



Testimony to the Appropriations Committee

March 3, 2021

Regarding

House Bill 6439, An Act Concerning the State Budget for The Biennium Ending June Thirtieth, 2023, and Making Appropriations Therefor

Presented by Andrei Brel, Past-President of CAADS and President of Juniper Adult Day

Senator Osten, Representative Walker and Members of the Appropriations Committee. My name is Andrei Brel and I am the President of Juniper Adult Day, an organization that provides adult day services at centers in Hartford, West Hartford, New Britain and Hamden. I am speaking today on behalf of the Connecticut Association of Adult Day Services, or CAADS, an association representing adult day centers from across the state. I appreciate the opportunity to testify today on the Governor's proposed budget.

I would like to focus my testimony today on the experience and actions of our membership in response to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Exactly a year ago, when the pandemic started, we were all in shock and disbelief. The lockdown was implemented and no one knew how long it would last. But we had an obligation toward our clients, their families and our staff to continue offering the adult day services that were so critical to the care of our clients. Shutting our doors at Juniper, even for a limited period, was never an option.

Connecticut's adult day centers responded to the Covid-19 crisis on behalf of our clients and their families. Adult day centers are funded through the Connecticut Home Care Program for Elders and so we partnered with the Department of Social Services (DSS) to come up with a plan. DSS leadership, working together with CAADS and thinking creatively and innovatively, came up with a new concept of offering a virtual care model. It allowed the centers that were forced to close or dramatically limit their capacity, to continue to provide services to their clients by delivering meals to their homes and making daily well-being calls. We made sure our clients were taken care – that they had food and that other critical needs were being met.

In addition, we made sure our clients were getting masks, hand sanitizers, cleaning supplies, books and games. We celebrated their birthdays, managed their routine appointments, and conducted one-on-one or group socialization activities via Zoom. We supported and educated them on a daily basis. This is what a strong and dedicated network of community-based providers can do, and we would not have it any other way. And so I am here today to encourage you to continue to invest in and support this network of providers so that we can continue to serve Connecticut's seniors.

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

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 \$74.74 per day

CAADS, ads@leadingagect.org
(203) 678-4649