

Rating System for Adult Care Homes

Support the creation of an award system for adult care homes that achieve high ratings.

Background:

In the 2007 session of the General Assembly, legislation was passed to create a rating system for adult care homes that would serve as a guide to those looking for placement in a home offering good care.

Rules for a rating system of zero to four stars were adopted by the Medical Care Commission. **Owing to a number of letters from providers opposing the rules, the system cannot go into effect until the General Assembly during this short session has a chance to change the rules.** Adult care home providers are putting forward some suggested changes. Advocates for the rating system oppose any consideration of changes before the system has been put into operation and tried out. A reconsideration of the legislation might result in doing away with it entirely.

On the other hand, the Legislative Study Commission on Aging passed a resolution favoring moving forward to reward adult care homes with high ratings. But there is no bill in this session because the system isn't operating yet. Homes will not be able to achieve the highest rating of four stars until two years after the start of rating because the home would have to gain 100 or more points over two consecutive annual inspections.

How the System Works:

Starting with 100, points would be given or taken away for scores on an annual inspection by the state. A facility would lose 10 points for a Type A violation (very serious), and 3.5 points for a Type B violation. Other points would be lost for other kinds of noncompliance. Points would be gained for correcting violations, for having an electrical generator, for having automatic sprinklers, and for earning an NC NOVA special licensure designation. A facility that passes inspection with no violations would receive 100 points or perhaps more and would earn three stars with a possibility of earning four after another year. Three stars would be awarded for scores of 90-100 points, two stars for 80-89.9; one star for 70-79.9; and zero stars for a score of 69.9 or lower.

What Should Be Done Now:

- Stress the importance of a rating system as a guide to choosing an adult care home offering safety and a good quality of care.
- Ask your legislators to oppose any reconsideration of the rating system legislation until after the system has been tried out.
- Ask your legislators to support creating an award system for adult care homes that achieve high ratings.