

Vermont Association of Adult Day Services (VAADS)

Testimony of Mary Fredette, February 25, 2015

VAADS opposes the Governor's proposed FY 16 budget cut proposals to:

- Eliminate \$115,000.00 in capacity grants to Adult Day Programs
- Reduce Adult Day Moderate Needs Allocations to the FY 2014 level

Capacity Grants

VAADS opposes the administration's proposal to cut capacity grants, which provide each program with a small amount of unrestricted funds to support their services. The amount of the grants has declined significantly over the last 10 years during which the frailty of those we serve has vastly increased.

- Program Operations
 - When participants are scheduled but do not attend due to illness or weather, the program does not receive any payment for that participant, unlike other state-supported care services such as long-term care facilities or children's daycare programs which receive funding for a period of time if the participant is absent. This substantial reduction in revenue creates a significant hardship on the programs as fixed costs mandated by the VT Adult Day Standards remains the same, whether participants are present or not.
 - Economically unpredictable revenue causes organizational challenges that include unpredictable staffing needs often resulting in turnover, inconsistency, increased unemployment costs and decreased participant and staff satisfaction.
- Improvements
 - Adult Day programs are subject to continual improvements to meet the needs of our increasingly frail participants and protect our staff. Investments in expensive equipment such as monitoring systems, mechanical lifts, hospital beds, etc., reduce risks and improve satisfaction.

Moderate Needs Allocations

VAADS opposes a reduction in Moderate Needs (MNG) FY 2016 allocations to FY 2014 level.

- Consumer Choice
 - VT implemented the Choices for Care (CFC) waiver and made a commitment to eligible Vermonters that they could choose to stay at home or access nursing facility care.
- Cost
 - A CFC goal was to reduce the long-term care costs to the state – Adult Day services are helping VT meet that goal. On average Adult Day services cost less than 45% of facility-based care.
- Waitlist
 - Last year the VT Legislature and DAIL charged Adult Day and other community service providers with reducing the waitlist for MNG qualified folks. Adult Day programs worked diligently to serve more Vermonters and are expected to use the full FY 2015 allocation.

At the end of the day, it is really all about those we are here to serve. Please tell me how to explain to the 100 year old and their working family members they can no longer attend 4 days a week, or the working Mother of the 29 year old disabled child we can now only offer 1 day of assistance. The list of situations is endless but the reality remains.

For the State to stand by its commitment to serve Vermonters who chose home as their environment of choice they must also assure there are community-based organizations willing and able to care for our most valuable, yet vulnerable residents – seniors and adults with disabilities. A reinvestment in the services that have resulted in savings is a sound decision.