



July 17, 2008

Gary Richter
Office of Certificate of Need and Rate Setting
Department of Social Services
25 Sigourney Street
Hartford, CT 06108-5033

RE: Public Comment – Notice of Proposed Changes to the Medicaid State Plan Governing Payments to Nursing Facilities and Privately Operated Intermediate Care Facilities for the Mentally Retarded

Dear Mr. Richter:

Please accept these comments in response to the June 30, 2008 posting in the Norwich Bulletin regarding “Notice of Proposed Changes to the Medicaid State Plan Governing Payments to Nursing Facilities and Privately Operated Intermediate Care Facilities for the Mentally Retarded.”

CCPA represents organizations that provide services and supports to children and adults with disabilities and other significant needs including people with substance use disorders, mental illness, developmental and physical disabilities. Our members operate Intermediate Care Facilities for the Mentally Retarded (ICF-MR).

We have serious concerns about the impact of the rate freeze on ICF-MR providers. The elimination of the annual update to rates means that providers will not be compensated for the 2.5% increase in costs of services. This rate freeze will save the state \$106M but these costs will be passed on to the provider system. Costs continue to rise for service providers but there is no correlating increase to these costs from the state. This ultimately balances the budget on the backs of providers and the vulnerable clients they serve.

We are also seeking clarification on the date of the posting of this change in the CT Law Journal. I contacted the Office of CON and Rate Setting on July 9th and July 17th to determine the date and location of this posting, but haven’t yet received this information. Any help you can provide would be much appreciated.

We are hopeful that future rates will be updated to meet the costs of services so that providers will be able to continue to provide quality services to consumers in ICF-MR settings.

Thank you for the opportunity to raise this concern. I look forward to receiving your response.

Sincerely,

Alyssa Goduti
Vice President for Public Policy

CCPA

35 Cold Springs Rd., Suite 522, Rocky Hill, CT 06067-3165
(P)860-257-7909 • (F)860-257-7777
www.ccpa-inc.org