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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY  
REVIEW COMMISSION

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July 24, 2009

Bureau of Policy and Strategic Planning  
P.O. Box 2675  
Harrisburg, PA 17105  
Attn: Bill White

Dear Mr. White,

Thank you for giving personal care home administrators the opportunity to comment on the revised regulatory package for assisted living residences. It is clear that attention was paid to providers of services as well as to those across the state who will benefit from this new level of care. In reviewing the proposed regulations, many of the issues that we were concerned about have been addressed and resolved. But there are still a couple of areas which will hold our facility back from applying for an Assisted Living license.

The basic reason we would not be able to apply for an AL is due to the physical plant requirements list in 2800.101. Although some of our current units would not meet the square footage requirements, we would not be able to provide for the kitchen areas or bathroom requirements of a tub or shower in each unit. Our facility is a renovated SNF building, and we have 3 spacious bathing room units which have whirlpools and walk in showers with benches, which meet all the physical and safety concerns of our frail, elderly population. We would not be able to reconstruct our present units without prohibitive costs which would then have to be passed on to our consumers.

This brings up our second issue which is being able to offer affordable rates to low to middle income persons. Approximately one third of our current population receives benevolent care subsidy, either through the SSI program or an in-house subsidy that we offer. These new regulations would limit the number of SSI and other low income/low resources residents we could accept due to increased costs of installing and maintaining the additional physical plant requirements.

The concern over costs brings forth the issue of licensure fees (2800.00). The cost of the proposed licensure and annual fees still are quite high and would again have to be passed on to those who would choose to reside in Assisted Living and can pay privately. It places an undue burden on them to help fund this program.

One further concern is the need for assurance that Personal Care Facilities like



ours which have nurses and personal care aides 24/7 will not have to discharge residents who may be assisted living appropriate. Our residents and their families have chosen Brevillier Village because they know we offer a continuum of care through independent living to two levels of personal care to our skilled nursing facility. Residents need to know they are not going to be discharged when we do not offer licensed assisted living only to return when they meet SNF criteria.

PANPHA has submitted a very clear and thorough review with many suggestions to make these Assisted Living regulations more responsive to the aging population in Pennsylvania. Brevillier Village is in support of the comments and proposals and we would ask that you continue to work to make Assisted Living a viable option for all older Pennsylvanians and for the facilities that provide for their care.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jean LaFuria". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

Jean LaFuria  
Administrator  
Barnabas Court