



For Immediate Release:
October 7, 2021

**LEADINGAGE NEW YORK PRESCRIBES A DOSE OF REALITY FOR NEW YORK STATE OFFICIALS
DURING TESTIMONY TO HEALTH PLANNING COUNCIL**

LeadingAge New York, a leading voice in advocating for thoughtful policies impacting the long-term care of more than 500,000 New Yorkers, testified before the Public Health and Health Planning Council (PHHPC) today and offered its recommendations to enhance care and services within the sector, calling its perspective a *"dose of reality."*

The PHHPC provides the Department of Health with advisory guidance, while also authorized with decision-making responsibilities with respect to New York's public health and health care delivery system.

LeadingAge New York's comments focused on two proposed regulations advanced by the New York State Department of Health to require nursing homes to commit a specified percentage of operating revenue to resident care, and a second measure imposing minimum nurse and nurse aide hours requirements within nursing homes. LeadingAge New York believes the goals and objectives to have merit – however, setting arbitrary minimums based on narrow definitions and selected staff titles, without taking into account real-world conditions and without adequate funding, will have negative consequences for residents and staff. In a statement to the PHHPC, LeadingAge New York pointed out that the minimum nursing hours regulation is entirely inconsistent with the state of emergency due to health care staffing shortages declared by Governor Hochul just last week. Under current conditions, flexibility and resources are needed.

"The proposed regulations are simply hollow if they do not include adjustments to Medicaid reimbursement rates that have been stagnant for more than 13 years," said James W. Clyne, Jr., President and Chief Executive Officer of LeadingAge New York.

LeadingAge New York clearly identifies the shortcomings in the failed actions of prior administrations and long-term legislators, such as nursing home cuts totaling \$168 million during the height of a public health pandemic.

"Today, Governor Hochul is in a position to make significant changes to policies that have to this point failed and ignored the needs of those in long-term care. While there is opportunity now, time is precious because the lack of attention has resulted in a series of cascading issues that threaten the viability of providers across the state," Clyne said.

Prior to the meeting, LeadingAge New York shared its concerns with the proposed staffing regulations in a [five-page letter to the PHHPC](#), highlighting both technical and broad issues with the regulations as currently written. It also includes details associated with alarming trends in the long-term care sector, such as the closure of approximately 20 nursing homes and the additional sale of 50 not-for-profit facilities to for profit entities.

“The lack of attention and investment by the State in its aging population has led to staffing shortages and limited placement opportunities for those requiring skilled care,” Clyne continued. “The consequences can be devastating to those needing and providing care.”

For more than 60 years, LeadingAge New York has set an advocacy agenda for not-for-profit nursing homes, senior housing, adult care facilities and retirement communities. Since the onset of the public health emergency in March 2020, LeadingAge New York has been an outspoken voice for long-term care providers, caregivers and residents.

#

LeadingAge New York represents 600 members of a the not-for-profit, mission driven and public continuing care providers, including nursing homes, senior housing, adult care facilities, continuing care retirement communities and assisted living and community service providers.