

MassNAELA Monday Minute

The format of the *Monday Minute* includes brief summaries and highlights in the first section, followed by a second section containing more detail about events and registration information.

If you would like to submit any ideas or content for the *Monday Minute*, please send your submission to MassNAELA Executive Director, Clarence Richardson at Clarence@MassNAELA.com.

Meetings/Events This Week

- **Wednesday 1/24**
 - **DEI Committee - 10:00AM** - We will be continuing our work to diversify the membership and outreach efforts.
[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82908434639?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82908434639?pwd=djRNQUxHOGpxWGVodHEwbS85ZDVNdz09)
[pwd=djRNQUxHOGpxWGVodHEwbS85ZDVNdz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82908434639?pwd=djRNQUxHOGpxWGVodHEwbS85ZDVNdz09)
Meeting ID: 829 0843 4639
Passcode: 281101
 - **Board of Directors Meeting - 1:00PM** - The board will be discussing the strategic plan, membership renewals, committee reports, and getting an update from the Executive Director.
(Contact Clarence@MassNAELA.com for the Zoom information)
- **Thursday 1/25**
 - **Virtual Public Policy Meeting - 3:30PM** - We will be discussing all of the current issues our Chapter is addressing and getting feedback from members about new issues that have been identified.
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88937556205>
Meeting ID: 889 3755 6205
Dial: +1 929 205 6099
 - **Virtual Social Hour - 6:00PM** - Join fellow members and sponsors for an informal discussion about the latest trends in elder and special needs law, along with some general networking. (Highly recommended for participants in the MassNAELA Mentorship program.)
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86433401611>
Meeting ID: 864 3340 1611
Dial: +1 929 205 6099
 - **Virtual Dinner Meeting 7:00PM** - "Staying Home: Unlocking Access to Medicaid's Home Care Programs" (Details below.)

[Click Here to Register](#)

- **Monday 1/29**
 - **MassNAELA Elder Law Institute Planning Committee - 4:00PM**
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83160935177>
Meeting ID: 831 6093 5177

Most recent Pooled Trust update

Please use the link below to access the recording of the January 16, 2024 Chapter Check-in. Executive Director, Clarence Richardson, along with representatives from Planned Lifetime Assistance Network (PLAN of MA and RI) discussed the latest updates regarding the March 1, 2024 implementation of MassHealth regulations, which make transfers to pooled trusts penalizable for permanently and totally disabled individuals who are 65 and older.

[Click Here to watch the recording](#)

Opportunity to share concerns with the Attorney General's Office - Elder Justice Unit

Several members of MassNAELA, along with representatives of other groups that serve Massachusetts elders, will be meeting with the Massachusetts Attorney General's Office - Elder Justice Unit three or four times each year. This will be an opportunity for us to build awareness about the issues our clients are facing and suggest ways that Massachusetts can better protect individuals as they age. Here are a few examples of issues that we have raised so far:

- Implementation of 93A regulations for Assisted Living Residences;
- Improved oversight and updated regulations for Nursing Homes; and
- Financial institutions arbitrarily denying valid powers of attorney.

Please use the link below to share your thoughts with MassNAELA and we will bring these issues to an upcoming meeting of the Elder Justice Unit.

[Click Here to share your concerns](#)

Opportunity to provide feedback to MassHealth

During a recent meeting with MassHealth, our organization brought up the issue of training for MassHealth Eligibility Caseworkers (MEC workers). MassHealth Leadership would like to address any shortfalls in their training, so they requested input regarding the issues our members are experiencing with new case workers. **Please complete this form by January 31, 2024** to share your thoughts. The responses will be compiled by MassNAELA and shared anonymously with MassHealth.

[Click Here to provide feedback](#)

Member Benefit Spotlight - MCLE Conference Vouchers

MCLE would like to support the important work that the MassNAELA attorneys do for the Massachusetts legal community by allocating 10 MCLE scholarship vouchers per year to our membership. These vouchers allow the recipient to attend any one-or two-day regular MCLE program for a flat rate of \$35. The vouchers are intended to assist with access to continuing legal education and professional development, particularly for attorneys who accept pro-bono cases or who are new to practice. **If you are interested in obtaining a voucher, please contact Clarence (Clarence@MassNAELA.com).**

Workgroup & Committee Announcements and Future Meetings

MassNAELA Workgroups and Committees consist of dedicated volunteers who are hard at work year-round. These announcements highlight a few recent developments from some of our Workgroups and Committees and will change from week to week. If you are able to donate an hour of your time, our Workgroups and Committees would love to have your support. In addition, many of our volunteers have appreciated the knowledge and connections they have gained from being more active. Contact Clarence to find out how you can help.

- The **Special Needs and Disability Workgroup** is seeking writers, editors, and proofreaders for the 3rd Edition of MassNAELA's Special Needs and Disability Advocacy Toolkit. If you would like to be part of the team of MassNAELA volunteers that produces this publication for the public, please contact Clarence.

Further Detail For Topics Above

Virtual Dinner Meeting, Thursday, January 25, 2024

Staying Home: Unlocking Access to Medicaid's Home Care Programs

A recent study found that 88% of older adults prefer to receive long-term care in their own homes as they age. Yet, MassHealth's community programs are complicated to navigate, creating a seemingly impenetrable vault of complex eligibility rules that prevent access to these benefits and push our older adults unwillingly into the institutional system. After attending this program, you will hold the keys to accessing eligibility for community MassHealth benefits for your clients. Two MassNAELA Past Presidents will show you the blueprints for the following programs: Personal Care Attendant, Frail Elder Waiver, Choices, Program of All-inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE), and CommonHealth. Adult Foster Care. You will leave the program knowing:

- which programs have an income and/or asset limit, or no limits at all;
- which programs allow a spousal waiver;
- which programs do not penalize gifts; (*spoiler alert: ALL of them!*)
- when a recurring deductible is required and how to calculate it;
- when a one-time deductible is required and how to calculate it;
- what the tax-free stipend is and when that is the best option;
- when PACE is the right solution for Assisted Living; and
- what role VA health care benefits can play (other than Aid & Attendance);

You and your clients do not have to stay locked out of community benefits! Reserve your seat for this program today.

Panelists:

Attorney Paula Almgren

Attorney Judy Flynn

Click Here to Register!

(This program will be recorded, so please register if you would like access to the recording.)

[Click Here](#) for the Full Program Notice

Schedule for the Day

3:30 - 5:00 Advocacy Committee Updates (Zoom Meeting Format, this will not be recorded. The log-in information is below, will be sent to everyone who registers, and posted on the listserv a couple of times in advance of the meeting.)

5:00 - 6:00 Break for Dinner

6:00 - 6:45 Pre-program social hour (Zoom Meeting Format, this will not be recorded. The log-in information will be sent to everyone who registers and posted on the listserv a couple of times in advance of the meeting. This part of the day is free and everyone is encouraged to attend to catch up with friends you may not have seen in a while.)

7:00 - 8:30 Virtual Program (Zoom Webinar Format.)

Zoom Information for Free Events

Topic: Social Hour

Time: Jan 25, 2024 06:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86433401611>

Meeting ID: 864 3340 1611

Dial by your location

+1 929 205 6099 US

Meeting ID: 864 3340 1611

Topic: Advocacy Update Meeting

Time: Jan 25, 2024 03:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88937556205>

Meeting ID: 889 3755 6205

Dial by your location
+1 929 205 6099 US
Meeting ID: 889 3755 6205

**Contact Executive Director, Clarence Richardson at
Clarence@MassNAELA.com or 617-566-5640 with any questions.**

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