



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SENIOR SERVICES

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CHRIS CHRISTIE
Governor

KIM GUADAGNO
Lt. Governor

POONAM ALAIGH, MD, MSHCPM, FACP
Commissioner

I am pleased to present the 2010 Annual Report of the Medicaid Long-Term Care Funding Advisory Council to Governor Chris Christie and the members of the 214th New Jersey State Legislature.

This report details the challenges faced and progress made in transitioning New Jersey's long-term care system to provide greater opportunities for individuals to receive care in their homes and other community settings.

As a physician, I have seen the reluctance of my senior patients when it comes to having to enter a nursing home versus being able to receive care in their home and other community settings. I know firsthand that they want to be able to live independently with dignity and choice.

In the past year, New Jersey's nursing home population has decreased and the number of individuals receiving home and community-based care has increased. In the past two fiscal years, the percentage of long-term care dollars going to nursing home care dropped modestly (one percent), continuing a rebalancing trend that has seen home and community-based care's funding share increase from 10 percent in 2003 to 28 percent today.

While New Jersey has made some progress, I am fully aware that much work lies before us and that we have a significant opportunity to improve and expand home and community-based care. Other states, such as Minnesota, Oregon and Washington, currently spend more than half their long-term care dollars on community care. To join their ranks, New Jersey will establish and reach benchmarks of achievement in terms of improved quality of healthcare as well as dollars and residents diverted from nursing home to community-based care. We will expand our Aging and Disability Resource Connection model statewide and aggressively pursue opportunities for innovative programs and the maximization of federal grant opportunities.

I thank you for your support and welcome your input. Together, and in partnership with our colleagues at the federal, state and local levels, we will create a high quality long-term care system that is easy to access, cost-efficient and that safeguards the independence, dignity and choice of older adults and their family caregivers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Poonam Alaigh".

Poonam Alaigh, MD, MSHCPM, FACP
Commissioner