



Empowering Seniors and Caregivers

Senior Helpline 1-800-642-5119

Legislative Accomplishments and Plans

2016-2017

Home Delivered meals

AAAs contract with meal sites to provide home delivered meals. Due to stagnant funding, we pay the sites half the average cost of a meal. We proposed adding Meals on Wheels as Choices for Care service, so that home based nursing home level of care participants can get a nutritious meal delivered to them, with increased payment for this meal, through a Medicaid “match.” This will stretch our limited funding, either paying for more meals, or increasing our rate to meal sites.

Status: We got good traction on this issue but the legislature delayed a final decision until after final negotiations for the Medicaid Global Commitment were finalized. We hope to pick up where we left off when the legislature resumes in January.

Parity

For many years, nursing homes have seen annual cost of living increases while Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) have struggled with stagnant funding. This last legislative session, legislators increased reimbursement for HCBS providers by 2%. This is a direct response to our advocacy and has been a turning point in legislators' widespread agreement that HCBS providers need to be supported in an equal way to institutions.

Status: As soon as we know who our next Governor will be, we need to start pushing to preserve and continue the concept of parity between HCBS providers and institutions. This needs to remain a priority.

Health Care Reform

H.812 was the result of our joint advocacy with the visiting nurses, mental health agencies and Federally Qualified Health Centers, and required the Administration, Accountable Care Organizations and Green Mountain Care Board to prioritize community-based solutions and integrate our services into health care reform and the All-Payer Waiver. H.812 specifically mentions AAAs in several places.

Status: We need to continue to monitor health care reform efforts to make sure that elder services and providers are included.

Elder Awareness Day

Last February, we held our first Elder Awareness Day at the statehouse, in conjunction with the House Human Services committee and other elder service and advocacy organizations. From that, several legislators expressed interest in forming an “elder caucus,” which would be a group of legislators specifically interested in furthering elder causes at the statehouse.

Status: We need to pick this up in January, requesting another “Elder Awareness Day” and following up with the legislators who are interested in an elder caucus.