



For Immediate Release
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HCAM Testifies on the Future of Long Term Care

The Health Care Association of Michigan (HCAM) and Public Sector Consultants (PSC) today testified before the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Community Health about the future of long term care in Michigan.

Recently, HCAM commissioned a study on the critical issues and trends affecting long term care. PSC's Ken Sikkema was the primary author of the study.

“This study has implications for public policy decisions related to the structure and financing of long term care in Michigan in the years ahead,” said David LaLumia, HCAM president and CEO. “With the challenges of aging baby boomers and changing consumer demand, this was the perfect time to examine the long term care continuum. People should receive services in the appropriate setting, at the appropriate time with the appropriate level of care necessary to meet their needs.”

The study looks at data on the characteristics of Medicaid beneficiaries served in Michigan nursing facilities. It examines information on clients of the MI Choice waiver program through a survey of participants. Further, the study analyzes Michigan 2010 U.S. Census Bureau data related to age and identifies current issues in long term care.

Key points of the study include:

- Michigan is growing older faster than the rest of the country. Both the over 65 population and the over 85 population in Michigan are increasing more rapidly than the national average.
- The caregiver population (between 25-44 years of age) has declined by more than 500,000 in Michigan during the last decade. This means fewer caregivers for a growing elderly population.
- Michigan is already an efficient user of skilled nursing and rehabilitative care. Michigan ranks below the national average in the number of nursing facility beds and the number of nursing facility residents and rank above average in occupancy rates.
- Nursing facilities are transitioning people back home. Of the almost 6,000 Medicaid beneficiaries that transitioned out in 2008, 90% of those transitions were accomplished by nursing facilities.
- The study reveals detailed profiles of nursing facility residents who lived in the facility for the entire year and profiles of those who transitioned. Based on this MDS analysis, HCAM concludes that people are currently being served in appropriate settings.

The Health Care Association of Michigan (HCAM) is the premier professional association representing nursing and rehabilitation communities. With almost 300 members, HCAM is comprised of for-profit, nonprofit and government providers. For more information, go to www.hcam.org.