

Hi Jennifer and Julie—

Thank you for asking for input on this important issue. My thoughts follow:

1. Please invest the savings from Choices for Care in services that are being cut due to sequestration. These include meals (home delivered and congregate), case management, transportation, healthy aging, SHIP, and emergency funds for clients.
2. Eliminating the wait list for the Moderate Needs program is vital.
3. Rate increases for all CFC services is important. Most rates have been stagnant for many years, while the cost of providing the service increases.
4. Re CFC in general, the focus on “nursing home level of care” is antiquated and not helpful for many people who need services and want to stay out of a nursing home. By the time many people “level,” their care systems have been burned out and they are at the nursing home’s door. Relying on ADLs and IADLs as the main focus is not always adequate. This especially leaves out many people with dementia who need support but not necessarily hands on care. We need to look at this in a more holistic way.
5. Many services are ruled by “rules” and therefore are not person centered. If a client needs someone to clean a litter box and it is not allowed by the service provider, that is challenging. Many services done by agencies seem to be more centered on what staff is available rather than what the person needs.

Thanks again,

Beth

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