

Homecare Modernization Act

Senate Committee on Human Services

Tuesday, November 7, 2023



Demographic Changes and the Silver Tsunami

- As Oregon's population ages, demand is increasing for all long term care settings statewide
- By 2030, state economists project that Oregon will have at least 27,000 more residents over 85, an increase of 33% from 2020 population levels
- According to the Oregon Employment Department, in 2022 there were more difficult-to-fill vacant positions for Personal Care Aides than for any other occupation in Oregon.⁸ At the same time, the demand for these jobs is growing, expected to increase by 26% between 2021 and 2031
- Of all long-term care options, Homecare is the most cost-effective, least restrictive, and has many safety benefits compared to other settings.
- In-home care maximizes consumer choice, control, dignity, and autonomy, and it keeps people in their own communities
- **Oregon is not ready to meet the demand**

Homecare Workforce

80% of the workforce are women

1 in 3 are people of color

Many are immigrants or refugees

1 in 4 are over age 55

50% rely on public assistance

41% are at or below 200% of the FPL

Sources: PHI Report and SEIU 503 Surveys



Need for Homecare Modernization

- **Shortage of homecare workers:** Many eligible older adults and people with disabilities go without care
- **Late & Partial Pay:** Workers can't afford mistakes when living paycheck to paycheck
- **System Barriers:** Ongoing challenges with hour tracking system. Legislature passed a bill in 2015 for a Universal Provider Number, still has not happened
- **Lack of Support:** Respite is nearly impossible, workers and consumers lack basic support for managing services, no Human Resources for workers
- **Case Managers overburdened** with administrative duties of managing workers limiting resources for service coordination



What is "Agency with Choice"?

Federal Medicaid guidelines define Agency with Choice model, “whereby the participant is supported by an agency that functions as the common law employer of workers recruited by the participant. The participant directs the workers and is considered their co-employer. The agency performs financial management services and tasks, rather than the individual. The agency must hold a provider agreement with the state in order to submit billings and receive payments for the services furnished by workers”

Homecare Modernization: Proposal Details

- Builds capacity of our Medicaid Homecare System by adding a new option for families
- Directs Oregon to add “Agency with Choice” option to existing Medicaid program
- Directs ODHS-APD to contract with 1-2 Agency with Choice providers
- Contractor Requirements:
 - Pro-worker policies
 - Good wages and benefits
 - Person-centered services
 - High quality standards
 - Recruit and retain adequate workforce
- Low administrative costs
- Robust Regulation and Oversight

Thank you

Questions?

Contact: Alice Miller, longleymillera@seiu503.org