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February 24, 2011

Subject: Rate Hearing Adult Day Services

I am testifying regarding the proposed cuts in reimbursement rates for Adult Day Health services.

I had the privilege to visit the Gardner Visiting Nursing Association Adult Day Care Center in Athol, Massachusetts on Monday. I was briefed on their historical performance, services and projected path forward. I then had a facility tour and meet over 30 clients in attendance at the center on Monday.

My assessments and conclusion are as follows:

- Adult Day Care provides one of the most cost effective holistic health solutions for individuals, our communities and families.
- Adult Day Care provides one of the most caring, respectful, stimulating and professional holistic health solutions for individuals, our communities and families.
- Adult Day Care extends the quality of life and life span of clients.
- The Adult Day Care organization I visited is accountable to excellent fiscal stewardship, creative and innovative funding and programming and requires the continued rates to maintain operations and the ability to provide these critical services.
- In the rural district where I serve caring for loved ones is challenging due to relatively low household incomes, transportation barriers and limited options for care.

If Adult Day Care Services were no longer available due to rate cuts there will be a dramatic negative impact on individuals and families I represent. Without a program such as this many of the clients who access this cost effective and high quality service would have no other choice but to enter a much more costly nursing home care facility.

Therefore, my input for your consideration is to maintain the current reimbursement rates and when possible in the future to increase the investment in expanding Adult Day Care Services since they are a lower cost and higher quality of life option for individuals, families and our Commonwealth.

Also, based on the information shared this morning I would question the validity of the model developed for two reasons. First, to truncate the data of costs inputted that are above average without understanding the underlying costs leaves out valid operational cost such as transportation which has large impacts for rural centers. Second, the choice of selecting the "optimistic inflation factor" should be re-validated.

In closing, in these challenging times we must invest in to models that show the greatest return on investment and create the vibrant communities that we want to live in, age in and be proud of as a Commonwealth.

Denise Andrews