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**May 19, 2015**  Brian McClung: 612-965-2729

brian@mzacompany.com

**New home health care guide helps Baby Boomers and others consider options with confidence**

*“Tips for Choosing a Home Health Care Provider" created by Better Business Bureau, includes information from Minnesota HomeCare Association members*

**Saint Paul *—*** Minnesota is a leader in providing a wide range of quality home and community-based older adult services. As more people choose to receive care in their homes, the Minnesota HomeCare Association (MHCA) is working to ensure that Minnesotans have the best possible home care options.

Minnesota HomeCare Association members recently joined with Better Business Bureau of Minnesota and North Dakota ® (BBB) to craft a new guide: “[Tips for Choosing a Home Health Care Provider](http://www.bbb.org/globalassets/local-bbbs/minneapolis-mn-147/media/documents/homehealthconstipslettersize.pdf).” These tips were created by Better Business Bureau of Minnesota and North Dakota with input from businesses in the home health care industry to assist consumers in making educated decisions.

“Most seniors, if given the choice, would like to remain in their own home for as long as possible,” said Kathy Messerli, Executive Director of the Minnesota HomeCare Association. “Most families also want to respect that choice, but they may have unanswered questions about how to consider home care options. We’re extremely pleased that Better Business Bureau of Minnesota and North Dakota worked with representatives from our industry to provide guidance around making these important decisions to find the best fit for their needs.”

“The home health care industry is growing, and we believe these tips will prove to be helpful as more people consider choosing a home care provider,” said Dana Badgerow, president and CEO of BBB of Minnesota and North Dakota.

“Tips for Choosing a Home Health Care Provider” includes sections on questions to ask home care agencies, information regarding payment methods, frequently used terms and additional resources.

Recommended questions to ask that are included in the document include:

* What kinds of care does the agency provide?
* How long has the agency been in business?
* What is the screening process or background checks the business uses for caregivers?
* What kinds of ongoing training do the caregivers take?
* Can Medicare/Medicaid/Veteran’s benefits be used to pay for services? If not, what is the payment plan?

The document also provides helpful definitions of terms used in home health care.

As Baby Boomers think about health care needs for their parents, and ultimately their own care, learning more about home care options can provide peace of mind.

“An important part of the process is settling on a plan that works both for the person who needs care and for the family,” said Messerli of MHCA. “These tips are designed to help ease the process and lead to a positive decision that suits your family’s needs.”

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