

STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
**LONG-TERM CARE ADVISORY COUNCIL**



*The Modern Definition of Long-Term Care: The entire range of assistance, services, or devices provided over an extended period of time to meet medical, personal, and social needs in a variety of settings and locations.*

*~ Not Just Nursing Homes      ~ Not Just Insurance      ~ Long-term care knows no age or disability boundary!*

## 2009 Legislative Priorities

**Individuals should have real choice in how and where they receive long-term care services and supports, including in their homes and communities.**

The present system is fragmented, institutionally-biased and difficult for people to navigate.

In order to provide this choice for older adults and persons with disabilities, Connecticut's policymakers must commit to full support and a sweeping redesign of the long-term care infrastructure:

1. **Address the existing and worsening long-term care workforce crisis.** We must invest in initiatives to recruit and train more direct care workers and pay providers a reasonable reimbursement rate. One source for funding workforce development initiatives is the new federal money ("enhanced match") received under Money Follows the Person. In fact, Public Act 08-180 creates the **Long-Term Care Reinvestment Account** to ensure that this money goes back into the system. The Legislature and Governor must **uphold this commitment**. *Otherwise, who will take care of individuals who need care?*
2. **Protect from budget cuts all programs that help individuals who are receiving care in the community.** Community-based programs save money, bring in new federal money and are recommended by Connecticut's Long-Term Care Needs Assessment. *Without these programs in place and open to new participants, individuals may be forced to receive care in more expensive, institutionalized settings.*
3. **Engage the Long-Term Care Advisory Council, the CT Commission on Aging and other knowledgeable groups and experts and use the Long-Term Care Needs Assessment** to inform public policy decisions about state departmental structure and efforts to "rebalance" the long-term care system.
4. **Establish effective incentives to encourage long-term care institutions to diversify services and improve quality.** Taking its lead from other states, Connecticut should also amend existing DPH regulations to allow for continued movement on "culture change" in nursing homes and across the continuum of care. Culture change initiatives create more home-like environments and person-centered care.

### **Did you know?**

*~ The CT Commission on Aging, which co-chairs and manages the LTCAC, has served for 15 years as an effective leader in statewide efforts to promote choice, independence and dignity for CT's older adults and persons of all ages with disabilities.*

*~ The CT Home Care Program for Elders is a cost effective way for certain older adults at risk of institutionalization to receive the support they need to remain in their homes. It saved the state over \$91 million in FY '07 by keeping individuals out of nursing homes.*

*~ The LTCAC has written to CT's Congressional delegation asking that the federal government increase its participation in Connecticut's Medicaid program (known as "FMAP") from 50%-58%. Increasing this FMAP is an important first step in helping CT to meet its obligation to its most needy residents.*

**Who we are:**

The Long-Term Care Advisory Council (LTCAC), established under Connecticut General Statutes §17b-338, advises and makes recommendations to the Long-Term Care Planning Committee (LTCPC). The LTCPC is charged in CGS §17b-337 with crafting our state's Long-Term Care Plan, to guide state agencies in developing and modifying programs that serve all persons in need of long-term care. (PA 01-119 expanded this plan's focus from older adults to "all persons in need"). The LTCAC is a remarkable collaboration of providers, consumers and advocates who possess a wealth of expertise and experience on matters pertaining to older adults and persons with disabilities.

***Long-Term Care Advisory Council Member Organizations:***

CT Council for Persons with Disabilities  
CT Association of Health Care Facilities  
CT Assisted Living Association  
New England Health Care Employees Union, District 1199  
Consumer/City of New Haven Services for Persons with Disabilities  
Office of the Long-Term Care Ombudsman  
CT Association for Home Care and Hospice, Inc.  
Legal Assistance Resource Center  
CT Community Care, Inc.  
American College of Health Care Administrators  
Consumer  
CT Alzheimer's Association  
CT Hospital Association  
AARP Connecticut  
CT Association of Personal Assistants  
CT Association of Area Agencies on Aging  
CT Coalition of Presidents of Residential Councils  
CANPFA  
Consumer  
Family Caregiver/National Multiple Sclerosis Society, Connecticut Chapter  
CT Commission on Aging\*  
CT Association of Adult Day Centers  
CT Association of Residential Care Homes

\*Co-Chair, LTCAC