

## **Joint Hearing on Aging Related Issues**

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Office of Long-Term Living**

**House Aging and Older Adult Services & Senate Aging and  
Youth Committee**

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Good morning, Chairmen Hennessey, Samuelson, Vulakovich, Wiley, committee members and staff. I am Bonnie Rose, Deputy Secretary for the Department of Public Welfare's (Department) Office of Long-Term Living (OLTL). On behalf of the Department of Public Welfare, I am pleased to present this testimony regarding long-term care services in our Commonwealth.

Of the 50 states, Pennsylvania has the fourth-largest percentage of residents age 60 years or older. Over the next decade, the Commonwealth's population of residents age 85 years or older is expected to grow by 42 percent while the state's total population is expected to grow by only 2 percent. Pennsylvania currently spends over \$4.9 billion each year on Medicaid long-term care services and an additional \$300 million on preventative services for individuals not yet eligible for Medicaid long-term care, and this demand is growing. As a state we have a vested interest in ensuring that our older and disabled citizens have access to quality care. In my testimony, I will cover the Department's role in long-term care and the efforts that are underway by the Pennsylvania Long-Term Care Commission (LTCC) to explore the future delivery of these services.

The OLTL administers Medical Assistance (MA) programs that provide long-term care services to older Pennsylvanians and to adults with physical disabilities. These services are provided across a continuum of care; ranging from within an individual's home to nursing facilities. The services provided in an individual's home are paid through the Department's Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) waiver programs. These waiver programs are intended to serve individuals who are nursing facility clinically eligible and MA-eligible and wish to remain in their homes or communities rather than enter a facility such as a nursing home. The HCBS waiver programs differ in the population they serve, the criteria that must be met in order to

qualify, and the services offered. The HCBS waiver programs administered by OLTL include:

- Aging Waiver – Provides long-term care services for individuals 60 years of age or older;
- AIDS Waiver – Individuals must be 21 years of age or older and have symptomatic HIV disease or AIDS;
- Attendant Care Waiver - Serves individuals with physical disabilities who require minimal services and are 18-59 years of age;
- COMMCARE Waiver – Provides services to individuals who have a medical diagnosis of traumatic brain injury and are 21 years of age or older;
- Independence Waiver – Serves adults with severe physical disabilities;
- OBRA Waiver – Provides services to individuals with severe developmental physical disabilities, such as cerebral palsy, epilepsy, or similar conditions.

The OLTL also administers the Act 150 Program which is an exclusively state-funded program designed for individuals who meet the same clinical requirements of the Attendant Care Waiver but who are not MA-eligible. We are pleased to report that \$7.2 million was added in the FY 2014-2015 budget to provide home and community-based services to adults with physical disabilities who are currently on the Act 150 waiting list.

The Living Independence for the Elderly (LIFE) program is another option that permits older Pennsylvanians to live independently while receiving services and supports to meet their needs. The LIFE program is a managed care program that provides a comprehensive, all-inclusive package of medical and support services to MA-eligible participants over the age of 55. Individuals who are dually eligible for both Medicare and MA can also enroll for services through a LIFE program. There are over 4,000 individuals being served by LIFE providers across the Commonwealth.

While more options for individuals who wish to remain in their homes and communities continue to become available, we acknowledge that others choose, either out of necessity or personal preference, to enter into a nursing facility. In FY 2013-14, approximately 57,000 residents per day were served in nursing facilities. The Pennsylvania Department of Health is responsible for the licensing and oversight of Pennsylvania's nursing care facilities. They perform MA certification surveys for the Department which assures federal requirements are met along with quality of care, quality of life, and that residents' rights are being honored the facility. The OLTL oversees the nursing facility rate-setting process, financial monitoring, and certifies facilities for MA participation.

Pennsylvania offers a wide array of both home and community-based and facility-based services and these services must be coordinated and sustained as demand for them continues to increase. Seeing a need for the system to be evaluated, in January of 2014, Governor Corbett signed an Executive Order establishing the Pennsylvania Long-Term Care Commission (LTCC). Co-chaired by Secretary Mackereth (Department of Public Welfare) and Secretary Duke (Department of Aging), the LTCC has been tasked with identifying and reviewing the critical issues and trends in the Commonwealth's long-term care services and supports delivery system. The group is focused on improving the current long-term care system, including identifying effective ways to coordinate the administration of long-term care programs and services and ensuring quality health care for older Pennsylvanians and individuals with disabilities. I would like to thank both Chairman Vulakovich and Chairman Samuelson for participating in the LTCC.

Since April, the LTCC has held seven public meetings across the state and received feedback from organizations, service providers, and individuals interested in the future of Pennsylvania's long-term care system. Written comments were also

accepted until recently, August 14<sup>th</sup>. The LTCC will submit a report of its recommendations to the Governor by December 31, 2014.

Thank you for the opportunity to address you today and for continuing to partner with the Department as we serve the Commonwealth's older adult population. I would be happy to answer any questions at this time.