

## Association Hosts Yet Another Successful Annual Conference

Last week, over 200 home care and hospice providers, business partners and expert speakers gathered at the Marriott Hartford Downtown to hear about *Disruptive Innovation* in Home Health, Hospice and Home Care.

The day kicked off with National Association for Home Care and Hospice President Bill Dombi who likened Home Care to climate change and weather predictions. While much of our horizon is mostly sunny as we are the cost savings vehicle in healthcare, we also face some difficult storms ahead with proposed Medicare home health cuts, enhance Hospice oversight and scrutiny, and underfunding of personal care. Mr. Dombi urged all to be more vocal, to advocate with both your state and your federal leaders.

Following the opening keynote was a thought-provoking presentation on technology and leadership by Cindy Campbell from WellSky. We also heard from Nick Fisher (MissionCare) on the drivers of personal care workers learning to understand what's important to them and why they do the work they do. This, in turn, should drive scheduling, recognition, engagement and ultimately retention.

We had three valuable breakouts touching on all three areas of home care (Hospice Analytics, Interdisciplinary Care Teams in Home Health, and a comprehensive Legislative Update impacting primarily non-medical home care services.

The day was capped off with laughter as we heard from comedian and APRN Angel Rentas!

Tucked in between all these great speakers were our annual awards honoring legislators, state partners and our very own members and past members.

- Legislator of the Year Awards:
  - “The entire Aging Committee” for their tireless efforts in passing a comprehensive Homemaker-Companion Agency bill looking first to enhance oversight by DCP while also adding clarity to best practice standards and expectations. Eventually, DPH will be submitting a plan with DCP to transition this level of care over to DPH.
  - Senator Eric Berthel for his work to align Adult Complex Nursing Care with Pediatric Complex Nursing Care effective 1/1/24.
- Friend of Healthcare at Home:
  - Dawne Jimenez (DSS) for her collaboration and leadership on the Electronic Visit Verification processes, policies and challenges while always seeking input and suggestions from the home care providers.
- Judith Hriceniak Award for Excellence in Nursing Leadership:
  - Jennifer LeDuc, MSN, RN, Director of Operations and Quality at Day Kimball Healthcare at Home
- CT Association for Healthcare at Home Class of 2023 Hall of Fame:

- Joanne Walsh: Home Health Executive Leader for over 30 years; Association Board of Directors and Board Chair 2003-2004; and founder of the first CT Nightingale Awards for excellence in nursing.
- Cheryl Leslie Humble: Association Director of Reimbursement and Regulatory Affairs; Quality, Reimbursement and Risk Management RN Expert and Consultant; Association Member and Supporter; CT TPL Lead.

Thank you to all members for your ongoing support and dedication to our Association. We couldn't do this work without all of you!