

MEMORANDUM

TO: Assisted Living and Adult Care Facility Members

FROM: Diane Darbyshire, Senior Policy Analyst

DATE: February 26, 2008

SUBJECT: **DOH Issues Interim Report on SSI and Medicaid Payment Adequacy**

ROUTE TO: Administrators, Program Directors

ABSTRACT: Interim report discusses preliminary findings regarding the adequacy of SSI and Medicaid payments to ACFs.

Introduction

Last year, the Department of Health (DOH) was directed by the New York state Legislature to conduct a study of the adequacy of and accountability for Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Medicaid, and safety net assistance payments made to adult care facilities (ACFs) to or on behalf of the residents of ACFs. The mandate required a report to the governor and Legislature in January 2008. Given that ACF and assisted living program (ALP) members have consistently reported that SSI and Medicaid reimbursement falls short of the actual cost of providing care, this study is extremely important.

DOH Study Not Yet Complete

While DOH has done much work on this study, the comprehensive analysis directed in statute is not yet complete. It is our understanding that DOH requested an extension to the report deadline, but was denied. DOH's interim report has thus been issued to the governor, Legislature, and now the public. To view the report, go to the interim DOH Web site at:
http://www.health.state.ny.us/facilities/adult_care/financing/adequacy/interim_report/index.htm#report.

NYAHS has reviewed the report and has scheduled a meeting with DOH leaders to discuss the report further. We have some questions and concerns about how the study was conducted, how the data was analyzed, and how they will move forward on important additional required aspects of the study. We also have recommendations on further analysis that may be useful. Member input or questions for discussion at the meeting are encouraged.

Conclusion

NYAHSA hopes that DOH will be supported in a more complete study of SSI and Medicaid payment adequacy as it greatly impacts our ACF/assisted living members' ability to serve low income seniors. We will keep members apprised of any further developments with this issue.

If you have any questions regarding the contents of this memo, please contact Diane Darbyshire at ddarbyshire@nyahsa.org or 518-449-2707, ext. 162.