



Wisconsin Personal Services Association, Inc.

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New Data Reveals that Wisconsin's Personal Care Provider Network is in Jeopardy 80 Agencies Have Closed or Stopped Providing Medicaid Services in the Past Six Years

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 30, 2019

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Analysis of the personal care provider network released Thursday by the Wisconsin Personal Services Association (WPSA) shows that 80 agencies have either closed or stopped providing Medicaid personal care services during the past six years. As a result, 24 counties currently have five or fewer Medicaid-certified personal care agencies.

“This alarming data confirms that Wisconsin’s personal care provider network is in jeopardy. People with disabilities and older adults are in danger of serious illness, harm and a loss of independence because they cannot access the in-home caregiving services they need,” said WPSA President Amy Weiss.

Survey results released by WPSA in April 2019 indicate that the number of closures is set to increase in coming years. Sixty percent of personal care agencies reported that they are considering no longer providing Medicaid personal care services. In addition, 100% of personal care agencies reported turning away older adults and people with disabilities in need of care due to a crisis-level shortage of workers.

Certified personal care agencies are embedded in the communities they serve, providing employment, training and support for caregivers and families. They are an integral and cost-effective part of Wisconsin’s long-term care system. Personal care provides intimate, in-home care to older adults and people with disabilities that enables them to live independent lives.

“Time is running out to prevent the collapse of the personal care provider network. Without an 11% increase to the Medicaid personal care rate, agencies will keep closing and people will be up-rooted from their homes and communities with no option but to seek support in more expensive and restrictive settings,” said Weiss.

A major contributing factor to the crisis is that the personal care reimbursement rate has been underfunded for decades. WPSA is urging the Legislature’s Joint Finance Committee to increase the Medicaid reimbursement rate for personal care by 11% when they vote on the Medicaid budget in coming weeks.

The Wisconsin Personal Services Association (WPSA) is a statewide association of personal care and other home care providers. WPSA has educated, advocated, and united agencies and individuals in all Wisconsin counties for over 25 years to provide quality personal/supportive home care services to over 10,000 consumers and as many, if not more, direct care workers.

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