

I am writing on behalf of the funding increase that is desperately needed for our aging population.

While I have heard my co-workers talking about the issue of lack of "Medicaid approved beds" in nursing homes; I will only speak to my own caseload.

In the past year I have worked with 10 individuals and their families and care teams to find LTC placement for individuals who are/were struggling at home. Often they are understaffed with HHAs as they are having a hard time finding caregivers to care for our aging population. Many people either have no family, aging family or worse neglecting/abusive/exploitative families.

Of those 10:

5 are still seeking placement.

2 have found placement.

3, sadly, have died. With caregivers in place, it is likely this would not have happened.

Our aging population needs this increase; they cannot continue to wait for the care that they desperately need. Their lives, safety and well-being are in jeopardy.

I am requesting you approve the increases for home-based Choices for Care and Enhanced Residential Care (ERC) which as described in the February 15, 2023 DVHA rate study.

The SF25 budget needs a long-term care reimbursement adjustment. It should reflect the current economic conditions as well as adjust for changes in both the market as well as staffing. These rates should be reviewed and updated annually so we, ideally, don't see a startling decline as we have in the past several years.

Caregivers are desperately needed for this population to be allowed to 'age in place'. Many do not require full-time care (nursing home) but need extra help to make them successful and to remain safe at home.

Thank You for your consideration;

Jen Elwood

Case Manager

Age Well