

## 2024 Board Candidates

### Corporate (Vote for 5)

Ramzi Abdine  
Mari Baxter  
Matt Boever  
Jake Brown  
Veronica Charles  
Matt Kroll  
Kevin Lundy  
Michael Slupecki

### Independent (Vote for 5)

Clayton Foutch  
Kunu Kaushal  
Neal Kursban  
Conant Schoenly  
Aaron Stapleton  
Matthew Walker

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## Corporate Organization Candidates

### Ramzi Abdine CEO, Comfort Keepers



#### What specific expertise would you bring to the HCAOA Board of Directors?

Stepping into the role of CEO at Comfort Keepers was both an honor and an immense learning curve. I'll be the first to admit that the experience was humbling. It tested me, reshaped my perspectives, and gifted me fresh eyes. Fresh eyes that I believe can offer a nuanced view to the HCAOA's profound mission.

1. **Sales & Business Development:** Throughout my career, I've discovered that forging genuine connections lies at the heart of sustainable growth. With the HCAOA, I see boundless opportunities to expand its influence. My expertise in sales and business development isn't just about numbers or growth percentages; it's about establishing meaningful relationships that can amplify our collective voice and position the HCAOA as the undisputed advocate for home care.
2. **Market Analysis:** Understanding our environment is critical. The home care landscape isn't static; it's a living, breathing entity with ever-shifting nuances. My grounding in market analysis provides me with the tools to listen, to pick up on subtle shifts, anticipate emerging needs, and translate data into actionable insights. For the HCAOA, this means being agile, responsive, and always a step ahead in our advocacy.
3. **Strategic Planning:** Vision is important. But what's vision without a path to realize it? My journey with Comfort Keepers taught me the immense value of strategic foresight. I want to bring that learned wisdom to the HCAOA. Crafting a roadmap that aligns with our mission, optimizes our resources, and ensures that our efforts are channeled where they can create the most impact.
4. **Team Facilitation:** My recent transition to CEO spotlighted the undeniable truth: the strength of an organization lies in its people. I learned the art of harmonizing diverse voices, facilitating dialogues that matter, and ensuring that everyone feels seen, heard, and valued. The HCAOA is a mosaic of



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incredible individuals. I believe in the power of bringing these voices together, ensuring our mission resonates with unity and purpose.

The vulnerability of stepping into new roles, such as my recent tenure at Comfort Keepers, often brings with it clarity and growth. It's this very blend of experiences, insights, and the humility of learning that I wish to offer the HCAOA. Together, with shared purpose and fresh perspectives, we can chart a course that champions home care like never before.

### Why do you want to serve on the Board of Directors?

Leading Comfort Keepers, one of the premier home care franchise networks in the United States, has offered me a unique vantage point on the home care industry. My journey has not been limited to domestic horizons; it has been enriched by extensive international experience in skilled care. Such a background blesses me with a blend of global and local insights that would undoubtedly enhance the breadth and depth of the HCAOA's mission.

- **Global Expertise for Local Enhancement:** Drawing from my international experiences, I understand the diverse models and best practices of skilled care from across the globe. Serving on the HCAOA board allows me to introduce these global standards, ensuring our home care industry remains at the forefront of quality and innovation.

- **Strategic Leadership:** As the CEO of Comfort Keepers, I possess a strategic acumen honed from managing both domestic and international operations. This dual perspective equips me to guide strategies that consider a holistic view of the industry, positioning the HCAOA as a global benchmark in home care.

- **Advocacy for Quality Care:** The HCAOA champions standards and practices that ensure individuals receive unparalleled home care. My time with Comfort Keepers will be dedicated to upholding these very standards. Serving on the board offers a broader platform to advocate for regulations and policies that align with both client needs and the evolving dynamics of the home care industry.

- **Industry Integration:** Comfort Keepers has always been at the forefront of innovation in home care. By serving on the HCAOA board, I can contribute towards creating an ecosystem where best practices are shared, ensuring a more integrated, efficient, and client-centric industry.

- **Driving Positive Change:** With the combined influence of Comfort Keepers and the HCAOA, we have the potential to drive meaningful change in the home care sector. This partnership ensures that our collective voice will be more potent in addressing challenges and seizing opportunities, ultimately resulting in enhanced care quality for countless individuals.

- **Passion and Empathy:** On a personal note, every story, every testimonial, and every moment shared by families and individuals benefiting from home care fuels my passion. Serving on the HCAOA board is not just a position - it's an avenue to channel this passion, ensuring that every individual, irrespective of their background or challenges, has access to the best care possible.

- **Strengthening the Home Care Community:** As the leader of Comfort Keepers, I recognize the power of community. Serving on the HCAOA board offers an opportunity to further build and nurture this community of providers, caregivers, and recipients. Together, we can share knowledge, address concerns, and celebrate milestones, fortifying the foundation of home care services in the United States.

In conclusion, serving on the board of the HCAOA is more than just an honor - it's a call to duty. For someone in my position, with the backing of an organization like Comfort Keepers, this duty is amplified. I see it as a golden opportunity to collaboratively shape the future of home care, ensuring that every individual receives the dignity, compassion, and excellence they so rightly deserve.

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### **Mari Baxter**

**Chief Operating Officer, Senior Helpers**



#### **What specific expertise would you bring to the HCAOA Board of Directors?**

I have 15 years in the Senior Care industry working with Senior Helpers, one of the top Senior Care franchisors in the industry. I oversee five corporately owned stores with 950 caregivers, 350 franchise locations and 2 international Master locations. I spent 12 years working in the field with Senior Helpers franchisees helping to develop their Home Care businesses before taking over as the COO. I know the home care space and I know I can contribute.

I serve on the National Board of Directors for Rock Steady Boxing which supports those with Parkinson's, and I will be the Treasurer/Secretary next year. I have demonstrated leadership skills that will be beneficial to the HCAOA.

#### **Why do you want to serve on the Board of Directors?**

I have seen the difference that my CEO Peter Ross has made with his involvement with the HCAOA since 2008. He has invited me to several events with the HCAOA and I have enjoyed networking with the Board members at these events.

Peter believes that I would be a strong addition to the Board, and it will be a great experience for me and my career. I want to represent our brand and have a voice in promoting the value of home care through advocacy and national awareness.

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### **Matt Boever**

**Senior Director, Government Affairs, Honor, Inc./Home Instead, Inc.**



#### **What specific expertise would you bring to the HCAOA Board of Directors?**

As Senior Director of Government Affairs at Honor, I lead our public policy advocacy efforts in the U.S. and Canada. I've had the privilege of working closely with the HCAOA team and State Chapter leaders over the last 10 years, including two terms on the HCAOA board, during which time I served as Legislative Committee Chair. I currently serve on the HCAOA VA Services Council and Policy Committee. Prior to joining Home Instead in 2013, I worked as Policy Director for Military and Veterans Affairs for U.S. Senator Deb Fischer and before that as Legal Counsel to Speaker Mike

Flood in the Nebraska Legislature. I started my career practicing municipal and trial law at a mid-size firm in Omaha.



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Beyond an expertise in government and in the regulatory challenges and opportunities in our industry, I know the value of home care firsthand as a consumer and family caregiver. And I know well the good and important work of the professional caregivers at the heart of our shared mission. It is this understanding of home care and the need to continue to grow our collective voice in DC and state capitols I hope bring to the HCAOA Board of Directors.

### Why do you want to serve on the Board of Directors?

HCAOA and its members have had a significant impact on so many home care-related issues in the states and at the federal level. I would like to help continue and build on those good efforts and play a role in helping to develop policy that brings more and better care to older adults in their homes. It's a pivotal time for home care policy in DC and in state capitols. HCAOA has an opportunity to build on the shoulders of giants, to continue to grow its influence, support chapter development, and become the go-to voice on Capitol Hill and in every state capitol regarding care in the home.

I recently had the opportunity to help select the 2023 HCAOA Caregiver of the Year Award Winner. It was incredibly humbling to read through the nominations and personal stories. Although I'm not new to home care, it struck me again just how amazing these nominees are and the difference that all care professionals make in the lives of countless older adults. I would be honored to be selected to the HCAOA Board of Directors to help continue to advocate for our Care Pros and the older adults and families they serve.

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### Jake Brown CEO, Always Best Care



### What specific expertise would you bring to the HCAOA Board of Directors?

I have 13+ years in the home care industry as a leader of a large home care franchise organization operating in 30 states. With operations that include personal care, skilled nursing care, Medicaid, Medicare, VA, LTC Insurance, staffing, assisted living referrals, and other areas, there isn't much that we haven't experienced in this industry. In addition, I have been on the HCAOA Board for the past 3 years, and involved with the HCAOA one way or another for many more years, as well as participated on the strategic planning committee of the HCAOA. We are a heavy contributor to the HCAOA both

financially and with our time that we commit to participate in various activities, such as advocacy days, chapter meetings, etc. I have the breadth of experience in so many areas that I am a good representative for any type of home care agency and understand the challenges of a broad base of providers.

### Why do you want to serve on the Board of Directors?

I have served on the board for the past 3 years and I thoroughly enjoy the opportunity to contribute to and participate in the improvement of the professional environment for all home care agencies. There are so many areas of opportunity for us to increase the awareness of what we do and demonstrate the importance of our presence in the health care continuum. The HCAOA is a great vehicle to ensure our



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collective voices are heard, and with our company representation in 30 states, I can bring a large collective voice as well as resources to assist in that endeavor. I also believe that I should give back for the success of our organization. I can't think of a better way to give back than to provide my time, expertise and knowledge to help others in our industry and raise the level of success for all.

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### Veronica Charles

Senior Director, Federal and State Government Affairs, Maxim Healthcare Services



#### What specific expertise would you bring to the HCAOA Board of Directors?

I would be honored to continue my service on the HCAOA board as I believe I offer a unique value proposition with my experience in federal and state government affairs. I have enjoyed my experience on the board to date, and believe that we are at a critical time in our industry's history and it is imperative that our board of directors be as involved in policy and advocacy as we can be. As a local Washingtonian, I have insider beltway knowledge that has helped and will continue to help position HCAOA as a thought-leader in the health policy space. As a board member I will continue to dedicate my time and attention to the association and take an active role in governing the

association.

#### Why do you want to serve on the Board of Directors?

I have enjoyed my time as a board member of HCAOA and believe I have more to offer the association and industry and more to learn. I am also excited to enter into this new chapter of the association with our newly selected CEO and believe that I have the ability to help the board in coaching and setting-up our internal staff for success. As an association alumni, I pride myself in always having an industry lens in my work, and I share a deep gratitude for the work that an association leads.

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### Matt Kroll

Practice President - Assistive Care and State Programs, BAYADA Home Health Care



#### What specific expertise would you bring to the HCAOA Board of Directors?

I offer the unique perspective of having worked as a manager/scheduler in one local community to now supporting over 100+ locations across the country and having served many roles in between. My understanding of how to bridge the gap between small single site and regional/national providers is expertise that would provide value to the HCAOA Board of Directors.

Working at BAYADA, I have the perspective of working closely with Home Health, Hospice, Private Duty Nursing, Habilitation and Behavioral leaders. This





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provides me with a comprehensive and holistic understanding of how homecare fits into the broader healthcare continuum and access to adjacent provider perspectives on our issues.

### Why do you want to serve on the Board of Directors?

Serving as a board member provides the opportunity to advocate for an industry I am passionate about and provides a mechanism to bring together other like-minded leaders with similar goals and interests.

I want to continue to advocate for the clients and employees we serve. Our industry plays a vital role in the health and wellbeing of those we serve, and we must come together to ensure our voices are heard throughout Washington DC and within each state government.

While we are just beginning to have a seat at the table with CMS and other government/industry influencers, a board position with HCAOA would allow me to cement our place at those tables for years to come.

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### Kevin Lundy

Vice President, Government Relations, BrightSpring Health Services



### What specific expertise would you bring to the HCAOA Board of Directors?

Thank you for the opportunity to potentially continue BrightSpring's long-standing service to the HCAOA Board of Directors. Through its family of brands, BrightSpring provides services in all 50 states, serves more than 350,000 people daily, and employs more than 37,000 people. Among our family of brands is All Ways Caring Home Care. During my nearly seven-year tenure leading BrightSpring's State and Local government relations team, I have partnered with HCAOA and its chapters to passionately advocate for our industry providers, workforce, and the people we serve. If elected to the Board, it is my hope that my nearly 25-year career in government relations advocacy will be a

complementary value-add to the incredible continued legislative efforts of Eric and the HCAOA chapter lobbyists.

Given BrightSpring's diversified provider services, I work across a variety of state Medicaid programs and industries, each day gaining insight to, and providing counsel on, how each one complementarily impacts one another. I believe that I can add perspective to the board on how HCAOA's policy positions are impacted by other Medicaid initiatives pending before state legislators and regulators.

In addition to the advocacy programs, BrightSpring's national scale enables me to offer expertise and counsel on continued membership and programming growth for HCAOA. I will be able to offer insight on untapped states for future chapters, visibility and programming opportunities at local, state and national meetings and the expertise of industry thought leaders as future membership resources.

Finally, my experience of service on current and past local, state, and national boards of directors will be a value-add to the leadership oversight of HCAOA. During these various tenures, I have provided



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leadership and supporting roles in shaping organizational bylaws, administering responsible financial stewardship, and shaping policy advocacy and engagement. I have a history of collaborative approach to working at a full-board and subcommittee level that I hope the membership and board would welcome and be proud of.

In closing, I believe that my combined professional experience of legislative lobbying, issue management, PAC fundraising, event planning and board of director service would be a value-add to the HCAOA board of directors. I remain proud of BrightSpring's history of membership in HCAOA and would be honored to be elected to serve in this important leadership role.

### Why do you want to serve on the Board of Directors?

Please accept this form as my interest in being considered for election to the HCAOA Board of Directors. Joining the HCAOA Board of Directors on behalf of BrightSpring Health Services would be an incredible honor and would allow me to continue my company's long-standing service as a Board representative.

HCAOA was the first trade association that I reached out to upon my onboarding to BrightSpring Health Services nearly seven years ago. I was immediately taken with HCAOA's mission and the impact the home care industry makes on families across the country. We are all personally touched by loved ones aging at home and the assistance with daily living activities they require. It was very easy to appreciate HCAOA's mission early on.

Professionally, I have appreciated BrightSpring Health Services' long-time membership in HCAOA. Our collaborative partnership has made a difference for providers, workforce, and the people we serve. HCAOA provides unlimited value for its members such as us, and its continued growth as a credible advocacy leader has positioned it as an influential voice before legislators and regulators nationwide.

HCAOA's next chapter brings with it incredible opportunities, but also significant challenges. The compounding nature of expiring provider COVID resources with more than 10,000 people turning 65 each day requires significant attention and planning from the Association's Board. I would be honored to be one of those voices. With the support of BrightSpring Health Services' scale and resources, I believe I can be value-add in helping shape the next chapter of HCAOA's mission.

In short, HCAOA has provided me numerous professional and personal growth opportunities; I would like to now give back to it in the form of service on the Board.

In closing, if elected to serve, I will use my professional expertise, and personal drive in a thoughtful manner to contribute to the success and continued growth of the Association. I appreciate the consideration to join the HCAOA Board of Directors.

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### Michael Slupecki

Chief Executive Officer, Griswold



#### What specific expertise would you bring to the HCAOA Board of Directors?

As we push the Home Care industry forward, my 13 years of experience in certified Home Health has given me a clear understanding on how Home Care can be an instrumental component in the healthcare eco-system to ensure our clients can age safely at home.

#### Why do you want to serve on the Board of Directors?

Generally, to not only lead Griswold as a company, but also join my peers in leading this industry forward.

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### Independent Organization Candidates

### Clayton Foutch

Founder, President and COO, Home Matters Caregiving



#### What specific expertise would you bring to the HCAOA Board of Directors?

My background in engineering, project management and continuous improvement early in my career became a foundation for our agency. We differentiate in our commitment to continuous improvement, led by a nursing team, and leveraging technology to improve care outcomes.

I have served on many boards over the past fifteen years including The Alzheimer's Association, Stepping Stones of Hope, Beaverton's Committee on Aging, and Stepping Up For Seniors.

I know how to contribute and galvanize ideas. I want to share this with more of the owners in our industry.

#### Why do you want to serve on the Board of Directors?

Since 2007 I have served the Portland Metropolitan market and the caregiving community that serves our seniors. Serving others is my why and where I get the greatest joy in this business.

I believe in the mission of the HCAOA and want to be a part of the next chapter of this organization while I serve others in this capacity.

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### Kunu Kaushal

Founder & CEO, Senior Solutions Home Care



#### What specific expertise would you bring to the HCAOA Board of Directors?

I started our company, Senior Solutions, 13 years ago as employee #1 and now we are proud to say we are the largest in-home care provider in the state serving all 95 counties with over 1200 people under care daily. Our organization accepts direct pay, insurers, medicaid, veteran's administration, and many more. In a strategy and advocacy role, I've found myself having to navigate the complexities of each of these payers and the patients/clients they cover. What is not noted on my attached resume is my deeper relationship with the Governor's office, TennCare, BlueCross Blue Shield, Amerigroup, and United Healthcare. I serve in strategic and advisory roles with each of them multiple times per year. In addition, I also engage with a national

Electronic Health Record company, I bring thought leadership on items ranging from technology through the pre-acute and post-acute continuum of care.

I've served on multiple boards including HCAOA, for many years in many different capacities. My experience on these boards brings a lot of value for operational health of the organization.

#### Why do you want to serve on the Board of Directors?

My motivation for serving on the board is purely to contribute my experience, knowledge, and energy to further the mission of the organization. I find it a privilege and honor to represent a segment of our community (independent agencies) to ensure they have a voice at the table. On a broader scope, I find there to me an immense need to ensure our entire industry is represented in strategic and advocacy initiatives.

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### Neal Kursban

Family & Nursing Care



#### What specific expertise would you bring to the HCAOA Board of Directors?

My experience and expertise are aligned with HCAOA's purpose of advancing the interests of the home care industry. As a second-generation business owner of the company my mother founded in 1968, I bring both tremendous business expertise and a growth mindset. My company, Family & Nursing Care has grown considerably from a \$5 million company when I started working at the company in 1995, to the \$60 million company we are today. During this time, I developed intimate knowledge of all aspects of running a home care company, having worked in many roles over the years, including many years as a care coordinator, intake coordinator, billing specialist, sales

and marketing account manager, caregiver interviewer, and on-call, all before getting into management and ultimately to becoming the CEO. Applying my growth mindset, I know the different inflection points a private pay home company is challenged with and how to overcome to reach the next levels.



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I have a wealth of experience on the advocacy front in both federal and state issues in DC and Maryland. I have attended HCAOA and our state's home care association's Lobby Days, met with elected officials and their staff to discuss the impact of potential legislation, testified before legislative committees, and regularly contact my legislators on issues important to the home care industry. I have worked collaboratively with MD and DC Departments of Health to shape appropriate legislation and regulations. It's also worth noting, I'm currently on HCAOA's Policy/Advocacy committee.

I have spoken at national conferences, webinars, and have been interviewed about many different areas of home care that have been featured in a variety of national publications. Here's a link to my most recent speaking engagement at the Home Care Innovation Forum this past June titled: How to Retain Your Culture as You Scale.

At Family & Nursing Care, we pride ourselves how deeply our staff lives out our mission and guiding values. The continuous positive feedback we receive from our referral partners, our clients and their families, and caregivers reinforces the compassionate difference we are making in their lives.

I am a strong believer in giving back to the community. I have devoted considerable time and money to charitable organizations and have served on various boards dedicated to improving the quality of life for older adults. My company established the Family & Nursing Care Foundation in 2008 with the goal of supporting older adults and future caregivers in two very important ways:

- Awarding grants to community partners to help lower-income older adults gain access to the care they need to remain in their homes.
- Providing scholarships for students to earn a Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) certificate in order to care for the aging population.

I have an MBA in Entrepreneurship/Management from the University of Maryland. I am also a mentor to students and alumni for the University of Maryland Entrepreneurship Center.

### Why do you want to serve on the Board of Directors?

I have a fire in my belly that burns deeply to lift the home care industry to much greater heights. One example: It's well documented that many home care companies struggle to attract, retain and engage caregivers in a meaningful enough way that makes them the employer of choice in their market. I believe caregivers are the unsung heroes of our society. At Family & Nursing Care, we have worked tirelessly to earn our reputation as the caregiver (and office staff) employer of choice, so much so that we rarely need to even advertise for caregivers because they come to us. We still only hire the top 7% of applicants. In the last 5 years, we've averaged only 12% caregiver turnover. If nominated, I would more effectively share in depth on the "how to" with Board members and to the entire membership. Having had the opportunity to meet and get to know several of the Board members, I deeply appreciate and respect their passion to also make home care much better than what it is today. I not only share their passion, but I also believe my broad expertise on many different aspects of home care would be valuable to the Board in pursuing its mission. .

As the owner of an independent, private pay home care company that is not backed by private equity, I could be a voice for the many independent agency members of HCAOA.

There's a level of not just knowledge and experience, but a level of emotional intelligence that is required to be an effective Board member. Time is valuable. Having served on many Boards and often



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on the executive committee of those Boards, I know the importance of discerning when it's valuable to speak up and when, perhaps due to a particular dynamic, it's better not to.

I truly believe I would add much value to HCAOA and hope you'll favorably consider my application to serve on the HCAOA Board.

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### Conant Schoenly

President, Charter Oak Home Care



#### What specific expertise would you bring to the HCAOA Board of Directors?

I feel I have a unique experience as a second generation home care company owner. I worked as a caregiver for my father's home care company the summer after I graduated high school. Charter Oak Home Care is one of the first home care agencies in Connecticut founded in 1985 and we grew up talking about the business almost nightly with my father. Years later, after working in consulting I returned to our family business just before my father retired. I never forgot the incredible sense of joy and fulfillment I felt that summer after high school working for my dad's company making a difference in our clients lives and the enjoyment I got from hearing their stories.

Now running our second generation agency, I have the privilege of impacting our caregivers and clients' lives hopefully for the better. Our caregivers are at the heart of what we do and being a part of helping them accomplish life goals like buying their first home or providing for a family member while making their clients lives better is deeply satisfying. My parents are coming to the age where they need home care and it is an honor that our agency is positioned to provide that care.

Our company joined HCAOA in 2018 and I have seen first hand the benefits. Over the years I have strived to build upon the foundation my father laid and make Charter Oak Home Care the best agency it can possibly be. I have learned much along the way as we reworked systems, brought in new technologies, hired top tier staff and implemented new incentive structures. I've been fortunate to share what I have learned in multiple forums and to be part of the HCAOA Medicaid committee in Connecticut. I am proud that the changes we have made in our business has resulted in Charter Oak Home Care consistently having turnover under 30% and being a place where several families have multiple generations who choose to work with us.

#### Why do you want to serve on the Board of Directors?

For several years I have seen all that HCOA has done for our company and companies like ours through state and federal advocacy, education and opportunities to meet fellow owners. The HCAOA Conference in Orlando only increased my excitement in the organization. Meeting so many fellow agency owners and folks passionate about home care was energizing.



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Growing up the son of a home care company owner and working for Charter Oak Home Care in high school and college has shown me first hand the vital role that home care plays in a person's life. As someone who has held every role in our agency from caregiver to owner and everything in between I understand first hand the work that goes into running an agency on a daily basis.

I believe the home care industry is heading into an exciting period as we work through the challenges of caregiver shortages, regulation and technological advancements. Over my years as an HCAOA member I have benefited tremendously from the organization and enjoyed learning from and sharing best practices with my peers. I would be honored to give back to HCAOA by serving on the national board. If elected, I promise to work diligently and be a passionate advocate for agency owners across the nation.

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### Aaron Stapleton

Founder, CEO, Trinity In Home Care



#### What specific expertise would you bring to the HCAOA Board of Directors?

I would bring the insights of an owner operator who works daily with staff and clients to give the best care in the industry. I hear from staff and clients the pain points of our industry and how we can improve. I have worked on the state level to bring licensure to Ohio and know how to effect change on the state and national level as well as how to engage legislators and educate those outside of our industry the importance of non medical home care. I also have the experience of serving on the board for the past three years so I know how the board works and what initiatives we have been working on. Being able to stay on the board should allow the past three years of work to seamlessly continue.

#### Why do you want to serve on the Board of Directors?

I have been on the board for the past three years, most recently serving on the executive board. I believe we have made some great strides over the past three years and believe some initiatives are not yet complete. Being voted in for a second term would allow me the opportunity to see these works completed with our industry and the HCAOA stronger because of it. I believe I have a great voice to represent the independent home care companies on the board as well as representing the industry to outside groups.

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### Matthew Walker

Village Caregiving



#### What specific expertise would you bring to the HCAOA Board of Directors?

Matt Walker has co-owned Village Caregiving, one of the fastest growing privately-owned home care agencies in the nation, for just over 10 years, and has seen his home care agency grow from a start-up company in Barboursville, WV to serving 5,000+ clients and families in 19 states and employing 3,500 people.

Before launching Village Caregiving, Walker served as a lobbyist for more than 50 organizations, mainly in health care, in West Virginia and Washington D.C. Walker is experienced in government relations, and still represents 10 health care and technology clients through his company, West Virginia Lobbyist Group. Walker also has a law degree from West Virginia University, which has proven to be valuable when drafting, discussing, and analyzing regulatory issues.

Walker is the son of a family physician, with an active geriatrics practice in West Virginia. This experience sparked Walker's interest in home care, as his father, Dr. Robert Walker, frequently did house calls in rural West Virginia, and stressed the importance of care at home.

#### Why do you want to serve on the Board of Directors?

Matt Walker wants to serve on the HCAOA Board of Directors to help wave the flag for home care across the nation. As home care is a blossoming and maturing industry, advocacy will be important in increasing visibility, enhancing reimbursement, and implementing regulation that allows home care agencies to meet the unmet home care needs around the country. Walker is eager to join his HCAOA staff and member colleagues in elevating the profile of home care generally, and influencing policy decisions.