



Aging Services of Georgia Public Policy Statement

Aging Services of Georgia (formerly Georgia Association of Homes and Services for the Aging - GAHSA) is an association representing a diverse group of non-profit and other missions-driven senior care providers with distinct constituent groups such as adult day services, home & community-based services, senior retirement housing, assisted living communities, continuing care retirement communities, nursing homes and hospice care. These providers are committed to advancing the vision of healthy, affordable and ethical long-term care for older Georgians.

Because of its broad membership that cuts across multiple areas of long-term care; member's perspectives may at times vary. Association policies and public policy positions, particularly involving controversial issues, will be developed through a thoughtful, open and deliberative process that allows input from all members.

All Aging Services of Georgia public policy positions and initiatives are designed to assist our members in achieving their central goal of providing high quality care and services in a cost-effective manner. Our public policy positions and initiatives are consistent with the association's Guiding Principles for the continuum of aging services as approved by the Board of Directors.

Guiding Legislative Principles for the Continuum of Aging Services

Aging Services of Georgia will use the following principles to address issues on which we have no current position:

1. Seniors have a right to be treated with dignity and respect.
2. Services and programs should be provided to seniors in a manner which is least intrusive, provides empowerment to the extent possible and promotes independence, all balanced with the necessity of protection of seniors not capable of self care or assistance to seniors who have diminished capacity for total self care.
3. While seniors have a right to a safe and nurturing environment and have a right to expect society to provide protection through laws, regulations, and policies which protect seniors' physical, mental, and spiritual well-being and promote practices to accomplish these goals, government policies should not inhibit providers of care and services to the aging from providing cost-effective, high quality care.
4. Seniors should be able to expect adequate services, whether living in their own homes or elsewhere. In furtherance of this goal government must adequately fund and maintain standards for services to seniors at a level which is economically viable so that providers may maintain high standards and quality of care across a spectrum of services.
5. Public education and sufficient information are necessary so that seniors can be informed decision makers.

6. Seniors and others should have access to preventive, remedial, and long-term health care. Government policies should facilitate the availability of a spectrum of services to aging persons.
7. Health care policies, including managed care and government plans, should not discriminate against health care providers by excluding entire classes or types of providers from their networks, panels, and plans.

2010 Legislative Issues

Position and Involvement:

- Achieve necessary Laws and Rules to develop Quality CCRCs (HB 843)
 - Consumer protection
 - Provider definition, reporting & protection
 - Department of Insurance involvement
- Provide strong leadership in Assisted Living reform
 - HB 850
 - Administration of medications in licensed residential settings
 - Strengthen the implementation of the Long-term Care Facility Alzheimer's/Dementia Services Disclosure Law

Position and Monitor:

- Nursing Home Provider tax implementation
- CCRC CON Exemption
- Implementation of Adult Day Center licensure

Monitor:

- Provide strong leadership in Medicaid-related issues for Georgia (Money Follows the Person, Managed Care for Aged, Blind, & Disabled)
- Reorganization of the Executive Branch regarding delivery of Human Services

2010 Budget Issues

Position and Involvement:

- Expand/Protect Home and Community-Based Services Medicaid (CCSP) and Non-Medicaid

Monitor

- Implementation of Adult Day program Licensure

Ageing Services of Georgia (formerly The Georgia Association of Homes and Services for the Aging - GAHSA) represents over 150 key providers of non-profit and other mission-driven organizations dedicated to providing quality housing, health care and community-based services serving over 126,800 older Georgians. (www.agingservicesga.org).