

PARCR Quarterly Update

Anticipated Medicaid Impacts of H.R. 1 in LTC:

- Originally, Medicaid retroactive eligibility would have been reduced from 90 days to 30 days. In the final version, this change remained for ACA populations but changed to a 60-day lookback for traditional Medicaid populations (including nursing home residents) – so while 60 days is still worse than the current 90 days, not as bad as the original threat of 30.
- Primary negative impact is that PA's state budget will face increased budgetary constraints due to:
 - Increased administrative capacity and IT demands on state agencies to implement changes.
 - Reduced provider tax thresholds for hospitals and MCOs (excludes intermediate care facilities and nursing homes), reducing allowable tax rates from 6% to 3.5% by 2032 – means we will not be able to draw down as much in federal funding to support the Medicaid program in PA.
 - Increased uncompensated care burden for providers as a result of uninsured individuals accessing emergency services for basic care, or forgoing preventative care, resulting in more costly intervention as preventable conditions worsen (also increases demand for acute and post-acute services)
- This increased strain on the state budget as a whole may force reductions in provider reimbursement (including for nursing homes):
 - Risks reduced access and quality
 - Increases competitiveness in lobbying for funding in each state budget.
- A 9-year moratorium (through September 30, 2034) on enforcing specific minimum staffing requirements in nursing facilities (24/7 RN requirement and minimum hours per resident day).

State Update:

- The House and Senate missed the June 30th deadline for the state budget. The budget is currently 100 days past due.
- House and Senate continue to negotiate (best guess is possibly between Thanksgiving and Christmas).
 - Key points:
 - Federal bill/government shutdown impacts
 - Skill games
 - Political Posturing
- **Workforce Efforts**
 - Workforce Package to build a consistent pipeline of direct care workers.
 - **Senate Bill 114** reforms NA training to streamline training and credentialing (PASSED SENATE).
 - **Senate Bill 115** offers an alternative for DCW in AL/PC settings, regulations requiring a HSD or GED to enter the workforce (PASSED SENATE)
- **Legislation to note:**
 - **Medicaid Pending**
 - Long-term care providers cite extremely long delays in the Medicaid application process.

- Of the providers surveyed (35 members reached out, citing major delays, the dollar amount totals \$13.5 million owed in MA pending. Avg. number of days was 1,000.
- Delays have been mainly caused by a lack of standardization by the county assistance offices (CAOs).
- Pending legislation: LeadingAge PA bill would establish reasonable timelines for CAOs to process MA applications, and if delays occur, providers would receive some portion of the rate while the application is pending.
- **LIFE Enrollment**
 - LeadingAge PA represents Living Independence for the Elderly programs (LIFE).
 - LIFE programs serve Medicaid populations while they remain in the community, through their LIFE center and interdisciplinary team.
 - LeadingAge PA has been advocating to increase awareness and enrollment in the LIFE program. Given the challenges that aging service providers face, LIFE uniquely stands to help alleviate some of those pressures.
 - HB 1894- requires state independent enrollment brokers to obtain an attestation from seniors that LIFE was presented as an option to them, and a comparison of a traditional CHC program to LIFE was also provided.
 - Currently, fewer than 8,000 seniors are enrolled in the LIFE program statewide.
- Ageism Awareness Day Officially Recognized in PA
 - HR 330 was passed by the Pennsylvania House and recognizes October 9th, 2025 as Ageism Awareness Day in Pennsylvania. This effort has been done in conjunction with LeadingAge PA's Ageless Art Timeless Treasure art gala. Resident artists submitted art to be judged and later traveled to LeadingAge PA member communities. The mission was to dispel the myths of aging and recognize how ageism impacts Pennsylvania seniors. House Aging Committee Chairs Maureen Madden and Steve Mentzer sponsored the resolution.