

May Mizuno

From: Noemi Libed-Arzaga [Narzaga@hhsc.org]
Sent: Sunday, April 03, 2011 11:20 PM
To: May Mizuno
Cc: 'HSapla@aol.com'
Subject: RE: FW: Media Advisory I.B. & Floor Presentation caregivers 2011.docx

Representative Mizuno,

First of, we'd like to once again thank you for bringing this issue up to the floor for discussion. The health care crisis and/or problems will only be more apparent as we go through the next millennium. If we do not prepare now, our elderly will not only suffer but will be victims of neglect and abandonment. We thank you for extending the invite to us once again and for acquiring our input with the elderly healthcare services.

We the caregivers would like to help in any way we can to help alleviate the State's burden in having to provide services to our elderly. The Adult Foster Home Services along with Adult Residential Care Home has been in operation for number of years and with those years, we know for a fact that we have saved our State millions of dollars by having these programs in place. So, if that is the case why do these programs so OVERLY REGULATED? There are so many steps and ladder to fulfill before one will acquire such certification. If one does not persevere enough, he or she will get dismayed by the long processing of paper works and certifications and would later give up. So, we are proposing for a lesser strict paper works to help entice other caregivers to join in this field.

Since pay for services in these programs are so minimal compared to the facility level, empowering the caregivers should be stressed upon and that is providing wealth of knowledge, information, and education free of charge. Continuing education can be pricey and with the minimal payment we receive monthly, it is hard enough to place this in the budget. So we ask that State will provide free education classes for continuing education to the caregivers. This will enhance the caregivers' ability to care for their clients with a cutting edge technology. These continuing educations will empower the caregivers with sense of pride and integrity and that will definitely reflect the care they provide to their clients.

While we agree with having Case Managers to manage the care of the clients, we feel that the reimbursement needs to be re-evaluated. There should be a maximum case load one case managing agency should have as that load will distinguish the time and efforts they will have for their clientele. Case Managers who are empathetic to the clients needs and to the caregivers as a whole is needed in this industry. So, to help with monetary appropriations, we're proposing to have Case Managers be State Contracted and be paid salary based wages with a maximum cap.

We also ask that you will consider the substitutes for the 3rd clients to be looked at and re-evaluated as well. We're proposing to have substitutes as Nurses Aides, instead of Certified Nurses Aides. We agree with having the primary care provider to be at least Certified Nurses Aides but substitutes should not be limited to being certified but have it also be available for Nurses Aides who are vying for these positions. Taking the certification can be a challenge to some caregivers due to monetary fees and expenses, so we ask that you please re-consider this requirement.

Again, we thank you Representative Mizuno for extending your hands to us and for reaching out for our concerns and recommendations. We do appreciate all that you do...

Sincerely,

Adult Foster Home Association of Hawaii

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