CAADC
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Testimony of the
Connecticut Association of Adult Day Centers
To the Appropriations Committee
Regarding the Governor's Proposed Budget
March 4, 2011

This testimony is being submitted on behalf of the 46 adult day center members of the Connecticut Association of Adult Day Centers (CAADC) and is in support of adequate funding rates for Adult Day Centers and in opposition to the proposed changes to the state funded portion of the Connecticut Home Care Program for Elders.

Adult day centers are a very cost effective model of providing a *full day* of long term care services in a community based setting. We provide help with activities of daily living, including toileting, bathing, walking, transferring, and eating. A medical model day center offers on-site licensed nursing staff, access to rehabilitation services, bathing facilities, nutritional guidance, social and recreational activities, and many other services. The average cost to care for a client in an adult day center is $84 per day. The state currently reimburses $66.22 per day under the Connecticut Home Care Program for Elders, a loss of $17.78 per day. We are also required to provide transportation to Home Care Program clients with the cost included in our daily rate. Unfortunately and despite an increase in our adult day center rate in 2009 from $63.55 to $66.22 per day, many centers are struggling financially and the future of this excellent community based option remains in jeopardy.

Adult day centers and our aging clients are also placed at risk by the proposed changes to the Connecticut Home Care Program. The Connecticut Home Care Program is the funding lifeline for many day center clients and caregivers. We witness everyday how important it is to bring aging adults into the program early, when they first begin to need services. Early intervention is crucial in the effort to initiate the services and supports that will help aging adults remain in their homes. It does not make sense to eliminate that aspect of the home care program. We should be increasing our efforts to encourage use of cost effective community based services, not closing access to potential Category 1 clients.

We also oppose increasing the Home Care Program client's co-pay amount. We witnessed the effect of the previously enacted 15% co-pay which pushed many clients and their caregivers to eliminate services. The resulting consequences of aging adults refusing necessary services in the community are more frequent hospitalizations and premature nursing home placements. We urge the Committee to avoid these unintended outcomes and reject the proposed changes to the Connecticut Home Care Program for Elders.

In closing we thank you and ask for your continued support of Adult Day Centers which offer a solution for older adults and their families who wish to remain in their own homes while saving the state millions of dollars by offering cost-effective long term care and respite services in the community.

Respectfully submitted, Katherine Donohue, President of CAADC

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Increased State Funding Is Needed For Adult Day Services

Adult day centers provide a cost effective community-based long term care alternative for older adults wishing to remain in their homes but who need varying assistance during the day. With adult day services, clients are able to remain in their homes rather than moving to assisted living or a nursing home. At the same time, their quality of life is enhanced with a strong social component and a continued sense of independence. Unfortunately, while adult day centers provide a cost effective option to families, the current level of state reimbursement is making it increasingly difficult to remain a viable option.

Adult Day Centers Provide a Rich Array of Services

- Adult day centers provide help with activities of daily living, including toileting, bathing, walking, transferring and eating.
- Medical model day centers have on-site licensed nursing staff, access to rehabilitation services, and bathing facilities in addition to the nutritional, social, recreational and other services provided by social model programs.
- Door to door transportation is provided to and from the center and these costs are bundled into the package of services provided to clients of the Connecticut Home Care Program for Elders.
- The nursing, nutrition, rehabilitation and social services provided in adult day centers help frail elders remain at home – including many who would otherwise require nursing home placement.

Adult Day Health Care is a Cost-effective Alternative to Nursing Home Care

- A day of adult day center services currently costs the state 66.22 (medical model) and 57.93 (social model) making them a cost effective option compared to nursing home placement where the daily rate is closer to $218.
- By keeping clients in their homes, the net savings to the State attributable to the Connecticut Home Care Program for Elders add up to many millions each year.

State Payment Does Not Cover the Cost of Adult Day Health Services

- Adult day centers face financial losses with each Home Care Program client they serve.
- There are currently **46** certified adult day centers in operation, but **18** have closed in the last eight years due in large part to the low state reimbursement rate.
- **The average cost to care for a client in an adult day center is approximately $ 84.00 per day. The state currently reimburses a medical model center $66.22 a loss of $17.78 per day.**
- The costs of providing day services continues to rise as some clients require the assistance of two staff members for toileting and bathing; many suffer from confusion and require constant supervision.

Costs are rising due to several factors:

- **Staffing** - Adult day centers are not immune from the nursing shortage, and they typically cannot compete with the benefits and incentives larger facilities offer.
- **Transportation** - The associated costs such as insurance and fuel are significant and have risen dramatically in recent years. The requirement remains that *transportation be included* within the daily rate.
- **Absenteeism** - The state will not pay for scheduled clients who do not attend for the day. The center incurs the cost in anticipation of the client's attendance, but they receive no reimbursement.

Please Support State Funding for Adult Day Services that more closely represents our actual costs.

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