



SENIOR CARE[®]

Good evening. I am Patricia Rockwell, administrator of Senior Care of Middlebury. We Thank You for your past support, we see Adult Day as part of the solution to the state's budget problems, investment in the community is integral, but we need to be careful about things like co pays which could move us in the wrong direction.

I truly appreciate the difficult decisions you are faced with in light of needed budget constraints and the need to insure appropriate medical/social services. Senior Care has three adult health centers in Connecticut and provides comprehensive services to more than three hundred seniors/disabled adults. Many of our participants attend the health center 7 days a week because of their need for 24 hour care and supervision. We provide nursing services, including medication administration, wound care, diabetic management, health assessment,

Personal care assistance/showers, incontinence care, therapies, podiatry, 2 meals And a snack meeting the various dietary restrictions, and therapeutic recreational programs designed to meet the specific stimulation needs of our diverse population. These services allow our participants to maintain as much independent function As possible, allowing frail elderly to remain in the community, which is where they Choose to be.

We had 58 year old participants with advanced dementia/alzheimers who was being cared for 24/7 by a sister who worked a full time job. When the VA cut back the funding to ONE day a week, he wandered away from home at 12 degree weather without a coat and made to two towns away. When he was picked up by police. Where is he today?? Yes, in a nursing home. At what cost.

The funding sources for adult centers are now very limited. We have become very Creative and watchful in providing the necessary services to ensure the best Possible care to our participants and necessary respite to our families. Our Operating day is at 10 hours and the present reimbursement rate of \$66.22 is approximately \$6.35 per hour for comprehensive care. The cost of one skilled nursing home visit exceeds \$75 and the cost of a home health aide can exceed \$25 an hour. Nursing home cost is above \$350. per day.

We are trying to service these areas by starting van routes an hour earlier as it takes About 45-50 minutes to even reach our first participant in each area. Gasoline prices, Van maintenance and repairs certainly increased with these additions to out-lying Areas. However, we believe strongly that adult health centers keep at risk seniors More independent with dignity.

Adult health centers already have a very low reimbursement rate; further decreases in rates will seriously impact the ability to continue providing needed services, pushing More and more frail adults into isolation and premature nursing facility placement. Several representatives have visited our health center and recognize that adult Day care is a cost-effective valued service.
Please support Adult Day Care

Thank-you.

Patricia Rockwell

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Administrator