2022 LEGISLATIVE AND BUDGET PRIORITIES

THE ISSUE

Many Georgians Cannot Afford Assisted Living Care

While assisted Living Communities (ALC) provide another residential option, under Georgia law ALCs are not allowed receive Medicaid funds and many Georgians cannot afford ALC care.

Caregivers Feel Ill Prepared to Take Care of Loved Ones

Family caregivers are expected to perform increasingly complex medical/nursing tasks, yet they feel ill prepared to take on this important role.

Waitlist Numbers Are Rising Along With Service Costs

More than 9,500 Georgians age 60+ are on waiting lists for HCBS. As wait lists grow service costs continue to rise. These services cost far less than living at a nursing home and during the COVID-19 pandemic many who need care have preferred to remain at home.

THE FIX

Allow Medicaid in Assisted Living Communities

Remove the requirement that an assisted living community must have a minimum of 25 beds and delete the prohibition of ALCs enrolling as a Medicaid provider and receiving Medicaid funds.

Pass The CARE Act for Family Caregivers

The CARE Act provides specific guidance for ensuring that family caregivers are seen and included in the care team by hospital staff.

Increase Funds to Meet Need for Cost-Effective Care

HCBS cost the state only 1/10th of what a nursing home bed costs. Increase HCBS funding in order to provide services to older Georgians on long waiting lists.

2 Peachtree St, NW, Suite 32-270, Atlanta, GA 30303 | 404-657-5343 | www.gcoa.org
THE ISSUE

Consumers Unaware That LTC Ombudsman Program Exists

Many consumers do not know that the Long-Term Care Ombudsman program is a free program and is a right of all residents living in LTC.

THE FIX

Add Funding to Support a Public Awareness Campaign

Funding of $300,000 - $500,000 would support a public awareness campaign for the LTCO program, educating Georgians about ombudsman services.

Long-Term Care Options Involve CON Requirements

Innovative models of Long-Term care can involve Certificate of Need (CON) requirements against oversupply.

Study Committee to Address CON Requirements

A study committee could consider if changes to Certificate of Need (CON) requirements are needed to expand care options.

About GCOA

The Council was created in 1977 by the Georgia legislature to serve in an advisory capacity on aging issues to the Governor, General Assembly, Department of Human Services, and all other state agencies.

About CO-AGE

The Coalition of Advocates for Georgia’s Elderly (CO-AGE) is a diverse group of organizations, individuals, consumers, and providers interested in improving the quality of life for older Georgians through public policy.