

# State of Connecticut

## GENERAL ASSEMBLY



### Medical Assistance Program Oversight Council

### Complex Care Committee

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Co-Chairs: Rep. Anne Hughes & Rep. Susan Johnson

MAPOC Complex Care Committee met on **July 16, 2020** to discuss

1. The impact of COVID-19 on Workers Compensation and the Cost Shift to the Medicaid program
2. Legal Services letter discussing the test and trace protocol for nursing home residents and employees and the impact on families as we start the school year; How will that affect HUSKY programs for children and adults?
3. COVID-19 and its Impact on Home Care Service Providers

We reviewed Home Care Providers reporting 3000 COVID Cases, heard the biggest struggle was adequate PPE distribution and access to providers, especially those going into Asst. Living to support. Telehealth has been resource, but not reimbursed by Medicare, restricted visitation from providers. Some Medicaid telehealth, but the Elder population needs a LOT of support to use telehealth, and most need providers, caregivers to lay eyes on them. Draft language for APRN/PA to sign health orders for CMS approval. State laws/regulations have typically allowed only physicians to be allowed practitioner to order. Home Care advocates are concerned about Ex. Order 7U, government immunity for civil liability during pandemic, but Home healthcare and Hospice not included in immunity.

- Mandated L/TC facilities, staff, providers, nursing homes, assisted living get testing done, and reimbursement is state funded.
- Costs to providers of Medicaid Rate increase, restricted visits: Medicare funding, if accepted, not eligible for Medicaid. Medicaid dollars flow thru DSS.
- Home Care is the Best and First choice, but only available to providers who DID NOT accept PPP \$\$.
- Medicaid rates: Kathy Bruni reported the rate study, is released to Medicaid Waiver, will impact rates 2021.
- 3-month access to adequate supplies is the standard for PPE.
- Caregivers may get PPE from Local Health Dept. distribution through DPH
- Advocates/families demand Developmental Disability parity for access.
- April 30<sup>th</sup>: cosigned the need for more support for PCA: Hazard Pay, PPE, more testing. Testing is a huge problem for nursing home parity, home care providers.
- Persons with dementia, underreporting COVID19 virus