



# Colonial Health & Rehab Center of Plainfield, LLC

*"Family First"*

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**March 3, 2021**

***Written testimony of Curtis Rodowicz, Administrator of Colonial Health and Rehab Center of Plainfield, LLC, Concerning the Governor's Recommended FY 2022 and FY 2023 Proposed Budget***

Good evening Senator Osten, Representative Walker and to the members of the Appropriations Committee. My name is Curtis Rodowicz I am the Administrator of Colonial and Health and Rehab Center of Plainfield, LLC in Plainfield, Connecticut. Colonial Health and Rehab has been providing nursing home care in our community for 38 years. We are a 90 bed nursing home, and we have 112 employee working at our facility.

Our nursing home, the residents we serve, and our employees, have been challenged like in no other time during the epic and ongoing COVID-19 public health emergency. Our nursing home had an outbreak in November of 2020 through December 2020 with direct consequences for our residents and staff: 61 number of residents contracted the virus and 29 staff contracted the virus. While 57 nursing home residents recovered, we lost 4 residents to the highly contagious and deadly virus. We had an additional outbreak in January 2021 through February 2021: 0 residents and 4 staff contracted the virus. All of which recovered. What is especially heartbreaking and tragic is that our staff did all that was in their power to protect our residents. We implemented all the CDC and DPH protocols. We implemented rigorous resident and staff testing when testing became available in the early summer. We secured the PPE we needed and overcame the supply shortages that were present early in the pandemic. I am very proud of what we were able to do as we were up against a virus that spreading through persons showing no symptoms and in a state that was impacted with challenging rates of community spread of the virus. We faced staffing challenges like never before and continue to search for staff despite incentivized unemployment benefits keeping eligible workers out of the work force. We adapted to the severe and emotionally devastating visitor restrictions by facilitating communication and visitors through outdoor, indoor when allowed, compassionate care and virtual visits.

The sustained vigilance of our staff and the COVID-19 vaccine roll-out are now showing us the pathway to the end of this pandemic for our nursing home. Our resident vaccination percentage rate is 94%. 62% percent of staff have been vaccinated however due to turnover and new hires the current status is below 50%.

We experienced a sharp nursing home occupancy decline due to the ongoing pandemic and this has created unprecedented financial consequences to our already underfunded nursing home. Our pre-pandemic occupancy was 96 %. Today occupancy is 86%. We believe we will recover perhaps by 2022. Much more support is needed for our facility to help us get us to the other side of this pandemic. The federal support we have received thus far has been helpful however funds are nearing the end. State funding offers have caused us to only be able to accept the initial funding for March and April of 2020 due to the heavy requirements of participation that exceeded the benefits of the funding for our center. That being said the state budget Connecticut adopts this session is extremely important. The level funding and severely underfunded acuity-based payment system in the Governor's proposed budget for nursing homes must not be approved. At this critical juncture, a substantial funding increase to our nursing homes is imperative so we can deliver the high-quality care we know everyone wants as we recover from this epic pandemic that has caused so much tragedy for our community.

On behalf of everyone at Colonial Health and Rehab we request that you substantially increase the funding for our severely threatened Connecticut nursing homes without any new costly requirements that further burden our center.

Thank you.



Curtis Rodowicz  
Administrator  
Colonial Health & Rehab Center of Plainfield, LLC