

Martha and Mary Board of Trustees President's Report - January 22, 2018

It is my pleasure to report to you that some of the projects that the administration and senior leadership have been diligently working on over the past nearly 18 months are coming to fruition:

- As of Saturday, January 20th the capital budget for 2018-19 has passed the legislature and been signed by the governor!! M&M will be receiving \$1M from a Building Community Fund grant. \$400K remains to be raised by M&M. Grant applications and plans to raise that amount can now be pursued. M&M can proceed to finish the capital projects that will bring us up to date in our Front Street building.
- Reorganization of the Childrens and the M&M Kids (before and after school) programs to promote staffing support, efficiencies and curriculum upgrades is in place and moving ahead. Positive developments are coming out of our increased communication with the NKSD administration. Look to the CEO report and our monthly meeting for further details.
- Deeper support for residents and staff continue to be developed. The music and robotic animal programs in the memory care units are reaping results in comfort for the residents and managing disturbing behaviors. Wage and holiday increases continue to be tracked and implemented. Measures for the unit managers to more closely manage their staffing flow are being implemented.
- Roll out of the point Click Care (PCC) software system was completed throughout M&M Health Services at the beginning of January. Staff are adapting. Efficiencies are expected to result in cost savings across the board, e.g. time spent learning the system for new employees, data gathering, ease of use in all departments and outside entities; ease of interface with departments, care providers, pharmacy and other services; tracking and charging for supplies. WIN WIN.
- The Gala Committee is ramping up for our May Friday, May 4th event at the Clearwater Casino in Suquamish. **Our participation a board members would be helpful in two areas: 1) filling a table of 8 or even a half table with friends and/or family. Tickets at \$85 per person (earlybird until April 9th) and \$680 per table. Our goal again this year is 300 attendees. 2) Acquiring items for either live or silent auctions through our area connections.**

- In the rapidly changing adult care world, the Strategic Planning Committee (SPC) is considering ways and means within our mission in the Kitsap community to deliver services and raise additional revenue to help offset uncompensated care. Assisted living considerations merit some ongoing board discussion and developments outside of M&M will be tracked. Development of in home services and any forthcoming compensation other than private pay will be noted. (This is currently unlikely due to underdeveloped systems to gather data to support services provided and general lack of funding in the CMS system for at home services.) The minutes from the last SPC meeting are posted on the BoT website and are very informative.

Please bring your comments and questions on these topics
and others you may have to our monthly meeting on January 25th.

For background on developing trends in the industry see the summary of a recent LeadingAge update below:

Out takes of **LeadingAge Advocacy: Governor's Proposed Supplemental Operating Budget 2018** (Full text available at LeadingAge.org. Or Lynette's January 15th email to the BoT.)

On December 14th, Governor Inslee released his proposed 2018 Supplemental Operating Budget. As in most years, the state has incurred expenses that were not anticipated when the Legislature passed the underlying biennial 2017/19 budget. The budget now contains several significant holes that have to be filled, such as savings assumptions that are unlikely to be achieved. Gov. Inslee is proposing adjustments to plug those holes in the 2017–19 budget, cover unanticipated costs, and pay for emergencies and other pressing needs. The first order of business for any supplemental budget is **to provide funding to continue delivering services at current levels.**

The governor addresses several issues that impact LeadingAge Washington members. The first is his proposal to hire 11 staff investigators to conduct inspections and investigate complaints in **assisted living facilities**. In the past four years, the number of individuals receiving services has increased 7.3 percent increase, from 30,360 to 32,592. **Funding also is provided to maintain the Residential Care Services quality assurance unit. (\$688,000 GF-S; \$1.4 million GF-F).** The governor also includes the balance of funding necessary to rebase skilled nursing facility rates on July 1, 2018 using 2016 cost report data. (those impacting M&M services are bolded by me)

Skilled Nursing Facilities ~

· **_____ Rebasing SNF payments in July 2018 using 2016 cost data is of paramount interest to LeadingAge Washington and its members. At this point, the funding has been included in the Governor's Supplemental budget and we expect the Legislature to fully fund this legislative mandate.** We are closely monitoring the work of the fiscal committees and, at this time, we are not preparing any formal brief or asking members to shine a light on this issue. If needed, we will ask members to engage as session progresses.

· **24/7 RN Staffing continues to be of concern to LeadingAge Washington and, at this time, we are educating key legislators on the workforce shortage, developing coalition support and looking for opportunities to revise the law and develop other workforce solutions.**

Long Term Care Trust Act ~

· ***Long Term Care Trust Act*** is the product of 3-4 years' of coalition work through Washingtonians for a Responsible Future (WRF). LeadingAge Washington was a founding member of the WRF and has worked with our partners to create story book educating the public about what Medicare and Medicaid are and to grow awareness of the need to plan for their future care. [HB 2533/SB 6238](#) creates a trust funded through a payroll deduction equivalent to .49% of income in exchange for a \$100 per day cash benefit for up to one year of in-home through skilled nursing facility care, dependent on need and choice. There are qualifying criteria to access the trust which is further defined in the legislation and issue brief. The bill awaits public hearing and has bipartisan support. The Long Term Care Trust Act is also enjoying support by editorial boards, please read the [Everett Herald](#). *(Helen's Caveat - With significant increase in our aging population and about a 7% increase in the use of A.L. over the past 4 years in WA, there is push to supplement private funding for A.L.s. Might this step eventually lead (or perhaps has already led) to a push to divert some LTC funding to A.L.s? A.L. is expensive care delivered for service provided. Would it not be better use of public funding to support an integrated system of of in home and LTC? Those who can afford A.L. privately, can avail themselves of it.)*

There are other bills that are **concerning** to LeadingAge Washington. Full text of this can be found in Lynette's email to the board of January 15th.

Looking forward to meeting with you on the 25th,

Helen Stoll
President Board of Trustees
Martha and Mary Lutheran Services

