

**OUR PROGRAM BEGINS AT 12:30**

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# PURPOSE

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**We champion shared learning across the clinical and executive leaders of Minnesota’s assisted living and skilled care settings.**

**Through supportive dialogue grounded in the ECHO principle of “all teach, all learn,” our virtual community of interdisciplinary leaders shares promising practices to improve operational outcomes and quality of life as we age.**



# THE CHECK-IN

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*Have you ever visited the  
Minnesota State Capitol,  
testified or talked with your  
elected officials?*



# WELCOME: January 27, 2026

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**THE CHECK-IN**



**HOW MIGHT 2026 RULES  
AND POLICIES CHANGE  
OUR WORK?**



**ALL TEACH.  
ALL LEARN.**



# WELCOME

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# JANUARY 27, 2026

## HOW MIGHT 2026 RULES AND POLICIES CHANGE OUR WORK?



**ERIN HUPPERT**  
LEADINGAGE MINNESOTA



**NICOLE MATTSON**  
CARE PROVIDERS OF MINNESOTA

# LTC Imperative

# 2026 Legislative Session

January 27, 2026

# Long-Term Care Imperative

- **The Long-Term Care Imperative** is a public policy collaboration between Care Providers of Minnesota and LeadingAge Minnesota and together we represent a majority of older adult service providers throughout the state.

- **Erin Huppert**, Vice President of Advocacy

LeadingAge Minnesota [ehuppert@leadingagemn.org](mailto:ehuppert@leadingagemn.org)



- **Nicole Mattson**, Vice President of Advocacy & Workforce Development

Care Provider of Minnesota [nmattson@careproviders.org](mailto:nmattson@careproviders.org)



# 2026 Legislative Session Important Dates

- Tuesday, February 17, 2026 – Legislative session starts
- Late February/Early March – February Forecast
- Monday, May 18, 2026 – End of legislative session

## Legislative Deadlines:

- 1st and 2nd Deadline: Friday, March 27 at 5:00 PM.
- 3rd Deadline: Friday, April 17 at 5:00 PM.

# Situational Awareness and Context

- Governor Walz will not run for a third term in 2026.
- 18 Legislators have already announced they will not seek another term.
  - More are expected to announce throughout the rest of the year, deadline to file for the 2026 election is in June.
  - Most retirements are from those who have more than six years as an elected Legislator.
- 6 Representatives have announced they will seek a seat in the Senate in 2026.
- 11 Legislators have announced they are seeking another office in 2026.
  - Those other offices include: Governor, State Auditor, County Commissioner, and Congress, among other.
- Minnesota House TIE-fecta
  - 67-67 tied expected after upcoming special elections.
  - Republican Speaker Lisa Demuth.
  - Tied committees besides a Republican majority on the Fraud Committee (5R – 3D).
- The Minnesota Senate DFL 34-33 majority.
  - This is their first election year session since 2022.

# Situational Awareness and Context

- Federal immigration enforcement—impacts to workforce
- Fraud
- DHS Pre-payment review
- State policy enactment of HR 1 Medicaid changes
- Surplus now, deficit later
- Potential for deeper cuts to VBR, some risk for cuts to EW

# 14 At-Risk DHS Medicaid Services

1. Early Intensive Developmental and Behavioral Intervention services for autism
2. Integrated Community Supports
3. Nonemergency Medical Transportation
4. Peer Recovery Services
5. Adult Rehabilitative Mental Health Services
6. Adult Day Services
7. Personal Care Assistance/Community First Services and Supports
8. Recuperative Care
9. Individualized Home Supports
10. Adult Companion Services
11. Night Supervision
12. Assertive Community Treatment
13. Intensive Residential Treatment Services
14. Housing Stabilization Services

***“We cannot effectively deliver programs and services if they don’t have the backing of the public’s trust. In order to restore that trust we are pumping the brakes on 14 programs that were created to help the most disadvantaged among us, yet have become the target of criminal activity”***

- Governor Walz 10/29/25

***“These investigations have revealed schemes involving billing for services not rendered, services billed at levels not supported by documentation, and exploitation of vulnerable Medicaid beneficiaries for financial gain”***

- Dr. Mehmet Oz 1/6/26

# 2026 Policy Goals

- Protect funding for senior care services and prevent further erosion of Medicaid services for older adults
- Seek Red Tape Relief to improve consumer affordability, reinforce seniors' autonomy, and lower paperwork burden
  - Exemption from liquor license law for resident activities
  - Recovery of attorneys' fees upon successful appeal of MDH citation
  - Establishment of due process for nurses by their licensing board
- Continue to limit the statutory scope of Nursing Home Workforce Standards Board
- Improve Medicaid processing times by lead agencies
- Potential policy changes to Assisted Living Licensure

# Other Legislative Proposals to Monitor

- Private Equity in healthcare entities
- Nurse Licensure Compact.
- Restraints in Assisted Living environments.
- Exempt Settings Regulation.
- Staffing Platform Regulations.
- Limitations on Zoning of Assisted Livings.
- Requiring a blanket guardian prohibition.
- Other new regulations.

# Grassroots Engagement

- Advocacy action center Care Providers of Minnesota
  - <https://www.careproviders.org/AdvocacyActionCenter>
  
- Advocacy action center LeadingAge Minnesota
  - <https://www.leadingagemn.org/get-involved/take-action/>

# NEXT SESSION

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*Visit us online:*

<https://www.mngeriatricsecho.org>

*Email:*

[GeriatricsECHO@umn.edu](mailto:GeriatricsECHO@umn.edu)



# FEBRUARY 10, 2026

## TO ADMIT OR NOT TO ADMIT: WHAT IF WE DON'T AGREE?



**SAMANTHA GERLAND**  
AIGOTA HEALTH CARE CENTER



**SHELLY HERRON**  
AIGOTA HEALTH CARE CENTER

# ALL TEACH. ALL LEARN.

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- What themes emerged in your small group?
- What questions do you have for the group?
- What lessons do you have to share on this topic?

