

CONNECTICUT LONG-TERM CARE NEEDS ASSESSMENT UPDATE 9.30.08

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Introduction

Connecticut's first comprehensive Long-Term Care Needs Assessment in more than 20 years has completed several major milestones. A team of researchers from the UConn Center on Aging led the overall design and implementation of the project, which was funded by the Connecticut General Assembly in Public Act 06-188, with additional contributions from the state's Long-Term Care Ombudsman.

Several unique and wide-ranging components make up the structure of the assessment. Each is described below, accompanied by a timeline.

I. Executive Summary:

Contains highlights of the Survey Results and Rebalancing Report, as well as conclusions and recommendations for Connecticut.

✓ *Timeline: Released July 2007*

II. Part I - Survey Results:

Contains a comprehensive literature review and detailed results of both the resident survey and provider survey.

✓ *Timeline: Released July 2007*

A.) Literature Review: This wide-ranging review includes national and state-specific data and trends and a comprehensive inventory of long-term care services and supports. Existing models of long-term care in other states and personal financing of long-term care are also explored.

B.) Resident Survey Results: This statewide survey used a 3-pronged approach:

PROJECT COMPONENTS

- Executive Summary
- Part I: Survey Results (Literature review, Resident Survey and Provider Survey results)
- Part II: Rebalancing Report (with recommendations)
- Long Term Care Ombudsman Overview
- Follow-up Focused Reports
- Ongoing Analysis and Information Dissemination

randomized mail survey, web-based survey, and a general interest survey. Three groups were targeted: older adults, baby boomers, and people with disabilities. Over 6,200 surveys were completed and analyzed.

C.) Provider Survey Results: The research team completed a mail and telephone survey of public and private providers of long-term care services to document the organization, financing and delivery of professional long-term care services in the state. Fourteen service type groups were contacted: home health, homemaker, assisted living, managed residential care, nursing homes, residential care homes, hospice, chronic disease hospitals, senior centers, adult day, Area Agencies on Aging, Bureau of Rehabilitation Services providers, Dept. of Developmental Services providers, and Dept. of Mental Health and Addiction Services providers. Over 500 surveys were completed and analyzed.

III. Part II - Rebalancing Report:

With the help of leading national experts, the team conducted a full review of Connecticut's existing array of services and long-term care rebalancing efforts to identify structural strengths, weaknesses, and gaps in the current system, and to compare Connecticut's progress to that of other states. The review includes recommendations.

✓ *Timeline: Released July 2007*

IV. Long-Term Care Ombudsman Overview:

The goal of this project was to provide recommendations for action to modify the CT Long Term Care Ombudsman Program operation and optimize resources in order to best meet long-term care consumer needs and quality of care and life concerns. Tasks included (i) a literature review of Long-Term Care Ombudsman and related quality assurance programs from other states that offer home and community-based services for "Best Practices," (ii) interviews with residents of nursing homes, residential care homes, and assisted living communities and their family members, and (iii) a study of Connecticut-specific program components including staffing, organization, utilization, and consumer accessibility.

✓ *Timeline: Released October 2007*

V. Follow-up Focused Reports:

A.) Financial Planning Assessment: This study explored perspectives regarding long-term care financial planning in greater depth by: (i) understanding the experiences of the Partnership for Long-Term Care Forum attendees - what led them to the Forum, what steps they took after, and what were their decisions and rationale, and (ii) understanding financing views of the general population - what planning they have done, and their intention to preserve assets.

✓ *Timeline: Released January 2008.*

B.) Mental Health Needs of People with Mental Illness: This study explores in greater depth the long-term care needs of people with mental illness as identified in the Needs Assessment.

✓ *Timeline: Released March 2008*

C.) Regional Analysis: This study describes and analyzes differences among twelve regions of the state on a wide variety of long-term care issues including demographics, health, current use and unmet needs for home and community-based services, and caregiving.

✓ *Timeline: Released May 2008*

D.) Experiences of People Using Disability Programs: This report examines key differences among survey results for 5 of Connecticut's home and community based waiver programs and 4 additional state-funded programs for people with disabilities.

✓ *Timeline: Released June 2008*

VII. Ongoing Analysis and Dissemination:

The research team continues to publicize the findings of the Needs Assessment, and to answer questions and requests for additional analysis.

All reports released to date may be found on the website of the Connecticut Commission on Aging:

<http://www.cga.ct.gov/coa/needsassessment.asp>

