

ALF Work Group Testimony for Monday, August 8, 2011 by Teleconference

TESTIMONY FROM THE FLORIDA LIFE CARE RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

Good afternoon Mr. Chairman and Members of the Workgroup.

My name is Charlie Paulk. My wife and I have been residents of The Estates at Carpenters in Lakeland, Florida for over ten years. This is a continuing care retirement community.

I am the current state president of the Florida Life Care Residents Association, a resident member of the Governors Continuing Care Advisory Council and a past president of the National Continuing Care Residents Association.

FLiCRA has just over 13,000 members living in 53 CCRCs throughout our state. These communities are regulated under Florida Statute 651 and the assisted living units in our communities are regulated under chapter 400, as you know.

CCRCs offer three levels of care: independent living, assisted living facilities and skilled nursing facilities at one campus.

Given the demographics of residents in our communities, we are especially interested in the recommendations that will come from this work group.

According to the Office of Insurance Regulation which regulates CCRC's there are nearly 3,000 assisted living units housed at licensed CCRC's in Florida, with statewide occupancy for such unit at 88%.

The average age of residents in our communities is 84, so its very likely that a good portion of the 29,000 residents living in CCRC's will at some point during their retirement years, will utilize and require assisted living services.

Some of the key issues we would like to share in terms of looking to the future include:

- Providing adequate floor plans that will allow an independent living spouse to reside in a living unit with their ALF qualified spouse.
- Consider adding a provision to the ALF statutes that establishes a family/resident council similar to what is found in F.S. 651
- Increased transparency of state monitoring reports
- Increased transparency of financial reports of provider organizations that own or operate the ALF licensed facility

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