



Testimony to the Appropriations Committee

February 19, 2020

Regarding the Governor's Budget Adjustment Proposals Related to the Department of Social Services

HB 5005, AN ACT ADJUSTING THE STATE BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM ENDING JUNE 30, 2021

Presented by Jennifer DiSette, President of CAADS

Good evening Senator Osten, Representative Walker and Members of the Appropriations Committee. My name is Jennifer DiSette and I am the Director of Active Day, an adult day services center in East Hartford Connecticut. I am speaking today on behalf of the Connecticut Association of Adult Day Services, or CAADS, of which I am currently serving as President. CAADS is an association of over 40 adult day centers from across the state and is Connecticut's only professional organization devoted to promoting adult day health services as a high-quality community-based option in the continuum of long-term services and supports. I appreciate the opportunity to testify this evening on the Governor's proposed budget adjustments.

Adult day centers are a covered service in the Connecticut Home Care Program for Elders and our services are also utilized by many families on the statewide Alzheimer's Respite Program. Adult day services are a truly valuable and cost-effective community-based option. Within our centers we provide programming, services, socialization and respite for hundreds of individuals and families throughout the state. Adult day centers also offer door to door transportation to each center.

I would like to begin by expressing our appreciation for the 2% rate increase that was provided to adult day centers on January 1, 2019 and the 1% increase provided on October 1 of last year. These rate increases were granted to most of the providers in the Connecticut Home Care Program with the direction that the new funds be applied to our labor costs and we believe the last increase was in recognition of the recent minimum wage increase.

While appreciative of these recent rate increases, our adult day centers continue to struggle to meet the costs of providing our services. We are seeing continuous increases in expenses such as food and transportation. In September we will be experiencing another increase in the minimum wage, the second increment of the phase-in to \$15 an hour. Therefore, recognizing these ongoing cost increases, we respectfully request that the Committee recommend the implementation of an annual rate increase for providers of home and community-based services that are covered by the Medicaid waiver and respite programs.

The current Medicaid rate of reimbursement for a full day of medical model adult day services is \$73.06, *which is inclusive of the mandated door to door transportation*. When we gathered cost data in 2018, prior to the first increase in the minimum wage and the recent rate increase, we calculated an unfunded cost gap of \$7.66 in the Hartford area to a shortfall for two centers in Fairfield county that are experiencing a short fall of \$63.91 per person, per day. A significant factor in the Fairfield number is the cost of transportation which is approximately \$60 per day.

Community based providers like adult day centers are meeting the growing needs of Connecticut’s older adults while preventing or delaying placements in skilled nursing facilities and helping to prevent the need for more expensive health care settings such as emergency rooms and acute care hospitals. The latest [annual report](#) of the Connecticut Home Care Program for Elders (CHCPE) outlines the savings that were generated as a result of the Program.

The investment in the CHCPE provider rates will strengthen the community-based provider network, enable a successful rebalancing of the long-term services and supports system, and ultimately save the state money. These community-based services should be encouraged and we ask for your continued support of the provider network.

The Value of Adult Day Services

We firmly believe adult day center services and other community-based services save Connecticut significant long-term care dollars by meeting the community-based needs of Connecticut’s older adults, their caregivers and their families. Positive social engagement, meaningful activities, self-help guidance are the cornerstones of the respectful care and services delivered to the individuals enrolled in adult day centers throughout the state. More than 40 certified adult day centers are located in Connecticut offering door to door transportation from neighboring communities to each center.

Adult Day Center Services Provided through the CT Home Care Program for Elders

Adult Day Center Services are a *full day of care* that includes:

Activities, Companionship, Socialization & Supervision
Medication Administration by licensed Nurses
Nutritious Meals including Breakfast, Hot Lunch, Snacks, and continuous encouragement of liquids
Bathing/Showers are available and personal care is provided
Caregiver Support , Information, and Education are readily available
Escorted Transportation, door to door , is provided to and from the Center
Assistance in Coordinating and Planning client’s long-term care needs is available
Community Engagement , opportunities for elders to connect with their community through center organized out-trips, programs brought into the centers, philanthropic work, and socialization with other clients, their families, friends and visitors
Opportunities for daily face to face individual consultations, information and referral, support and assistance
Currently reimbursed at \$73.06 per day

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony and I would be happy to answer any questions.

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