

Care Coordination, Flexibility Key to Redesigning and Improving Medicaid Services

March 28, 2018--WASHINGTON, D.C.--Eldercare executives recommended ways to streamline and improve Medicaid services for older adults during two congressional briefings in Washington, D.C., earlier this month.

Members of the Association of Jewish Aging Services gathered on Capitol Hill in March to educate federal lawmakers about Medicaid. Additionally, they offered their expertise on ways to make Medicaid more effective and less costly as Congress seeks to restructure the entitlement program that pays for long-term care for seniors and persons with disabilities.

“What a wonderful two days AJAS had on the Hill sharing our message about the indispensable role that Medicaid plays in serving our elderly population, AJAS President and CEO Don Shulman said. “Our speakers were phenomenal, sharing their wisdom, passion and commitment to our elected officials and staffers and educating them on what we do and how important what we do is to the future of our nation.”

AJAS’s efforts to propose recommendations to redesign Medicaid are timely. Earlier this year Congress approved a plan to discontinue Medicaid caps on spending, an important victory for AJAS advocacy efforts. Studies show that more than 50 percent of Americans report they or other family members receive benefits from the Medicaid program.

Professionals in AJAS's Public Policy Legislative Group told bipartisan representatives for legislators in both the House and Senate that care coordination, cooperation and regulatory reorganization is vital to the success of Medicaid in the future.

Richard Schwalberg, chair of the AJAS Public Policy Legislative Group, and COO of Menorah Park in Beachwood, Ohio, said, "The key focus was to provide the Senate and House with concrete ways to improve care and services provided to Seniors on Medicaid nationally, and concurrently save Medicare dollars. The panelists represented the best senior care communities in the nation."

Later this spring, AJAS plans to meet with staff members to Sen. Orrin Hatch's (R-UT) and Sen. Rob Portman (R-Ohio) to discuss its recommendations on restructuring Medicaid.

For more information on AJAS's recommendations on redesigning Medicaid, contact AJAS President/CEO Don Shulman at 202-543-7500; dshulman@ajas.org.

The Association of Jewish Aging Services of North America (AJAS), founded in 1960 and based in Washington, D.C., represents organizations throughout the U.S. and Canada that best serve the interests of the Jewish aged by operating more than 250 Jewish-sponsored programs and services which include retirement communities, specialty geriatric hospitals, assisted living communities, independent housing communities, nursing homes and community-based services. Additional information can be found at www.ajas.org.