



## Mystic Healthcare

& Rehabilitation Center

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GOVERNING BOARD MEMBERS  
Dr. R. Sbriglia, MD/MPH, Chief Medical Director  
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Mr. K. Kozchik, MBA/NIHA



CHARTING YOUR COURSE TO HEALTH

February 14, 2014

Dear Senator Bye,

I am writing this letter because the nursing home industry cannot sustain the continuous cuts and lack of rate increases without negatively effecting high standards of care and losing quality care providers. Are you aware that nursing homes have not received an increase in our daily rate since 2007? After the provider fee is paid to the State of Connecticut our daily rate is less than two hundred (\$200.00) per day.

Mystic Healthcare is a one hundred (100)bed skilled nursing facility employing one hundred and seventy (170)employees. In 2006 we purchased this forty-year-old facility. A change of ownership inspection required and mandated several life safety issues needed to be addressed. We had no issue in these upgrades of replacing an old generator, installing a new fire alarm system and adding additional parking spaces. The problem is that the reimbursement method no longer took these expenses into our daily rate.

Mystic Healthcare is one of seven facilities managed by Ryders Health Management. We utilize the benefits of group purchasing especially with the purchase of pharmaceuticals and employee health insurance.

Mystic Healthcare was one of twenty-five nursing facilities to submit a RFP (request for proposal). We viewed this as an opportunity for Mystic Healthcare to reinvent themselves. Our proposal calls for conversion of utilizing ten beds for transitional or hospice beds. We have been invited to participate in the Lawrence & Memorial quality care program. An application is currently pending with the AHCA (American Health Care Association) for a Quality of Care Award. We are active with the Advancing Excellence Program through Qualidigm. We are committed to our residents in providing quality care. We will continue to pursue every quality initiative but the reimbursement issues could jeopardize quality by reducing high standards along with the possibility of losing quality staff.

In conclusion, we are asking the committee to address the ongoing needs of our nursing facilities. We ask you to consider skilled nursing facilities as a critical, and cost-effective, component of the future of post acute care in our state—in reducing avoidable hospital stays and in providing more transitional services for residents who will eventually go home. Toward these ends, we are asking to work with you to (1) create a payment system which incents nursing facility quality improvement with payment methods to reduce licensed beds consistent with the state's long term care rebalancing and rightsizing goals, (2) totally restore the cuts from last session;(3) continue to work to resolve the ongoing excessive delays in the Medicaid eligibility process; and finally (4) reverse the current trend of flat or reduced funding and recognize the importance of nursing facility care going forward as essential in the continuum of long term care.

As part of Ryders Health Care Management, I offer an open invitation to tour all our nursing and rehabilitation facilities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Kenneth S. Kopchik".

Kenneth S. Kopchik, MBA, NHA  
Administrator