



SENIOR CARE[®]

OF MIDDLEBURY

Appropriations Committee Public Hearing

February 14, 2014

Good afternoon Senator Bye, Representative Walker and Members of the Appropriations Committee, my name is Jean Kannan. I am the Administrator of the Senior Care Adult Day Care Center in Middlebury.

Senior Care is proud to be among the high quality and cost efficient community care providers that are providing an alternative to nursing home care until or unless it's absolutely needed. Our centers provide a full continuum of care from providing 3 meals a day and personal hygiene to nursing care and recreation. We are open 7 days a week from 7 to 5 and provide the necessary resources for family members to keep their loved ones at home whether they are elderly, suffering from Alzheimer's or are just too clinically fragile to be left alone. Our centers are funded primarily through the Department of Social Services (DSS) and the Connecticut Home Care Program for Elders.

One particular cost driver is causing us the most concern. Adult Day Centers provide daily door to door transportation to and from the center each day for our members, but that cost is accounted for within our overall rate and not reimbursed separately which amounts to approximately a cost of \$24.48 per person. Also, centers do not receive reimbursement for participant absenteeism due to inclement weather, illness or unscheduled cancellation of planned service. This has adversely impacted our center this winter as we have staffed to care for many clients who choose to stay home at the last minute.

After the transportation cost this leaves us with \$45.74 to provide nursing services, care management, personal care and bathing services, nutritious meals and dietary monitoring, social work services, therapeutic recreational activities, rehabilitation services, wheelchair-escorted transportation.

All these services are provided at the current reimbursement rate of \$70.22.

Please support the Coalition for the CT Home Care Program for a 2% increase and a cost increase index tied to inflation for the future years so that we can continue to provide the safety net of care for programs like Money follows the person and other community care initiatives. Adult Day Cares want to remain a viable option for the residents of our State

but many have closed in recent years. To give you some perspective for your deliberations a 1% increase for the whole Home Care for Elders Program would be just \$3.25 million. A 1% increase for Adult Day Services alone is just \$175,000. Anything you could do to provide some relief to the Home Care for Elders Program and continue your investment into the Community Level of Care would be most appreciated.

Thank you for your time, I would be happy to answer any questions.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jean Kannan
Administrator of Senior Care