Nursing Home Financial Advisory Committee
August 17, 2018 Meeting Minutes

The August meeting of the Nursing Home Financial Advisory Committee was held at the Department of Social Services, 55 Farmington Avenue, Hartford, Connecticut on August 17, 2018 with following committee representatives in attendance:

Anne Foley, Office of Policy and Management (OPM)

Chris Lavigne, Department of Social Services (DSS)

Kathy Shaughnessy, DSS

Isiah White, DSS

David Wasch, Connecticut Health and Education Facilities Authority (CHEFA)

Barbara Cass, Department of Public Health (DPH)

Matthew Barrett, Connecticut Association of Health Care Facilities/Connecticut Center for Assisted Living (CAHCF/CCAL)

Michael Mosier, Athena Health Care

George Thomas, CPA, Blum Shapiro/Leading Age

Mag Morelli, Leading Age via teleconference

The meeting was convened at 9:06 A.M. by Chris Lavigne and Barbara Cass as co-chairs of the committee. The meeting discussion is summarized as follows:

* **2% Increase to Medicaid Per Diem**
	+ Discussion with the attendees on the proposed 2% increase to the nursing home’s Medicaid per diem.  While the intent of the increase is to support employee wages and benefits, a guidance document is expected to be developed and disseminated by September 17, 2018 that will assist nursing home providers with allowable exceptions.

# **Update on the Medicaid Acuity System**

* + DSS continues to work on development of an acuity system for determining Medicaid per diem rates for nursing homes. Currently DSS is working on two things, development of an advanced planning document in collaboration with CMS to obtain enhanced funding for the build out and contract amendment. Progress is being made. Once the contract is in place, DSS will develop a website and have contract managers develop the process. Waiting on approval from CMS before project can proceed with additional implementation.
	+ Challenges: behavioral health is not captured well on the Minimum Data Set Assessment (MDS). DSS looking at models to compensate for MDS challenges. Gaps between nursing home and community for the homeless and substance use populations will also be reviewed.
* **Updates on Other Nursing Home Trends, Closures and Receiverships**
	+ Multiple nursing homes have either closed, filed for bankruptcy protection or are in receivership in state fiscal year 2018.
	+ Discussion regarding the anticipated growth of Managed Residential Communities and Assisted Living Services Agencies and the impact to the health care continuum.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:50 A.M. The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, September 7, 2018 from 9:00-11:00 A.M. at DSS, 55 Farmington Ave, Hartford, Connecticut