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2005 Public Policy Issues

Public Policy Statement

CAHSA advocates public policy initiatives which support the individual's desire to live in the environment of their choice.

We believe in...

- Access to a full range of housing and service options;
- Quality of life through healthy, affordable and ethical care; and
- Equitable funding across the care continuum.

Therefore, CAHSA will support public policy initiatives which reflect the changing needs and choices of the individuals we serve.

ISSUE: BUDGET CRISIS

CAHSA members are aware of the continuing state budget crisis. We understand the constraints imposed by TABOR, Amendment 23 and other voter-approved constitutional amendments that limit flexibility of legislators to solve the state's budget crisis. We are concerned about the impact continuing cuts will have on the frail and vulnerable elderly citizens of Colorado. In the past we have tried a proactive approach to reduce spending in the Medicaid budget by making suggestions for Medicaid Reform. Examples include an "ACF Plus" program to allow Medicaid residents to stay in the Assisted Living setting if they develop incontinence or other diagnoses requiring additional staff support; and allowing Adult Day Programs to have restricted environments to provide a safe environment for clients with dementia who wander. These types of reforms would prevent premature nursing home admissions and thereby achieve cost savings in the Medicaid budget. These suggestions, however, have not moved forward during the budget crisis as the focus has been primarily on cutting expenditures. We believe implementing innovative solutions to achieve a more efficient utilization of Medicaid dollars is needed, and we support a strategic approach to create a more balanced delivery system. In order to achieve a balanced delivery system; however, additional funds will need to be applied to home- and community-based services. CAHSA supports debrucing the state's additional TABOR refunds and applying some of those dollars to increases for home-and-community based services. If our state's budget crisis is not resolved, a strategic approach to rebalancing Medicaid's long-term care programs will become even more critical to meet the needs of an increasing aging population, which will ultimately increase demand on the Medicaid program.

SOLUTIONS:

- * **SUPPORT LEGISLATION TO ALLOW VOTERS TO APPROVE A MEASURE IN NOVEMBER THAT WILL OFFER BOTH SHORT- AND LONG-TERM SOLUTIONS TO OUR BUDGET CRISIS.**
- * **SUPPORT THE 2% INCREASE IN REIMBURSEMENT TO COMMUNITY LONG-TERM CARE PROVIDERS AS RECOMMENDED BY THE JOINT BUDGET COMMITTEE.**

Community long-term care provider rates have been frozen since FY 2001-02, despite findings of the Footnote 50a Task Force in November, 2000 that Alternative Care Facilities, Home Health Aides, Personal Care and Homemaker Services were grossly underfunded. Without increases, access to these cost-effective alternatives to institutionalization may be reduced, resulting in unnecessary and costly premature nursing home admissions.

- * **SUPPORT SB 173, "CONCERNING LONG-TERM CARE SERVICES UNDER THE COLORADO MEDICAL ASSISTANCE ACT."**

This bill proposes a plan to help rebalance funds allocated for long-term care between institutional care and home- and community-based services. There are two sections to the bill. The first section calls for an advisory committee to be convened to make recommendations to the state on or before July 1, 2006 on programs or program modifications to create a coordinated continuum of long-

term care services and delivery systems, improved structure and quality of provider operations, and an enhanced quality of life for program participants. The second section of the bill would allow the state to accept proposals from providers to develop and implement a three-year coordinated care pilot program for community long-term care services that would provide for voluntary recipient enrollment and voluntary provider participation. This will allow for creative and innovative pilots that will evaluate program outcomes, identify fiscal savings and determine the benefits to the client and the state.

- * **SUPPORT SB155, "Concerning the Regulation of Medication Distributed by Certified Nurse Aides."**

This bill will allow certified nurse aides to administer medications to residents of nursing homes. Individual nursing homes would determine if they wish to pursue this option. The CNA would have to complete training, which includes class time, skill demonstration and clinical experience. Due to the current nurse shortage, many nursing homes struggle with recruiting and retaining nursing staff. This bill will allow those who pursue this training an option for more efficient use of their nursing resources and more efficient use of their reimbursement. This bill is a result of a recommendation of the Governor's Blue Ribbon Task Force Staffing Issues in Long-Term Care.

ISSUE: AFFORDABLE HOUSING FOR MODERATE AND LOW INCOME ELDERS

CAHSA members are committed to providing housing and services to elderly persons with moderate to low incomes. Historically, this has been possible through HUD subsidies, tax credit financing, Medicaid waiver programs, and charitable contributions. Most facilities now have long waiting lists, with the result that many applicants are quite frail at entry and in need of supportive in-home services to maintain their residency.

All CAHSA members are affected by the shortage of affordable housing. Essential workers in long-term care frequently cannot afford average rents. High housing costs are causing labor shortages in some communities. Rents have outpaced wages throughout the state for several years.

CAHSA supports the use of state dollars to maximize the expansion and bundling of private and public sector programs and increase the supply of affordable housing for the elderly population and essential workers in long term care.

SOLUTIONS:

- * **Support the Department of Local Affairs request for \$100,000 for the Division of Housing to fund affordable housing development.**
- * **Support legislation to establish a Housing Trust Fund that will provide equity and loans for affordable housing production and preservation activities in the shelter, rental and home ownership areas; and establish priorities for projects that serve underserved or hard to serve populations or geographies.**

CAHSA Business Members

Bass & Bradshaw Inc.
BKD, LLP
Colorado Foundation for Medical Care
Colorado Health Facilities Authority
Commercial Insurance Services, Inc.
Community Capital Corporation
Epstein, Barry, Attorney at Law
EverCare Colorado
F. A. S. S.
Feldhake & Associates, P.C.
Golden Funding, Inc.
HDS Services
Health Dimensions Group
IMA of Colorado
It's Never 2 Late
Janska
Kindred Pharmacy Services
Krieger & Associates, Inc.
Lancaster Pollard
Lantz-Boggio Architects
LaRue Coffee
Morrison Senior Dining
Mullins Youngdahl Design Company
Myers & Stauffer LC, CPA's
NeighborCare Pharmacy
Newman & Associates, Inc.
RehabWorks
Schryver Medical Sales and Marketing
Senior Insight, Inc.
Shughart, Thomson & Kilroy
Summit Services
The Highland Group, Inc.
U.S. Foodservice, Inc.
William Brummett Architects
Ziegler Capital Markets Group



2005 Member Organizations

CAHSA Members and Services

The Colorado Association of Homes and Services for the Aging (CAHSA) represents providers of care and services to the elderly in a variety of settings, including nursing facilities, retirement communities, independent living housing, and community-based services.

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CAHSA Member Organizations

The Academy
Allied Housing, Inc.
Allied Jewish Apartments
Alterra Clare Bridge at Highlands Ranch
Alterra Clare Bridge Cottage at Fort Collins
Alterra Sterling House at Arvada
Alterra Sterling House at Briargate
Alterra Sterling House at Brighton
Alterra Sterling House at Fort Collins
Alterra Sterling House at Greeley
Alterra Sterling House at Littleton
Alterra Sterling House at Longmont
Alterra Sterling House at Loveland
Alterra Villas at Canterbury Gardens
Alterra Villas at the Atrium
Alterra Wynwood at Canterbury Gardens
Alterra Wynwood at Colorado Springs
Alterra Wynwood at Pueblo
Alterra Wynwood at Ridge Point
Anciano Tower
The Argyle
Assured Assisted Living LLC
Balfour Retirement Community
Beatrice Hover Assisted Living Residence
Bee Hive Homes of Colorado, LLC
Bent County HealthCare Center
Bonell Good Samaritan
Boulder Good Samaritan Village
Broadmoor Court
Brookside Assisted Living
Care Link
Castle Country Assisted Living Cantril House
Castle Country Assisted Living Valley House

Castle Country Assisted Living
Victorian House
Castle Creek Terrace
Cedardale Health Care Centre, Inc.
Centura Adult Day-Centura Senior Life Center
Christian Living Campus
Christian Living Campus Eldercare Adult Day Services
Christian Living Campus-Johnson Center
Christian Living Campus-Living Center
Christian Living Campus-University Hills
Christian Living Campus-Village
Colorado Assisted Living Homes
Colorado Springs Senior Homes
Courtyard of Loveland, Inc.
Covenant Village of Colorado
Crestview Manor
Dayspring Villa
DESCI
Eastern Star-Masonic Retirement Community
Eaton Senior Programs
Eaton Terrace II
Eaton Terrace Residences
Eben Ezer Lutheran Care Center
Estes Park Good Samaritan Village
Fort Collins Good Samaritan Village
Frasier Meadows Manor Health Care
Frasier Meadows Manor, Inc.
Garden Park Villa
Gardens at Columbine
Generations at Lowry
Golden West Senior Residence
The Granville Assisted Living Center
Guadalupe Senior Apartments

The Haven
Health Care Center at Gunnison Living Community
HealthONE Alliance Johnson Adult Day Program
Heritage Club at Greenwood Village
Heritage Club at Lakewood
Heritage Club of Aurora
Heritage Club of Denver
Homestead Adult Day Care
Hover Community, Inc.
Inglenook at Brighton
Kentucky Circle Village
Laurel Manor Care Center
Libby Bortz Assisted Living Center
Liberty Heights at Northgate
Liberty Heights Manor
Loyalton of Broadmoor
Maltese Cross Manor
Marriott's Brighton Gardens of Colorado Springs
Marriott's Brighton Gardens of Lakewood
Marriott's Brighton Gardens of Southeast Denver
Mary Sandoe House
Marycrest Assisted Living
Morning Star Senior Day Program
Mountain Vista Health Center
Mullen Home-Little Sisters of the Poor
Myron Stratton Home
Nightingale Suites at Springwood
Parkplace
Pinewood Lodge
Prairie Creeks Living Center
Prairie View Village Assisted Living

Residences at Franklin Park
Retreat at Church Ranch
Seniors' Choice Adult Day Services
Seniors' Resource Center - Central
Seniors' Resource Center - Evergreen
Seniors' Resource Center - Northwest
Seniors' Resource Center - Southwest
Shalom Park
Skycliff Center
Sunnyrest Health Care Facility, Inc.
Sunrise Assisted Living at Boulder
Sunrise Assisted Living at Orchard
Sunrise Assisted Living at Pinehurst
Sunrise Assisted Living at University Park
Sunrise Assisted Living at Westminster
Sunrise Assisted Living of Cherry Creek
Sunrise Assisted Living of Colorado Springs
Total Longterm Care
Total Longterm Care-Capital Center
Total Longterm Care-Chambers
Total Longterm Care-The Pinnacle
Veillee House
ViewPointe
The Village at St. Catherine
Vista Village Assisted Living
Vista Village Retirement Community
Volunteers of America Valley Manor Care Center
Wellspring at Aurora
Wellspring at Louisville
Wheat Ridge Assisted Living
Willow Glen