LeadingAge Colorado Advocacy History

Since 1968, Leading Age Colorado has worked, and continues to work, on behalf of its members to support senior living and care providers, and promote options and choices for individuals as their care needs change over time. These efforts typically focus on advocating updates to existing regulations to stay current with new approaches; or influencing legislation that may impact our members in terms of how they get paid, deliver services, or the scope of services permitted under regulation and licensure - all of which are achieved through LeadingAge Colorado's leadership and collaboration with legislators, regulators, policy makers, and other stakeholders. This timeline highlights LeadingAge Colorado's most significant advocacy successes.

which required a study of ACF funding options. The

Successfully advocated for 28 percent rate increase

Successfully advocated for the only long-term care

• An amendment to HB08-1038 regarding assisted

living licensure fees to mitigate the impact

of proposed fee increases by delaying their

implementation and negotiating a two-year

phase-in of any increase; with no increase for

• An amendment to SB08-153 to exempt assisted

appointment to the newly created Department of

Health Care Policy and Financing's (HCPF) Long-

term Care Advisory Committee created to provide

living residences from home care licensure if they

provide home care services to residents in adjacent

provider appointed to serve on the Blue Ribbon

Commission on Health Care Reform.

high Medicaid utilization ACFs.

independent living units.

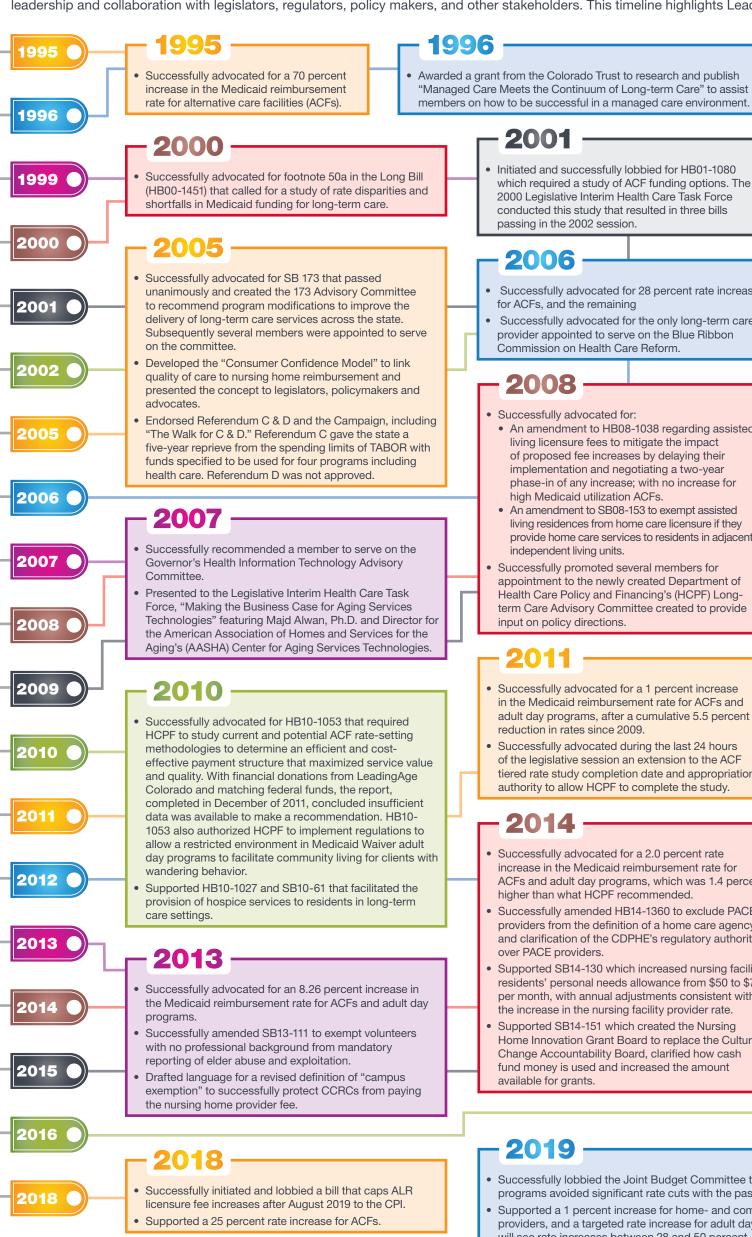
reduction in rates since 2009.

2000 Legislative Interim Health Care Task Force

conducted this study that resulted in three bills

passing in the 2002 session.

for ACFs, and the remaining



2019

Successfully initiated and advocated for SB99-006, "Return to Home" legislation that allowed seniors to return to the nursing home in their continuing care retirement community (CCRC) after a hospitalization, rather than be discharged to their health plan's contracted provider.

- Successfully advocated for:
- HB02-1029 to allow for Program of All-inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) expansion.
- HB02-1039 to implement a consumer-directed program for the Elderly, Blind and Disabled (EBD) Waiver program.
- Amendments to HB02-1323 to require the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) to explore riskbased inspections of assisted living residences (ALRs), institute a survey process focused on outcomes related to measures and treatment of residents, and created a definition for "high Medicaid utilization residence" that are to be assessed lower

2009

- Successfully advocated for:
 - HB09-1103 that authorized HCPF to seek federal approval to implement presumptive eligibility for long-term care.
- An amendment to HB09-1114 to exempt continuum of care campuses from the nursing home provider fee. Also added a hold harmless in payment for additional years to allow the "price" paid for Administrative and General portion of the rate to catch up to providers whose current payment exceeded the "price."
- HB09-1196 amendment regarding the use of civil money penalties (CMPs) to promote improvements in nursing home care. The amendment substituted "resident-centered care" for "culture change," clarified that consumer education is to focus on promoting resident-centered care in nursing homes. It also clarified that the CMP funds cannot be used by the department for administering the fund or for any administrative costs.

input on policy directions.

- Successfully advocated for a 1 percent increase in the Medicaid reimbursement rate for ACFs and adult day programs, after a cumulative 5.5 percent
- Successfully advocated during the last 24 hours of the legislative session an extension to the ACF tiered rate study completion date and appropriations authority to allow HCPF to complete the study.

- Successfully advocated for a 2.0 percent rate increase in the Medicaid reimbursement rate for ACFs and adult day programs, which was 1.4 percent higher than what HCPF recommended.
- Successfully amended HB14-1360 to exclude PACE providers from the definition of a home care agency and clarification of the CDPHE's regulatory authority over PACE providers.
- Supported SB14-130 which increased nursing facility residents' personal needs allowance from \$50 to \$75 per month, with annual adjustments consistent with the increase in the nursing facility provider rate.
- Supported SB14-151 which created the Nursing Home Innovation Grant Board to replace the Culture Change Accountability Board, clarified how cash fund money is used and increased the amount available for grants.

2012

- Successfully advocated for:
 - SB12-127 which created "health homes" for Medicaid Longterm Services and Supports providers, and allows them to participate as part of the care coordination team as HCPF expands the Accountable Care Collaborative (ACC) to include dually-eligible persons, persons with chronic conditions, and/or persons in need of long-term care services and supports.
- SB12-023 which allows eligible clients to enroll in PACE, and allows them to disenroll from the ACC.
- An amendment to SB12-128 to require HCPF to incorporate the results of their tiered rate payment study, mandated by HB 10-1053, in considering any new payment methodologies for ACFs.
- Represented assisted living providers as part of a coalition of licensed health care facility representatives, to successfully advocate for HB 12-1294 that extended survey cycles, provided performance incentives and an annual Consumer Price Index (CPI) cap on licensure fee increases.

2015

Successfully promoted two members' appointments, representing ACFs and HCBS providers, to the SB 228 Advisory Committee charged with reviewing and making recommendations regarding Medicaid provider payments.

- Initiated and successfully lobbied for HB16-1187 that maintained the sales tax exemption for meals served to residents of senior living and care communities.
- Successfully lobbied against a 1 percent cut for HCBS Medicaid providers as proposed by the governor.

2019

- Successfully lobbied the Joint Budget Committee to introduce SB19-209 as part of the state budget package. The state's PACE programs avoided significant rate cuts with the passage of this bill that repealed a questionable reimbursement methodology,
- Supported a 1 percent increase for home- and community-based service (HCBS) providers, including Medicaid assisted living providers, and a targeted rate increase for adult day services (ADS) providers. Depending on the type of waiver, adult day providers will see rate increases between 28 and 50 percent.
- HB19-1043, initiated and supported by LeadingAge Colorado, allows life plan communities (LPCs) to use surety bonds as part of their operating reserves, freeing up cash funds for capital improvements or other purposes.