



# CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH



## Presentation to the Homemaker Companion Taskforce

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October 21, 2022

# Connecticut Home Health Licensing

- Home health licenses defined in section 19a-490 of the Connecticut General Statutes:
- (d) “Home health care agency” means a public or private organization, or a subdivision thereof, engaged in providing professional nursing services and the following services, available twenty-four hours per day, in the patient’s home or a substantially equivalent environment: Home health aide services as defined in this section, physical therapy, speech therapy, occupational therapy or medical social services. The agency shall provide professional nursing services and at least one additional service directly and all others directly or through contract. An agency shall be available to enroll new patients seven days a week, twenty-four hours per day;
- (e) “Home health aide agency” means a public or private organization, except a home health care agency, which provides in the patient’s home or a substantially equivalent environment supportive services which may include, but are not limited to, assistance with personal hygiene, dressing, feeding and incidental household tasks essential to achieving adequate household and family management. Such supportive services shall be provided under the supervision of a registered nurse and, if such nurse determines appropriate, shall be provided by a social worker, physical therapist, speech therapist or occupational therapist. Such supervision may be provided directly or through contract;
- (f) “Home health aide services” as defined in this section shall not include services provided to assist individuals with activities of daily living when such individuals have a disease or condition that is chronic and stable as determined by a physician licensed in the state;
- (q) “Hospice agency” means a public or private organization that provides home care and hospice services to terminally ill patients.

# Connecticut Home Health Licensing

- Home health agencies are a medical model. They provide services to support patients with services that will support them in the home, e.g. assistance with the activities of daily living and medication management.
- Individuals receiving services from a home health agency must have a need for skilled nursing services in addition to services provided by a home health aide, occupational therapy, physical therapy or speech therapy (Nursing plus one).
- Cases are supervised by a supervisor of clinical services (Nurse) with care/treatment plans being monitored with scheduled frequency.
- Unlike a homemaker companion, home health aides provide care to the patients such as reading and recording temperature, pulse and respiration, bathing, transfers, fluid intake and nutrition. They are trained to recognize and report changes to the registered nurse.
- They are required to have a State & Federal background check as an individual that provides direct patient care as defined and in accordance with CGS 19a-491c

# Home Health Agency

- Governance
  - Administrator
  - Professional Advisory Council
  - Supervisor of Clinical Services
  - Requirements for
    - Nursing Services
    - Therapy Services
    - Social Services
    - Patient Care Policies
    - Patient Treatment Plans

# DPH/DCP Partnership

- Intersection between Home Health Aides and Homemaker/Companions
- (p) “Homemaker-home health aide” means an unlicensed person who has successfully completed a training and competency evaluation program for the preparation of homemaker home health aides approved by the department;
- Joint reviews/investigations have been conducted when there is the suggestion of an entity exceeding its authority/scope
- For example: Entity is registered as a Homemaker Companion Agency, but is advertising services that includes other credentialed staff, such as a RN/LPN

# Other states homemaker companion licensing

- There are 14 states that do not license/have oversight over homemaker companion agencies, Massachusetts and Vermont are included in this.
- Of the states that do not license these facility types, they require CMS certification for home health agencies.
- CMS certification for home health agencies comes with conditions of participation, which are considered minimum qualifications.
- Of the states reviewed:
  - The licensing agency that would license a home health agency also licenses the homemaker companion agency.
  - States have a tiered licensing system – Class A – “Home Health”, Class B – “Home care”.
  - Each state has a different name on the license, but most refer to the “homemaker companion” as “home care.”
  - Most agencies are required to have an executive director or other “qualified individual” with a minimum of 1 year experience to own/be ED the business
  - Fees range from 800.00 to 2000.00

# DPH Fiscal Impact for licensing

- Should recommendations move forward for DPH to license homemaker companion agencies, DPH could not perform these duties within available appropriations.
- DPH currently licenses approximately 2000 facilities across the continuum with a full staff for processing applications, inspections, complaint investigations. We license over 120 home health entities.
- This would double the Department's caseload, which would require a new team of individuals for these facility types.

# Questions?