



*Testimony before the Appropriations and Human Services Committees
Roderick L. Bremby, Commissioner
March 31, 2015*

Good morning, Senators Bye and Moore, Representatives Walker and Abercrombie and distinguished members of the Appropriations and Human Services Committees. My name is Roderick Bremby and I am the Commissioner of the Department of Social Services. Under the provisions of Section 17b-8 of our general statutes, I am here to seek your support for the renewal of the Connecticut Home Care Program for Elders Medicaid Waiver.

As part of the renewal process, the Department is seeking to make the following three changes to support program participants:

- **Add New Services-** The Department is proposing to add Care Transitions and Chronic Disease Self-Management evidence-based programs to the service array.

Care Transition service is an evidence-based set of actions designed to ensure health care coordination, continuity and avoidance of preventable poor outcomes in vulnerable populations as they move across settings. Core activities include a hospital visit, providing customized, real time critical information to the next care provider(s) regarding the plan of care, a home visit within one business day of discharge and follow up telephone calls each week for a minimum of 3-4 weeks.

The Chronic Disease Self-Management Program, also known as Live-Well, is a workshop-based service, facilitated by trained leaders, to teach helpful techniques to assist individuals with chronic conditions. This program gives such individuals the skills to coordinate all the things needed to manage their health, as well as to help them keep active in their lives. The therapeutic goals of the service are adjustment to serious impairments, maintenance or restoration of physical functioning, self-management of chronic disease, acquisition of skills to address minor depression, management of personal care and development of skills to work with care providers including behavior management. The program is also available in Spanish.

Additionally, the Department intends to add a Bill Payer service, Recovery Assistant and Independent Support Broker services to the waiver

With consensus from the providers and the community, these proposed additions have been identified as the most necessary to include in our service array.

- **Add subacute level of care-** It has become evident that there are individuals with extensive care needs, beyond what is provided as part of nursing facility level of care, who are seeking home and community-based services. The Department is proposing to add this level of care to the waiver for up to 100 participants to allow for a higher individual cost cap to help meet the needs of this population.

It is important to note that during the creation and review of this amendment, the Department consulted directly with the Home Care Advisory Committee to ensure the needs of the recipients were being evaluated and addressed appropriately.

- **Apply concurrently for a 1915b(4) waiver to continue the practice of selectively contracting with care management providers as a result of a competitive procurement-** The department is concurrently applying for a 1915b(4) waiver that will permit us to continue our current practice of contracting with a limited pool of care management providers based on the results of a competitive procurement process. The procurement process resulted in the most qualified providers being selected to provide care management services in specified geographic regions of the state.

All of the changes proposed above as part of the CT Home Care Programs for Elders waiver renewal process, had overall committee support from the Home Care Advisory Committee. This committee was developed to advise the Department on the operation of waiver programs. Members are comprised of providers, advocates and consumers.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today. We would be happy to answer any questions that you may have.