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# ASSOCIATION OF HOME BASE HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS AND CAREGIVERS

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## **PRESENTATION BY PROFESSOR SANDRA WINBERG ASEMOTA** **(EMPOWERING HEALTHCARE AT HOME; INTEGRATING HOME BASE** **HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS AND CAREGIVERS INTO NIGERIA'S** **HEALTHCARE SYSTEM)**

Good morning Honorable Minister, distinguished guests, and esteemed members of the Ministry of Health. We are here today representing the Association of Home-Based Professionals and Caregivers, to propose a transformative vision for Nigeria's healthcare landscape.

### **Understanding Home-Based Care**

**Definition:** "Home-based care encompasses a range of professional and supportive services delivered in an individual's residence. These services cater to diverse needs, including:

- Elderly care
- Post-surgical care
- Chronic disease management
- Palliative care
- Disability support
- Maternal and child care.

This care is provided by trained professionals and dedicated caregivers, fostering a familiar and comfortable healing environment."

Our aim is to advocate for the formal recognition and integration of home-based healthcare professionals and caregivers, ensuring quality, accessible, and compassionate healthcare for all Nigerians.

#### **SERVICES/PROGRAMMES:**

TRAINING & CERTIFICATION, HOME BASE HEALTHCARE, CARE GIVERS, SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT, VOLUNTEER SERVICES, AMBULANCE & EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ETC

### **The Healthcare Professionals involved are:**

- Physicians
- Paramedics
- Registered Nurses RNs
- Complementary Healthcare Practitioners
- Social Worker
- Dietitian
- Physical Fitness Expert
- Psychologist
- Licensed Practical Nurses (LPN)/Licensed Vocational Nurses (LVNs)
- Physical Therapists
- Occupational Therapists
- Speech Therapists
- Home Health Aides (HHDAs)
- Rehabilitation Therapist
- Personal Care Aides (PCAs)

We are here to show how we can partner to improve the health outcomes for the nation.

### **Transformative Benefits**

- **Key Benefits:**
- **Enhanced Patient Comfort and Well-being:** "Patients receive personalized care in a familiar and supportive environment, reducing stress and promoting faster recovery."
- **Reduced Hospital Readmissions:** "Proactive home-based care minimizes complications and ensures continuity of care, leading to fewer hospital visits."
- **Cost-Effectiveness:** "Home-based care can significantly reduce healthcare costs by avoiding expensive hospital stays and treatments."
- **Improved Quality of Life:** "Individuals with chronic conditions or disabilities can maintain independence and dignity within their own homes."
- **Increased Family Involvement:** "Families play an active role in the care process, fostering stronger bonds and providing emotional support."
- **Accessibility for Rural and Underserved Communities:** "Homebased care extends essential healthcare services to remote areas, bridging the gap in healthcare access."

## Building on Existing Foundations

We are proud to share that we are already engaged in significant collaborations, demonstrating our commitment to advancing home-based care in Nigeria.

### Key Partnerships:

- **National Senior Citizen Centre (Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs):** "Working together to develop and implement policies that enhance the well-being of senior citizens through home-based care."
- **National Board for Technical Education (NBTE):** "Collaborating on the development of standardized training curricula for home-based care professionals, ensuring high-quality service delivery."
- **International Caregivers Bodies:** "Engaging with reputable international organizations to adopt best practices and elevate the standards of care in Nigeria."

These partnerships demonstrate our dedication to creating a robust and sustainable home-based care ecosystem.

### A Call for Collaboration

- **Key Proposals:**
- **Policy Development:** "Collaboratively develop a national policy framework that recognizes and regulates home-based care, ensuring quality and safety."
- **Integration into National Health Plans:** "Integrate home-based care into national health plans and strategies, making it an integral part of the healthcare delivery system."
- **Training and Certification:** "Establish standardized training and certification programs for home-based care professionals, ensuring competence and professionalism."
- **Public Awareness Campaigns:** "Launch public awareness campaigns to educate Nigerians about the benefits of home-based care and promote its utilization."
- **Funding and Resource Allocation:** "Allocate adequate funding and resources to support the development and expansion of home-based care services."
- Establishing the National Home-Based and Caregiving Council  
"To ensure effective regulation, standardization, and

professional development, we propose the establishment of a National HomeBased and Caregiving Council."

- **Key Functions:**

- "Set standards for training, certification, and practice."
- "Regulate the activities of home-based care providers."
- "Promote ethical conduct and professional accountability."
- "Advocate for the rights and welfare of caregivers and patients."
- "Facilitate research and innovation in home-based care."

This council will serve as a central authority, ensuring the delivery of high quality and safe home-based care services across Nigeria.

### **A Healthier Nigeria: The Impact of Home-Based Care**

- **Projected Outcomes:**

- "Improved health outcomes for vulnerable populations."
- "Reduced burden on hospitals and healthcare facilities."
- "Enhanced quality of life for individuals and families."
- "Increased access to healthcare services in underserved areas."
- "A more robust and resilient healthcare system."

### **Call to Action**

#### **Join Us in Transforming Healthcare**

We urge the Hon. Minister, to embrace this transformative vision and partner with us to integrate home-based care into Nigeria's healthcare system. Together, we can create a healthier, more compassionate, and equitable future for all Nigerians.

Thank you for your attention and consideration.

**Prof. Sandra Winberg Asemota**  
**Chairman FCT Branch AHBPC**