2023 State Legislative Agenda
Connecticut Association for Healthcare at Home

The Right Care, at the Right Cost, in the Setting People Prefer Most—Their Own Homes.

2023 Legislative Priorities:

1. Sustain Medicaid Home and Community-Based Service (HCBS) Providers with Consistent Annual Medicaid Reimbursement Rate Increases for BOTH Home Health and Non-Medical Home Care Providers
   - As we emerge from the pandemic, HCBS providers face severe workforce shortages, rising costs of care and inadequate Medicaid rates causing agencies to refuse referrals which impacts state cost savings and goals to keep people home. Some suggestions include:
     - Implement consistent annual Medicaid home health and non-medical home care rate increases aligned with federal CPI
       - In addition, implement a 10% Medication Administration rate increase to close gap of 2016 15% rate cut and ensure home health behavioral health patients remain out of the more costly institutional settings
     - Ensure both Pediatric and Adult complex extended care rates are the same—Do Not separate pediatrics from adults as same level of service is necessary.
     - Create a Medicaid rate for Home Health Social Work visits
       - The role of the Social Worker in the home is crucial to determining “real life” social determinants of health (SDoH), guiding those clients toward available resources and supporting those with Behavioral Health and Palliative Care needs.
     - Provide funding to recruit and retain staff and to educate and prepare healthcare workers for tomorrow

2. Remove Costly Unfunded Regulatory Burdens on Home Health, Hospice and Non-Medical Home Care Providers in Collaboration with DSS, DPH and DCP.
   - For Licensed Home Health and Hospice through DPH: Fast track and finalize the revisions to the severely outdated (1979) DPH Home Health and Hospice regulations.
   - For Licensed Home Health: support Open EVV system for Medicaid with implementation date of 1/1/24.
   - For Homemaker-Companion Agencies (HCAs) through DCP: Address any legislation as a result of the HCA Task Force recommendations

3. Promote informed decision-making for End-of-Life (EOL) care through consumer and provider education about high-quality EOL care alternatives such as Palliative Care and Hospice.
   - Support state initiatives to enhance serious illness care through improved education at the professional level for palliative care, advanced care planning and informed choice.

Any questions, please contact Tracy Wodatch (wodatch@cthealthcareathome.org).
ADDENDUM:

**Who We Are:**

The Association membership includes both licensed and certified home health and hospice providers as well as non-medical home care providers:

- **Home Health and Hospice agency-based providers:**
  - Licensed by the CT Department of Public Health (DPH), audited by the CT Department of Social Services (DSS), and certified by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).
  - Deliver physician/APRN-ordered in-home and community-based medical services to CT Medicaid and Medicare beneficiaries as well as individuals with commercial insurance throughout all 169 Connecticut towns and cities.
  - Services include skilled nursing, therapy, social work and home health aides who provide high-quality, high-tech, skilled medical and behavioral health Home Health and Hospice services to individuals of all ages.

- **Non-medical home care providers (Homemaker-Companion Agencies):**
  - Registered with the Department of Consumer Protection (DCP)
  - Provide supportive care, non-medical services to maintain individuals in their homes.
  - Services include homemakers, companions, personal care attendants, live-ins.

- **Together, all home and community-based services reduce unnecessary and costly hospital readmissions, keep individuals with chronic conditions stable at home and contribute to the success of CT’s Long-Term Services and Supports Plan by fostering personal independence, Aging in Place, and successful transitions from institutions to home and community-based settings. According to a DSS annual report, Home and Community-Based Services SAVED the CT budget $508.4 million in FY 2019 alone and over $2.5 billion (2006–2019).**