Meals on Wheels & CANASP
Testimony to the Appropriations Committee
Governor's Budget Proposal for the Biennium Ending June 30, 2021

Good evening Senator Osten, Representative Walker, and members of the Appropriations Committee. I am here to speak on behalf of the Connecticut Association of Nutrition and Aging Service Providers (CANASP) – the nine regional providers of Elderly Nutrition Programs (ENPs) throughout the state.

I am here to offer my testimony on the Governor's budget proposal with regard to the DSS and DORS appropriations. We appreciate the legislature's recognition in recent years of the need for increased funding for Connecticut's Meals on Wheels providers. The 2019 rate increase for meals provided under the Homecare Program for Elders was essential in equalizing reimbursement with the actual cost of providing the meal. The Governor's budget proposal now also demonstrates that recognition by better funding meals delivered under Title III, the other program under which meals are delivered.

Furthermore, this budget proposal makes a concerted effort to help nonprofit providers across a number of agencies by providing funding to help offset the impact of the minimum wage increase. While we applaud the initiative, we are concerned that Meals on Wheels may continue to be left out as they were in the first such adjustment (*DSS Provider Bulletin 2019-61*). Of course, as wages rise so too does the cost of preparing and delivering meals. If Elderly Nutrition Providers are carved-out of these adjustments, we risk nullifying the impact of this Committee's hard work in last year's budget.

We support the Governor's proposed budget for *Elderly Nutrition* and respectfully ask that Elderly Nutrition Providers be included with the other providers of human services with regard to the minimum wage offset.

Thank you for your support of this crucial program and the senior citizens that rely on it!

TO: Connecticut Home Care Program for Elders (CHCPE), Acquired Brain Injury (ABI), Personal Care Assistant (PCA), Mental Health and Autism Waiver Service Providers, Home Health Agencies

RE: Rate Increases

Effective October 1, 2019, the Department of Social Services (DSS), in response to the increase in the minimum wage, is increasing rates by 1% for the following waiver service providers:

- Connecticut Home Care Program for Elders (CHCPE)
- Acquired Brain Injury (ABI)
- Personal Care Assistance (PCA)
- Mental Health
- Autism

An update to the fee schedules will be posted on the Connecticut Medical Assistance Program Web site with an effective date of October 1, 2019.

The 1% rate increase will be applied to the following procedure codes:

Agency-Based Services
1214Z - Homemaker Service - Agency - Per 1/4 Hour
1542P - Homemaker Services Per 1/4 Hour
1210Z - Companion Service - Agency Per 1/4 Hour
1536P – Companion Services Per ¼ Hour
1206Z - Chore Service Agency 1/4 Hour
1532P - Chore Services Per ¼ Hour
1211P – Recovery Assistant
1213M - Recovery Assistant Agency, Per 15 Minutes
1214M - Recovery Assistant, Group, 2 Clients
1215M - Recovery Assistant, Group, 3 Clients
1216M - Recovery Assistant, Group, 4 Clients
1217M - Recovery Assistant, Overnight, Per 15 Min

1396Z - Community Mentor agency per 15 minutes
1021Z - Personal Care Services: Per 15 Minutes
1022Z - Personal Care Services: Overnight, Agency
1023Z - Personal Care Services: Per Diem, Agency
3022Z - PCA Agency Overnight Prorated Hourly
1225Z - PCA Agency, Per Diem, Prorated, Hourly

Individual Hire
1212M – Recovery Assistant Individual, per 15 Minutes
1213P - Recovery Assistant II Individual Per 15 Minutes
1543P – Homemaker, Individual, per 15 min.
1395Z - Community Mentor direct-hire per 15 min

Please access the fee schedule for Respite procedure codes subject to the 1% rate increase.

Adult Day Health
1200Z - Adult Day Health - Full Day (Non-Medical Model Provider)
1201Z - Adult Day Health - Full Day (Approved Medical Model Provider)
1202Z - Adult Day Health - Half Day (Less Than Or Equal To 4 Hrs)

Assisted Living
T2031- Assisted living; waiver, per diem
1430Z - Occasional Personal Services-Per Day
1431Z - Limited Personal Services - Per Day

1432Z - Moderate Personal Services - Per Day
1433Z - Extensive Personal Services - Per Day
1434Z - Core Assisted Living Services - Per Day
1435Z - Demo Project/Occasional Personal Services - Per Day
1436Z - Demo Project/Limited Personal Services - Per Day
1437Z - Demo Project/Moderate Personal Services - Per Day
1438Z - Demo Project/Extensive Personal Services - Per Day
1439Z - Demo Project/Core Assisted Living Services - Per Day

Home Health Aide
T1004 - Services of a qualified nursing aide up to 15 min.
T1021 - Home health aide (HHA) or certified nurse assistant (CNA), per visit

CHCPE, ABI, PCA, Mental Health and Autism Waiver service providers who submit Electronic Visit Verification (EVV) mandated and optional services to DXC Technology for claim adjudication via the Santrax system must enter their updated usual and customary rates for dates of service October 1, 2019 into their Sandata database prior to billing claims for dates of service October 1, 2019 and forward via the Sandata system.

ABI, Autism, PCA and CHCPE Waiver service providers are encouraged to refer to the "Billing Rates" document by clicking on "Electronic Visit Verification" then "New Provider Information" then "Welcome Kit" then "Billing Rates" for assistance in updating their usual and customary rates in their Santrax system. Please click the link below to access the "Billing Rates" document on the www.ctdssmap.com Web site Home page.

EVV Billing Rates

For further assistance, please contact the DXC Technology EVV mail box at Ctevv@dxc.com.

Accessing the Fee Schedules
The updated fee schedules can be accessed and downloaded from the Connecticut Medical Assistance Program Web site: www.ctdssmap.com. From this Web page, go to "Provider", then to "Provider Fee Schedule Download". Click on the "I accept" button and proceed to the appropriate fee schedule. To access the CSV file, present the control key while clicking the CSV link; then select "Open".

Questions? Need assistance? Call the Provider Assistance Center Mon–Fri 8:00 am – 5:00 pm
Toll free 1-800-842-8440 or write to DXC Technology, PO Box 2991, Hartford, CT 06104
Program information is available at www.ctdssmap.com