates
- Engage VA on future RFP design and transition protections

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8

8

Issue Focus (Federal)

Managed Care in Medicare Home Health (Medicare Advantage)



What we're seeing

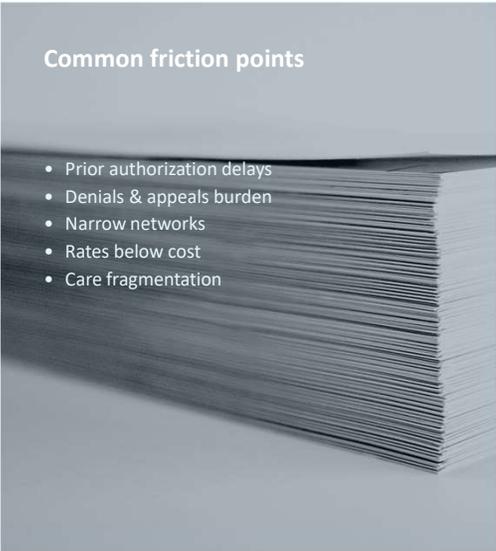
- Administrative requirements that delay start of care and create downstream hospital/ED risk
- Payment and claim issues that increase provider burden and reduce willingness to accept MA patients
- Lack of transparency on coverage criteria and network adequacy

Advocacy asks (examples)

- Standardize and limit prior authorization for post-acute care
- Increase reporting and transparency on denials, appeals, and time-to-decision
- Strengthen network adequacy and payment oversight for home-based care

Common friction points

- Prior authorization delays
- Denials & appeals burden
- Narrow networks
- Rates below cost
- Care fragmentation



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9

9

Issue Focus (State)

Private Duty Nursing (PDN): rate shortfall and access

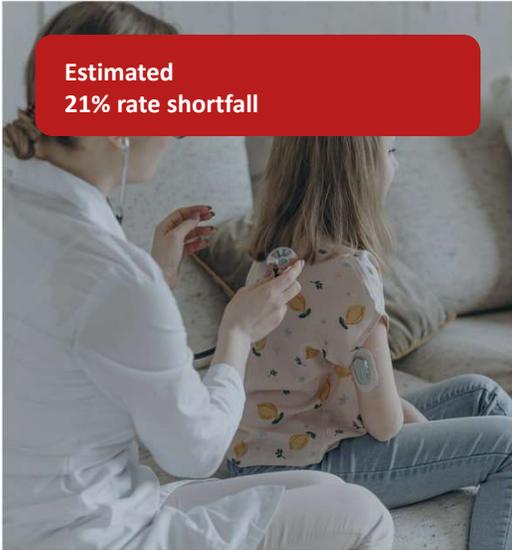


Challenge

PDN reimbursement is not keeping pace with the cost of delivering high-acuity care at home, putting medically fragile children at risk of delayed or unavailable services.

TAHC&H interim priorities (examples)

- Close the PDN rate gap to protect access and provider capacity
- Ensure authorizations and billing policies support timely service delivery
- Use transparent cost data and regularly updated methodologies to set rates
- Elevate family stories and community impact to policymakers



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10

10

Issue Focus (State)

Therapy waitlists: reporting and payment policy




Waitlists are an access signal — not just a metric.

Reporting should drive action: policy + funding aligned to real demand.

What we're seeing

- High-demand therapy services with persistent waitlists
- Reporting that doesn't consistently trigger funding decisions
- Provider capacity constrained by rates and workforce availability

Policy opportunities

- Improve waitlist reporting and accountability
- Revisit payment policy to better match service delivery unique to home care
- Align rate-setting with cost trends and access standards

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11

Issue Focus (State)

Community care rate restructure: opportunity to fund service support




Rate methodology matters.

If the data is flawed, the rate will be too.

Opportunity

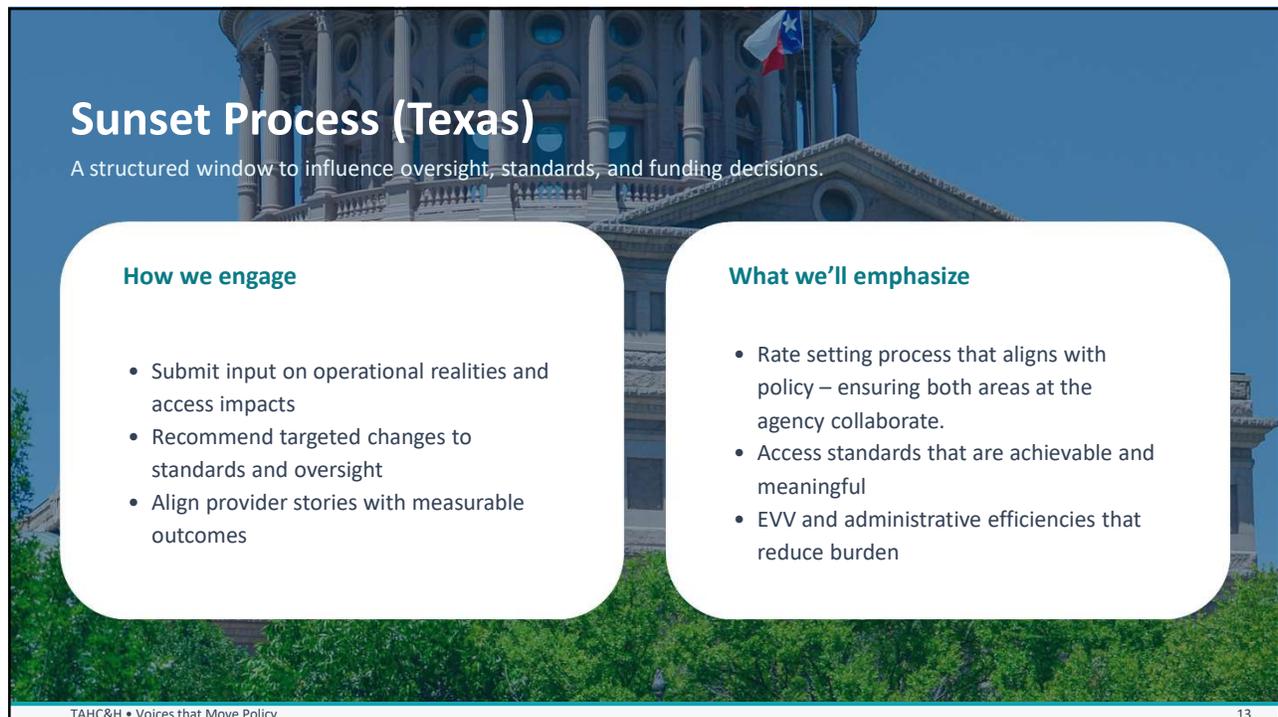
A restructure can better balance the service support portion of the rate and reflect the true cost of compliant, high-quality care delivery.

Areas of focus (examples)

- Appropriately fund the service support portion of the rate
- Exclude 1099 contractor data from cost reports used to calculate rate adequacy
- Improve transparency in rate-setting assumptions and data quality
- Create EVV efficiencies to reduce burden while preserving oversight

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12



Sunset Process (Texas)

A structured window to influence oversight, standards, and funding decisions.

How we engage

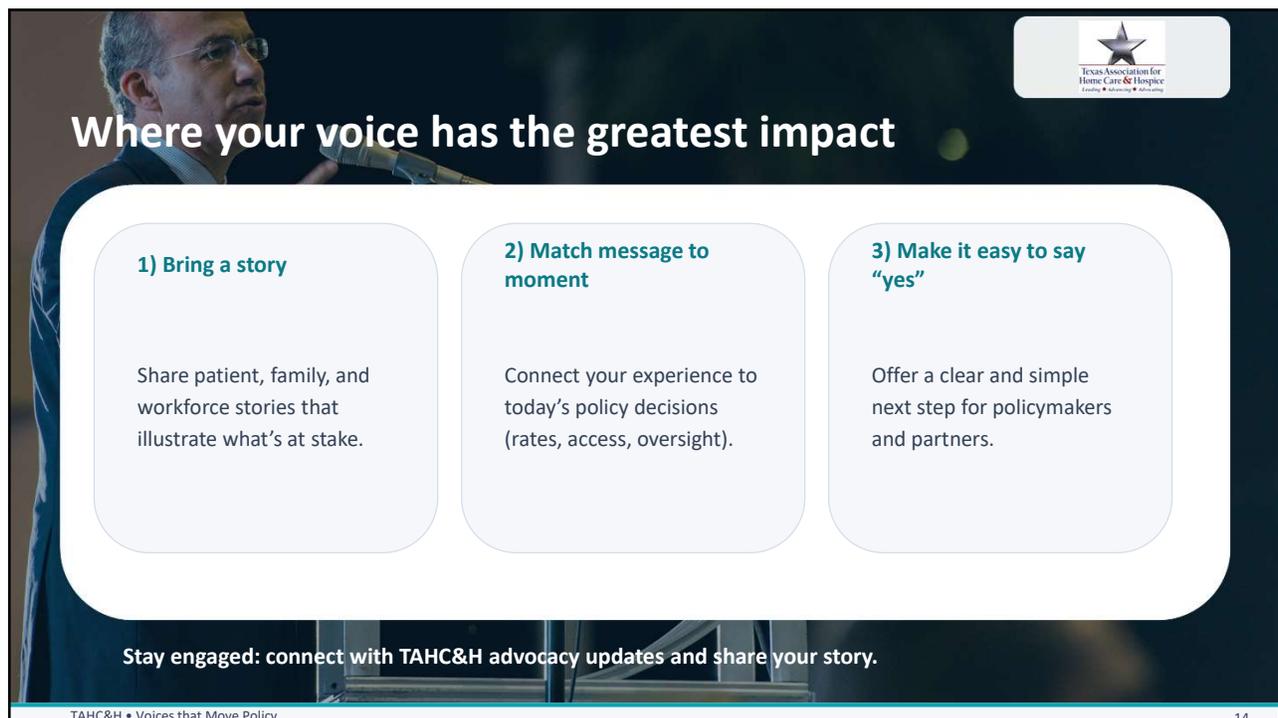
- Submit input on operational realities and access impacts
- Recommend targeted changes to standards and oversight
- Align provider stories with measurable outcomes

What we'll emphasize

- Rate setting process that aligns with policy – ensuring both areas at the agency collaborate.
- Access standards that are achievable and meaningful
- EVV and administrative efficiencies that reduce burden

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13



Where your voice has the greatest impact

1) Bring a story

Share patient, family, and workforce stories that illustrate what's at stake.

2) Match message to moment

Connect your experience to today's policy decisions (rates, access, oversight).

3) Make it easy to say "yes"

Offer a clear and simple next step for policymakers and partners.

Stay engaged: connect with TAHC&H advocacy updates and share your story.

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14



Ways to Contribute

Home Care Defense Fund



Home Care & Hospice PAC



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15



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16