AMDA House of Delegates Report

Wayne Saltsman
Chairman, House of Delegates
March 2023

This report has follow up information on resolutions as well as a summary of the overall policy compendium review. The following resolutions were introduced to the House of Delegates on March 10, 2022. Below are the resulting positions, polices or actions taken by the AMDA HOD, with actions taken or pending by the Board of Directors:

**A22 — Streamlining Assisted Living Communities**

HOD RESULT: **PASSED BY VOICE VOTE**
BOARD ACTION: **Adopted as AMDA Policy March 24, 2022**

Introduced by: The Illinois Society for Post-Acute and Long-Term Care Medicine

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that AMDA-The Society for Post-Acute and Long-Term Care Medicine, together with likeminded professional organizations such as American Geriatrics Society, American Medical Association, American College of Physicians and American Academy of Family Physicians and consumer organizations such AARP, advocate for a nationwide and streamlined approach to both a consistent nomenclature of and for clarity and uniformity in the menu of care and services provided by Assisted Living Communities.

**B22 — Medical Direction for Assisted Living Communities**

HOD RESULT: **FAILED BY HAND COUNT**
BOARD ACTION: The Board asked that this resolution be referred to the AL Subcommittee for further action.

This resolution failed to pass the HOD. Board members agreed that this is a topic that has already been taken up by our AL Subcommittee and we have supported this position informally; however, we do not have a formal policy on this, and we should wait for the AL Committee to return with a recommendation before adopting this as policy. While there is growing consensus for the need for qualified medical oversight in assisted living, the requirement for a physician medical director is not yet fully supported. It was noted that during COVID the very limited ability of AL communities to respond to infectious disease was clearly shown, hence there is some urgency to produce a policy statement that can empower AL communities to move on this before the public health emergency expires.
Introducing by: The Illinois Society for Post-Acute and Long-Term Care Medicine

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that AMDA-The Society for Post-Acute and Long-Term Care Medicine, together with likeminded professional organizations such as American Geriatrics Society, American Medical Association, American College of Physicians and American Academy of Family Physicians and consumer organizations such as AARP, advocate for the establishment of a Medical Director role for Assisted Living Communities to be responsible for implementation of resident care policies and coordination of medical care.

C22—Preventing Unnecessary Hospitalization in Long-Term Care Communities

HOD RESULT: REFERRED TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS BY VOICE VOTE AS AMENDED
BOARD ACTION: Referred to the Public Policy Steering Committee (PPSC). The PPSC reviewed and recommends Board adoption.

Introduced by: The Illinois Society for Post-Acute and Long-Term Care Medicine

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that AMDA-The Society for Post-Acute and Long-Term Care Medicine work with the American Medical Association (AMA) and other interested parties to seek legislative and/or regulatory action modifying the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services’ (CMS) Part A benefits to enable Medical Directors, Attending Physicians and Clinical Practitioners, to certify the need for skilled nursing facility care independent of preceding hospitalizations for Medicare beneficiaries in Assisted Living Communities and Long-Term Care facilities.

D22—Ownership Transparency

HOD RESULT: PASSED BY VOICE VOTE
BOARD ACTION: Adopted as AMDA Policy March 24, 2022

Introduced by: California Association of Long Term Care Medicine

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that AMDA-The Society for Post-Acute and Long-Term Care Medicine support efforts to increase transparency in nursing home ownership and related party transactions;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that AMDA-The Society for Post-Acute and Long-Term Care Medicine work with other stakeholder organizations and legislators to require transparency in nursing facility cost reports, including all related parties under a chain’s corporate umbrella.

E22—Consensus Leadership

HOD RESULT: REFERRED TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS BY VOICE VOTE AS AMENDED
BOARD ACTION: BOD voted to adopt this as policy; Referred it to the Education Committee for further action.
Board members pointed out that this style of leadership, along with others, is already being taught at the Core; also, this resolution encompasses a concept of all-team leadership, not just medical directors. After discussion, the Board agreed to adopt this as policy.

Introduced by: California Association of Long Term Care Medicine

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that AMDA - The Society for Post-Acute and Long-Term Care Medicine strongly support education and training on leadership with other stakeholders.;

F22— Medical Director's Role in Promoting and Implementing the Principles of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in all Care Settings of Post-Acute and Long-Term Care

HOD RESULT: PASSED BY VOICE VOTE AS AMENDED
BOARD ACTION: BOD Adopted without objection. Board members felt that we are already pursuing this with our DE&I workgroup, and it would be important that we adopt this resolution as policy in order to put us on the record that we support DE&I. The Board agreed without objection to adopt this resolution.

Introduced by: The Mid-Atlantic Society for Post-Acute and Long-Term Care Medicine, Illinois Society for Post-Acute and Long-term Care Medicine, Diversity Equity and Inclusion Work Group

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that AMDA-The Society for Post-Acute and Long-Term Care Medicine develop a white paper, toolkits, educational resources, webinars, podcasts, and clinical practice guidelines to foster Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) in Post-Acute and Long-Term Care (PALTC), and host a dedicated webpage featuring them to serve as a resource for PALTC facilities, medical directors, practitioners, staff, residents and families.;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that AMDA-The Society for Post-Acute and Long-Term Care Medicine endorse it as a part of Certified Medical Director (CMD) Core Competencies, and it encourage and facilitate Medical Directors to play an active role in training clinical practitioners, facility staff, and leadership regarding Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI), and promoting and implementing the principles of DEI in all care settings of Post-Acute and Long-Term Care.

G22L— HPSA and MUA Designation for PALTC

RESULT: LATE RESOLUTION REFERRED TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
BOARD ACTION: Adopted as AMDA Policy March 24, 2022
AMA Action: AMA referred this resolution to reference committee for further study.

Introduced by: The Illinois Society for Post-Acute and Long-Term Care Medicine

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that AMDA-The Society for Post-Acute and Long-Term Care Medicine, together with likeminded professional organizations such as American Geriatrics Society, American Medical Association, and consumer organizations such as
AARP and others, advocate for legislative action directing United States department of Health and Human Services to designate all Post-Acute and Long-Term Care communities, irrespective of their geographic location, as Health professional Shortage Areas and/or Medically Underserved Areas to facilitate recruitment and retention of health professionals using the usual and customary support made available for such designations.

H22L—Undocumented Noncitizens for PALTC

HOD RESULT: LATE RESOLUTION REFERRED TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
BOARD ACTION: Adopted as AMDA Policy March 24, 2022

Introduced by: The Illinois Society for Post-Acute and Long-Term Care Medicine

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that AMDA-The Society for Post-Acute and Long-Term Care Medicine, together with likeminded professional organizations such as American Geriatrics Society, American Medical Association, and consumer organizations such as AARP and others, advocate for legislative action to create a pathway to immigration for undocumented noncitizens in the United States, who show their commitment to their intended homeland by working as Certified Nursing Assistants and/or Nurses in Post-Acute and Long-Term Care settings for a minimum of five years.

I22L—Stopping Eating and Drinking by Advance Directives Policy Revision

HOD RESULT: LATE RESOLUTION REFERRED TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
BOARD ACTION: BOD voted to rescind current policy (A19)

BOD to convene a writing group to revise the policy.

This late resolution was referred to the Board for action. Dr. Gillespie provided some background to this resolution and the request to revise this policy coming from the Board, based on discussions with members and those outside AMDA that the policy is inflexible and does not acknowledge the uniqueness of individual and family circumstances and preferences. In discussion, the suggestion was to approve the first resolved statement, leaving the method of revision to a future group.

The Board's consensus was to adopt this resolution as follows: (a) to suspend the white paper as written, (b) to convene a writing group to revise the paper and (c) to present this paper to the Board and then the HOD for consideration in 2023.

Introduced by: Independent Review Task Force of AMDA- The Society for Post-Acute and Long-Term Care Medicine "Stopping Eating and Drinking by Advance Directives (SED by AD) in the ALF and PALTC Setting" White Paper

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that AMDA—The Society for Post-Acute and Long-Term Care Medicine rescind its current policy that requests for Stopping of Eating and Drinking by Advance Directives (SED by AD) should not be honored under any circumstances unless a patient resists or shows distress with hand-feeding;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that AMDA—The Society for Post-Acute and Long-Term
Care Medicine designate the Stopping of Eating and Drinking by Advance Directives (SED by AD) Independent Review Task Force to create a White Paper discussing approaches and best practices to SED by AD or alternate legal and ethical frameworks that address ethical and practical concerns.

Policy Compendium Review

This year the Society’s policy compendiums were reviewed by the HoD Chair and HoD Board representatives to ensure they were up to date and still relevant to current policy. The following resolutions were deferred to the historical compendium:

- **E18**: Proposal to Include Doctoral Level Non-Physician Allied Health Practitioners as Full members of AMDA: The Society for Post-Acute and Long-Term Care Medicine
  - This resolution was referred to the Board in 2018 and later failed to pass.
  - A similar resolution, C20, was introduced in 2020 proposing same addition to membership and was passed.

- **E09-L**: The Need for Proper and Accurate Submission of Death Certificates and Cremation Authorizations, and Appropriate Physician Reimbursement.
  - This was a late resolution that did not receive any HOD discussion.
  - HOD Chair felt this was no longer a significant issue for members.

- **F09-L**: Position Statement on Medical Director Training
  - This was discussed at HOD and referred to the BOD. It was later reintroduced as white paper A11.

- **B06**: White House Conference on Aging
  - Historical background no current policy

- **Ho6**: Recognition of Billy Dodd
  - Annual awards honoring Dr. Dodd have become the norm for AMDA.

Some further considerations for the Board after reviewing the Policy Compendium:

- **C07**: White Paper on Palliative Care and Hospice in Long Term Care
  - This White Paper is still relevant, should we consider reviewing and updating since it’s been more than 10 years?

Thank you,
Wayne Saltsman, MD
Chairman, House of Delegates