

**Friday Review—11/8/19**

Well, here we are with another three-day weekend approaching—at least for some of us. Seems like we just had one, but that’s OK by me.

**Wow, just wow**—That’s about all I can say after attending last night’s TLC4LTC Lip Sync Battle. So incredibly impressive! We have some very talented employees, administrators and owners among us. Kudos to everyone who had the courage to get up on stage and perform. Congratulations to the winners—the rehab team from Riverview who just crushed “Walk This Way”! Scalabrini Villa came in second with their rendition of Thriller and Morgan Health Center placed third with Love Shack. A fun night for a serious cause. Special shoutout to Pam Bibeault for all her hard work in putting this show together. I can’t wait till next year!

**RIHCA at work for you**—We all know that Medicaid reimbursement is a serious issue. Leaders from RIHCA have been conducting a series of meetings over the last few weeks and months, making our pitch for more funding. This week almost the entire RIHCA Board of Directors sat down with Governor Raimondo. The Governor was engaged, asked good questions and spent close to an hour with us. While we made our best case, as we know, there are no guarantees what our funding will look like in next year’s budget. Since the summer, we have held two meetings with Medicaid Director Tigue, and also met with the new Secretary of EOHHS, Womazetta Jones, as well as the policy director for Speaker Mattiello. We will continue our pitch for more funding. In the near future, I will be reaching out to some of you to talk about scheduling legislative visits so our lawmakers can see all the good work that we do in our facilities every day.

**See you on Thursday?**—We all work hard, so we need to have some fun too, right? The RIHCA Silent Auction is coming up this Thursday, November 14th. We have lots of great items for you to bid on. The event is at the 1149 Restaurant in East Greenwich. The fun starts at 5:00. We will also be having a brief general membership meeting at 5:30 to present the proposed RIHCA Board of Directors for next year. Hope to see you on Thursday!

**Did you know this?**—Nine states allow a patient who has less than six months to live, and is mentally competent to request a lethal prescription. As you can imagine, this is a very controversial practice. You can read the article in Provider magazine here: <http://www.providermagazine.com/archives/2019_Archives/Pages/1119/Medical-Aid-in-Dying-A-Continuing-Trend.aspx>

**Statins—Good and bad**—Statins have long been used for a variety of positive health outcomes. But now there’s a study which shows they may cause an increase in skin infections.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/11/04/well/live/statins-tied-to-risk-of-skin-infections.html>

**Updated date**—In a previous edition of Friday Review, we talked about the upcoming deadline for filing an Intent to Apply for an AHCA/NCAL quality award. Well, there is good news. This deadline has been extended. So, if you have any interest, now is the time to let the folks at AHCA/NCAL know. Here’s the scoop from AHCA: Due to technical difficulties with the Quality Award Portal, we are extending the AHCA/NCAL National Quality Award Intent to Apply (ITA) deadline to **Thursday, November 21.** Submissions must be received before 8:00pm Eastern on November 21.

**MTM-The Problems Continue**—This is not news to most of you. The Rhode Island House Committee on Oversight, chaired by Representative Pat Serpa, held a hearing this week on the continuing problems with MTM. Most of the testimony was a scathing attack on both MTM, and EOHHS. RIHCA testified at the hearing and brought several recent major problems in service to the committee’s attention. The legislature is not happy. Our member homes are not happy. Residents are not happy. MTM drivers are not happy. But the contract continues. On the day following the hearing, another egregious act on the part of an MTM driver was reported to me and I reported it to both the state and MTM. We can only continue our drumbeat. Please continue to let me know of problems you have with MTM.

Well, let’s not end on a sour note. It’s Friday. For some it’s payday. For others, you are looking at a three-day weekend. As for the Patriots, well, I didn’t expect to go undefeated. I’ll take a record of 8-1 at this point in the season. And since the boys are having a well-deserved weekend off, instead of saying “Go Pats!”, I will close by saying “No Pats!”

Have a great weekend!