

**House Committee on Appropriations -Hearing on SFY15 Budget
Testimony of Sandy Conrad on Behalf of the Five Area Agencies on Aging**

The Area Agencies on Aging Support:

- Continuation of SFY14 Choices for Care increase in funding for AAA nutrition programs for home delivered and congregate meals. The Joint Fiscal Committee approved a SFY14 increase of \$170,000 to offset federal sequestration and \$40,000 for targeted initiatives for a total of \$210,000 in general funds.
- The SFY15 DAIL Choices for Care Budget proposal to spend \$170,000 in general funds for nutrition sequestration offset *but are concerned about lost federal share* in the amount of \$220,714.
- Annualizing SFY14 reinvestments in moderate needs that will be funded by carry forward of SFY choices for care reinvestments that were approved in Budget Adjustment.
- An additional \$1 million in SFY14 choices for care savings for one-time re investments but are concerned that a significant portion of these savings will not be spent until SFY15. *The delay in these reinvestments will impact planning and strategic impacts that could be achieved for vulnerable elders who would benefit, e.g., from home access improvements and assistive technologies.*
- Adding Meals on Wheels to the Choices for Care Plan of Care so that participants do not lower their daily hours of care per day, month and year. Individuals receive up to 60 minutes per day if they choose not to take Meals on Wheels. Utilizing Choices for Care reinvestment savings to allow the Plan of Care for an individual to receive up to seven meals on wheels per week without losing personal care hours would stabilize funding streams to meal providers and increase federal Nutrition Services Incentive Program (NSIP) due to the increase in participation. The mechanism to achieve this would be to include meal preparation into the Instrumental Activities of Daily Living (IADL) as a separate line.
- Continuation of the Self Neglect Initiative that has been funded by Choices for Care SFY13 reinvestment savings

The Area Agencies on Aging Oppose:

- Booking potential nursing home occupancy savings up front in order to pay for the statutory rate increase for nursing homes because it would directly reduce the savings of the Choices for Care global budget that would be potentially available for reinvestments in home and community based services. This contravenes the language of the SFY14 Budget, Sec. E.308 (b)(2) that requires “priority for the use of any savings from the long term care appropriation after the needs of all individuals meeting the terms and conditions of the waiver have been met shall be given to home and community based services.” Furthermore, DAIL “shall not obligate funds to reduce the calculations of savings in any fiscal year or reduce the base funding

needed in a subsequent fiscal year prior to calculating savings for the current fiscal year.”