



Joint Legislative Task Force on Long-Term Care Residential Facility Payment Systems

An Overview of Key Task Force Issues

September 26, 2007



Enabling Legislation

- The Joint Legislative Task Force on Long-Term Care Residential Facility Payment Systems was established by the 2007 Legislature in the 2007-09 Operating Budget.*

** Chapter 522, Laws of 2007 (SHB 1128)*



Task Force's Guiding Principles

- The Task Force is directed to give “strong consideration” to the following key principles:
 - I. A continuum of residential care settings should be available to Medicaid-eligible vulnerable adults so as to honor consumer choice;
 - II. Payment methodologies for care should be based upon resident acuity, with payment rates that recognize the impact of differing state and federal regulatory requirements upon facility costs, but also address current disparities in payments to facilities serving residents with similar nursing or personal care needs;



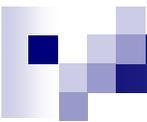
Task Force's Guiding Principles

- III. Payment methodologies should be designed to support retention of qualified direct care staff through training, wages, and benefits offered to direct care staff, with special consideration given to nursing homes, boarding homes, and adult family homes that care for a disproportionate number of Medicaid-eligible residents relative to their peer facilities;
- IV. Performance measures related to critical issues such as staff retention and resident outcomes should be developed, with payment linked to facility performance on the measures; and
- V. Payment methodologies should be simplified, with greater predictability and stability in payments.



Task Force Responsibilities

- Review and consider recommendations submitted by an independent contractor for revisions to the current Medicaid payment methodology for nursing facilities.
- Consider input from long-term care stakeholders with respect to the task force's guiding principles.



Task Force Responsibilities (Cont.)

- Review the current payment methodology for nursing homes, boarding homes, and adult family homes, giving strong consideration to the task force's guiding principles.
- Make recommendations for revisions to, restructuring of, or replacement of existing payment methodologies to the Legislature by December 31, 2007.
 - *Recommendations related to nursing facility payments in FY 2009 must be consistent with the amounts appropriated for this specific purpose -- \$8.8 million GF-S.*