

My name is Carol Ladabouche and I am a case manager at the Southwestern Vermont Council on Aging.

I want to thank you for coming tonight to listen to our story. While you listen I encourage you all to consider the importance of this budget and see the need for more funding for community-based services.

I have had the opportunity of working for the Council on Aging for several years, so I have seen the evolution of the Choices of Care program and the many people that it has affected.

Case management is critical to helping people age safely in their setting of choice. We do this through connecting clients to services such as Choices for care a long-term care Medicaid program, Food stamps, fuel assistance, Rep payee services, Meals on Wheels and Moderate need services.

Over the years I have had several clients that I could share as a success story but the one that stands out most recently is the story of Deloss, who I started working with 2 years ago. Deloss had called our agency because he was out of fuel and it was in the middle of the winter. When I went to his home I found him living in squalor, he had limited food, he was unable to pay his bills, and had not been to the doctor in over five (5) years. Deloss had no family support.

I immediately was able to work with BROCC to have his oil tank filled and set up MOW to help with the lack of food. Our next visit I spoke with him about a medical physician. He was willing to see someone if the physician could come to the home, I was able to find a physician who made home visits. The physician came out to see him with me upon their request. After helping Deloss with establishing a health care provider I addressed his need for help with bill paying. After discussing Rep Payee program he agreed to participate. During this time, I developed a relationship with him that allowed me to address his personal care needs and his condemnable environment. I did this through applying for the Choices for Care Program (CFC). This program allowed Deloss' personal needs to be addressed. I was then able to work on improving the conditions of his home. I did this with the help of volunteers from the Dismiss House. We were able to remove six (6) tons of garbage from his home, as well as a possum that was living in his mattress. I was able to secure aides from a local home health to come in and start taking care of him through the CFC program. The home even after the trash was removed was really unsafe to live in and unsafe for the aides to come in. Deloss was willing to move to a more affordable and safer environment. I helped him apply for affordable housing and move. He is now living in a nice apartment with the ongoing support from the rep payee program, CFC, and our case management department. Deloss feels as though his life is the best that it has been in years.

I shared this example because it shows how the Council on Aging and these community-based services save the state so much money. Deloss's budget for choices for care cost 3909.00 a month and in a nursing, home would cost the state 8820. Not only has the state saved money by paying for services in the home for Deloss but the involvement from our agency has really prevented Deloss from having to

have a Guardian from the state of Vermont. As you can see this is cost savings but it has also kept Deloss living in the setting of his choice with his dignity.

This scenario is just one of the many that the Council on Aging case management department manages on a regular basis.

I want to thank you for taking the time to listen to Deloss's story.

Sincerely,

Carol Ladabouche