Request for recommendations for consideration by the

New Jersey Task Force on Long-Term Care Quality and Safety

There is established by Chapter 88 the New Jersey Task Force on Long-Term Care Quality and Safety (the “Task Force”), which is charged with developing recommendations to make changes to New Jersey’s long-term care system of care to drive improvements in person-centered care, resident and staff safety, improvements in quality of care and services, workforce engagement and sustainability, and any other appropriate aspects of the long-term care system of care in New Jersey as the Task Force elects to review. In accordance with the enabling statute, Task Force members were selected by the Governor of New Jersey, the President of the NJ Senate and the Speaker of the NJ General Assembly. Members of certain Executive Branch departments including the NJ Department of Health and NJ Department of Human Services serve as ex-officio members.

The Task Force will address:

1. expanding home and community-based services and recommending strategies to improve the balance between facility-based services and home and community-based services and supports;
2. nursing home reforms, including implementing new care models, optimizing nursing home size and configuration to foster resident wellness and infection control, increasing clinical presence in nursing homes, and identifying appropriate nursing home staffing levels for certain resident acuity and special population needs;
3. maintaining the objectivity of the nursing home survey inspections and the cited deficiency appeals process;
4. identifying the capital investments needed to support physical plant, technology, and workforce development initiatives in nursing homes; and
5. broader reforms to the long-term system of care, including developing technology requirements to enable enhanced use of telemedicine and telehealth, instituting workforce engagement and advancement models including career laddering options and structures, increasing the use of Medicaid managed care to drive improvements in quality and oversight of nursing homes, and establishing acuity adjustments for Medicaid managed care payments to nursing homes.

No later than one year after its organization (October 2021), the Task Force will prepare and submit a report to the Governor and the Legislature concerning the recommendations that it has developed.
The Task Force has organized itself to review and consider recommendations that it will seek to categorize as follows:

- Workforce development
- Infection prevention/control and Safety
- Financial and physical resources
- Consumer rights, choice and access

Among these four areas and any others that the Task Force may subsequently identify, it will also seek to recommend opportunities for innovation, to enhance awareness/transparency, and promote quality within opportunities for and areas of improvement.

The Task Force welcomes suggestions of areas of improvement to consider from the public, including but not limited to consumers, caregivers, health care professionals, advocates and providers. In reviewing recommendations, whether from its own members or the public at large, the Task Force has agreed to be guided by the following:

- We will focus on policies and processes that “can make changes to the long-term system of care to drive improvements.”
- We will rely on data and other evidenced-based resources for conclusions rather than anecdote.
- We will use history as a resource to point us toward a roadmap for improvement.
- We will carefully define our scope and focus. We would rather make significant improvements in the most critical areas than make minor, ineffective improvements in numerous areas.
- All task force members will be heard from and listened to in developing productive consensus.
- Confidentiality of resources utilized, documents prepared, and discussions held will be strictly respected and in the context of the agreement executed by Task Force members.
- We will speak as one voice when its work has been completed through its report to the Governor and the Legislature.
- We will avoid allowing the status quo to limit our evaluation or consideration of innovation.

Please submit recommendations for review and consideration by the Task Force in writing to Ms. Casi Golaszewski RN, Executive Director of Long-term Care Resiliency at the NJ Department of Health, P.O. Box 360, Trenton NJ 08625-0360 or Casi.Golaszewski@doh.nj.gov no later than April 1, 2022.

Thank you.