

TESTIMONY TO THE HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

CATHEDRAL SQUARE CORPORATION

In FY 2014 SASH received \$1,013,671 in funding through DAIL to perform 4 functions (note: that figure includes the \$50,000 included in the FY2014 budget adjustment):

- (1) Administer the Housing And Supportive Services (HASS) program as a fully integrated part of SASH, awarding grants to 15 organizations at 23 affordable housing communities;
- (2) Continue rollout of the SASH program as a part of the Blueprint for Health;
- (3) Develop a Person Centered Dementia training program in collaboration with the Elder Care Clinicians at designated Mental Health Agencies; and
- (4) Reimburse mental health agency staff attending the monthly SASH functional team meetings.

At this time SASH is operating in over 90 affordable housing communities across Vermont serving low income residents and neighbors in surrounding community dwellings. The federal Office of Management & Budgets (OMB) have approved the expansion of SASH in up to 5,400 participants. Cathedral Square is responsible for the statewide implementation of SASH under an MOU with DVHA. Early evaluation results prepared by RTI for CMS indicate solid reductions in overall Medicare payments and acute care payments.

In FY2015 we seek:

- (1) Continuation of our funding through DAIL at \$1,013,671;
- (2) If there are Choices For Savings available for one-time expenses we would ask to be included in discussions regarding how the savings are used;
- (3) \$15.3M for the Vermont Housing & Conservation Board (VHCB), including funding to assist SASH to accelerate participation during this 3rd year of the Medicare demonstration and funds to develop new affordable senior housing to serve the **950 people** on our waiting lists today.

SASH makes good fiscal sense for Vermont. It is built upon an infrastructure that already exists and is largely federally funded; it brings public health programs to the lowest income Medicaid and Medicare beneficiaries; it utilizes existing community based providers such as Area Agencies on Aging, home health and mental health agencies rather than duplicating their expertise; and it is reducing the number of hospital admissions and readmissions to nursing homes. As Vermont moves toward being one of the oldest states in the country, we will benefit from having a highly efficient statewide network of support services in place. Thank you.

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