



2012 CAHCH State Legislative Agenda

Home Health and Hospice Care is the cost-effective solution to providing Connecticut residents with person-centered, quality-driven care in the comfort of their own homes.

Ensure an adequately funded, sustainable, home health care industry to support the rebalancing of Connecticut's Long Term Care System and the success of Money Follows the Person (MFP).

- Ensure Medicaid ASO rates are adequate to meet the cost of providing the service to the frail elderly and chronically ill. Medicaid rates for home care have not been increased for 5 years; agencies lose money on every Medicaid home care visit.
- Home care agencies want to work with DSS to improve MFP placements and provide innovative ways to collaborate with DSS to improve outcomes.
- Support education and training to ensure an adequate and appropriately skilled home health and hospice workforce to meet the growing need for community-based care.

Reduce regulatory burdens so home health care providers can be innovative thought leaders, improve patient outcomes and reduce costly and avoidable re-hospitalizations.

- Home care agencies are experts in chronic care management and transitional care, our agencies reduce the cost of institutional care and help avoid hospital readmissions.
- Work with DSS to ensure Medicaid audit practices isolate fraud and identify bad players as opposed to diverting dollars from direct patient care.
- Re-evaluate Third Party Liability (TPL) practices to create a cost-effective, workable long-term resolution with up-front case management model in collaboration with DSS.
- Re-examine scope of clinical practice regulations and the role of home care workers to furthering the success of MFP.
- Evaluate medication administration options for community-based chronic care and behavioral health clients that will ensure both cost savings to the state and quality client outcomes without reducing reimbursement for nursing medication administration rates.

Implement a statewide system for electronic medical record use in the home and across the care continuum.

- Reimburse home health agencies for the use of telehealth equipment.
- Ensure access to the state multi payor claims database (when complete) to provide transparency across the healthcare continuum ensuring that the right care is delivered in the right setting at the right cost.

Modernize hospice facility regulations to improve access to needed inpatient hospice services and bring the state of CT in compliance with federal guidelines and the rest of the nation.

- Approve contemporary hospice facility regulations proposed by the Department of Public Health (DPH) offering terminally ill CT residents and their families' access to all levels of hospice services within their own communities.