

Good Evening

Thank you to the committee for offering an opportunity to give input into the Fiscal Year 19 budget.

I'm Chuck Rhynard, case manager and senior advocate at the Central Vermont Council on Aging. I am here to request an increase in Medicaid reimbursement so that our agency can better continue supporting our clients.

I have been with the Council for 13 or so years, working primarily in rural eastern Orange County. The success of my work helping clients relies heavily on the trusting relationships we are able to develop.

At the beginning of 2017, my territory was changed to primarily Washington County due to staffing reductions as a result of funding constraints. Time to do more with less. As of last month, I have moved back to my old territory due to increased demand in the case load in that area. I do not mind the change, but it often confuses the clients and takes extra time to develop new relationships.

My client case load continues to build with the influx of the baby boomers. The larger our case load, the less effective we are to help those most in need with their issues and support to help them stay at home and live independently. The alternative is much more costly institutional care.

Most of my client's services are funded by Medicaid. Increasing Medicaid funding would provide more resources to serve the current and increasing case load. I fear that we will see many dedicated colleagues burn out as the pressure continues to build.

Please support H 284 as a way to support home base services, and as a way to help me better support those I work with every day.

Thank you for your time.