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January 24, 2019

John A. Yacenda, President  
Silver Haired Legislative Forum  
Legislative Building  
401 S Carson Street  
Carson City, Nevada 89701-4747

Dear Dr. Yacenda,

This letter is in response to the Silver Haired Legislative Forum letter dated December 26, 2018 expressing concern regarding the Medicaid reimbursement rates for long term care services and the cap on seniors served through the Home and Community Based Waiver for the Frail Elderly.

The Forum expressed concern that Medicaid rates for Adult Day Care facilities, Augmented Personal Care Services and Skilled Nursing Services are inadequately low contributing to a lack of providers and employees in the industry. While Nevada Medicaid rates tend to be lower than private rates, each of those long-term care service did receive a rate increase in the 2017 Legislative Session. Adult Day Care and Adult Day Health Care each received a five percent rate increase, Augmented Personal Care received a 15 percent rate increase and skilled nursing facilities received a 10 percent rate increase. In addition, Assembly Bill 108 from the 2017 session now requires the Division of Health Care Financing and Policy (DHCFP) to complete a comprehensive rate review for each Medicaid provider type at least every four years which will ensure that rates are calculated to reflect the actual cost of providing the service. Lastly, Medicaid continues to enroll new Medicaid providers. Specifically, three new Adult Day Health Care facilities in Las Vegas came on board within the last six months, and a new nursing facility opened in Carson and a second nursing facility broke ground last month in Las Vegas.

Regarding the cap of the number of recipients authorized to receive the Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) Waiver for the Frail Elderly, the Legislature approves the number of slots allocated for each HCBS waiver. As a result of the waitlists, DHCFP requests an increase in the waiver slots during the budget process to accommodate the growing number of seniors needing assistance. Outside of the legislatively approved slots, administrative efforts are also made to improve the wait list by streamlining processes. Currently three Department of Health and Human Services agencies work together, up to a 45-day time frame, to determine eligibility for the Frail Elderly Waiver which can contribute to the delay in the application process. The DHCFP is evaluating ways to reduce the bureaucratic burdens inherently involved with three agencies.

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Seniors that may be waiting to receive services through the Frail Elderly Waiver may also be eligible to receive additional services through the Aging and Disability Services Division.

The DHCFP appreciates the work of the Forum on behalf of seniors in Nevada and the opportunity to provide information on Medicaid programs and rates

If there are any questions about the information provided, please contact Kirsten Coulombe, Chief of Long Term Services and Supports at (775) 684-3747 or [kirsten.coulombe@dncfp.nv.gov](mailto:kirsten.coulombe@dncfp.nv.gov).

Sincerely,



DuAne Young  
Deputy Administrator

Cc:

Rique Robb, Deputy Administrator, ADSD

Office of the Governor

Joyce Woodhouse, Chair, Senate Committee on Finance

Maggie Carlton, Chair Assembly Committee on Ways and Means