

## **Prioritize Legislative Tours of Your Facility This Fall - It is Imperative to our Efforts to Secure Additional Medicaid Funding in 2024**

PLEASE consider hosting your legislators for a tour of your facility. These visits will play a vital role in our efforts and success in securing the money it will take to fund the next rebase. The 2024 legislative session begins on January 3, 2024. One of our number 1 priorities during this session will be to secure funding for another rebase of our Medicaid rate which would capture your post-COVID cost increases. There are several factors that make our job to securing the necessary funding to support a rebase harder this session than in previous sessions. These factors are as follows:

1. The Governor and legislature have approved a historic amount of funding to fund our SNF Medicaid rate the past two years (approximately \$300 million over two years);
2. The amount of funding it will take to fund the next rebase will be the largest one-time appropriation we have ever received;
3. State revenue growth has slowed significantly. This leaves very little room in the budget to find additional funds for programs funded by general revenue dollars without taking from other programs. Approximately 35% of any increase to our Medicaid rate will need to be funded by general revenue dollars; and
4. The general stigma associated with Medicaid and the overall growth/cost of the entire Medicaid program.

We are asking every facility to invite your legislator to your facility to meet with you, your staff and residents. While they are there, take them on a short tour then discuss your challenges and ask for their assistance. The message during this visit is simple: 1) Thank them for their support of the additional funding to our Medicaid rate the past two years; 2) Share with them how crucial it is to pass another rebase to our rates during the 2024 legislative session to reflect your post-COVID costs which have increases significantly. You can further emphasize the need by sharing your financials, sharing the struggles to find staff necessary to provide quality care and anything additional you feel is important.

It is important for every facility to attempt to develop a relationship with each of their legislators through facility visits, even if the legislator does not have a direct role in the budget process. If your legislator is not the budget or appropriations committee, they can advocate to the budget leaders in the House and Senate how necessary it is to add adequate funding to our SNF Medicaid rate during the budget process in 2024.

We encourage each facility to reach out to schedule a facility visit with their legislators prior to the start of the legislative session in January 2024. You can invite them to important events or holiday celebrations in your facility (i.e. Columbus Day, Halloween, Veterans' Day, Thanksgiving,

Christmas or other holiday celebrations) or just invite them for a quick tour and meeting to discuss your challenges.

If you need assistance setting these meetings up or have other question, please do not hesitate to reach out Sarah Schlemeier Henke ([Sarah@mohealthcare.com](mailto:Sarah@mohealthcare.com)). We are happy to help you with talking points if you need.