



DHS Secretary Mark White
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December 6, 2022

Hon. Terry Rice, Co-Chair
Hon. Jeff Wardlaw, Co-Chair
Arkansas Legislative Council
1 Capitol Mall, Fifth Floor
Little Rock, Arkansas 72201

Dear Senator Rice and Representative Wardlaw:

As directed by Section 15 of Act 213 of 2022, I am reporting to Arkansas Legislative Council the status of our efforts to increase the reimbursement rates for assisted living facilities under the Living Choices Assisted Living Waiver. The proposed rule to implement the increase is on the agendas for review by the House and Senate Public Health, Welfare, and Labor Committees on December 12 and by ALC-Administrative Rules Subcommittee on December 15.

We are currently awaiting approval of the proposed waiver amendment from CMS. On November 14, DHS staff participated in a conference call with CMS staff and the CMS Rate Contractor to discuss the waiver amendment and the proposed rate. On November 28, CMS sent DHS a written request to make minor technical changes to the waiver amendment application. We have made those requested changes and submitted the revised waiver amendment to CMS today. None of the changes to the waiver amendment will affect or modify the proposed rate increase. CMS may send us additional questions or requests, and we will respond as necessary. We are still pursuing final waiver approval for a January 1, 2023, effective date.

Legislators are welcome to reach out with any questions, comments, or concerns. Members may contact me at 501-320-6009 or mark.white@dhs.arkansas.gov.

Sincerely,

Mark White
Secretary of Human Services