



TESTIMONY

Submitted by Anellie Reed, BSN, RN
Administrator for All Pointe HomeCare

Appropriations Committee – Human Services Budget
Public Hearing
February 19, 2020

Good afternoon/evening Senator Osten, Representative Walker and distinguished members of the Appropriations Committee.

My name is Anellie Reed, Administrator of All Pointe HomeCare. Like Aveanna Healthcare, we too provide complex care nursing to fragile members of our community. First, I would like to explain in more detail what Continuous Skilled Nursing is. Continuous care nursing also referred to as shift nursing or Private Duty Nursing, is designed to provide in home support for clients and their families. Rather than institutionalizing these complex individuals, this service allows them to remain safely at home with their loved ones. It is different from traditional skilled nursing visits. It is defined as 2+ hours per day of home health nursing services and ranges between 2-23 hours per day with an average of 15 hours per day. Each patient requires a team of two to eight nurses providing one on one skilled care.

The patients consist of children and adults that are likely trached, and ventilator dependent. Keep in mind that these are ICU level patients cared for by LPNs or RN's at a fraction of the cost of an institution. What you might be interested in knowing is that the cost of providing 23 hours of care per day in the home averages \$1,078 as opposed to \$9,100 per day in an ICU/PICU/NICU.

These clinicians are usually LPNs who require a highly skilled level of training and oversight. The cost of training, supervising, retaining, and other overhead costs often exceeds the reimbursement rate. For this reason, agencies are not able to offer competitive wages resulting in a significant decrease in nurses entering this workforce. This limits the ability of an agency to cover the required hours to safely maintain these patients in the community thereby putting them at risk for re-hospitalization which increases cost to the state.

So, we are here before you respectfully asking you to consider increasing the reimbursement rate to be more aligned with the cost to the agency. This increase will be invested directly to the workforce, by increasing wages, offering competitive benefits, providing more extensive training, oversight, and retention. Agencies will be more successful in attracting highly skilled nurses into this field of nursing if we could offer higher compensation.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony. Feel free to contact me with any questions.

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