BAYVIEW
HEALTH CARE

February 27, 2015

Written testimony of James M. Pettey, Administrator, Bayview Health Care Concerning the Governor's Recommended FY 2016 and FY 2017 Proposed Budget

Good evening Senator Bye, Representative Walker and to the members of the Appropriations Committee. My name is James M. Pettey. I am the Administrator at Bayview Health Care in Waterford, Connecticut. Bayview is a longstanding provider of nursing care in the communities of Waterford, East Lyme, Lyme, Niantic and New London. Bayview is a 127 bed facility with 215 employees. Bayview is a 5 Star facility with a solid reputation for quality care in the community for the past twenty five years.

I want to begin by letting you know how proud I am to be here representing some of the key people from Bayview. I'm the administrator, but these devoted caregivers, from all disciplines want the same thing that I want; that is to deliver the highest quality care experience to anyone who comes to Bayview. And these workers are doing an amazing job, and I am proud of them, for everything they are doing.

But making the care great has so many challenges. Making the care what everyone wants for their loved one is getting harder and harder. And the reason it's getting so hard isn't really difficult to understand---there has been almost no help in the budget for now going on 8 years. Our budget has been flat while almost all of our costs are going up. If the budget passes as is, it will be a decade of nearly flat funding for our nursing facility. The idea that our nursing facility could be cut this session because of our state's ongoing financial troubles is so devastating; it is beyond my ability to understand how we could deliver the care we want to deliver.

301 Rope Ferry Road
Waterford, Connecticut 06385
860-444-1175
Managed by Athena Health Care Systems

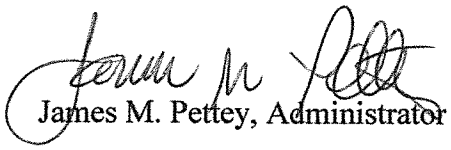
I am not sure how I could implement any cuts as the administrator or how I would tell my employees or residents that we need to cut even more than our flat funding has required over the years.

Here are some examples of what we've been up against while the rates have been stagnant:

- New or updated regulatory guidelines regarding increased criminal record check guidelines that require that facilities make changes that have costs, but are not reimbursable.
- New or updated regulatory guidelines regarding digital information under HIPPA that require that facilities make changes that have costs, but are not reimbursable.
- New or updated regulatory guidelines regarding additional mandatory dementia training for staff that require that facilities make changes that have costs, but are not reimbursable.
- Increased utility costs (Propane, electricity) that will not be recouped until the next Medicaid Rebasing.
- Increased food costs that will not be recouped until the next Medicaid Rebasing.
- Affordable Care Act costs to employers.
- Here at Bayview, the needs of our residents are also increasing. The acuity of our residents is so much more complex as our population ages. There are more options for home care for those with fewer care needs, but the residents that come to Bayview need to be with us; their needs are too complex for care at home.

Please help us deliver the high quality care we want to deliver, and that we are expected to deliver. Please give us the resources we need to do it.

Thank you and I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.



James M. Pettey, Administrator