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To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of the New York State Adult Day Services Association (NYSADSA) we are writing specifically to address serious concerns around the impact of COVID-19 on the social adult day care industry, as well as offer solutions that will ensure that our senior population continues to receive critical care essential to their survival throughout the duration of this devastating pandemic.

Social Adult Day Care provides structured programs affording functionally impaired adults with supervision, care nutrition, and opportunities to socialize, along with related services. There are at least 30,000 SADC participants in New York City alone, the vast majority of program participants are seniors who require the assistance of another person in at least one activity of daily living (toileting, mobility, transferring, or eating). As we know, COVID-19 has proven to be most adversely impacting our senior population which has had devastating effects on participation in critical programs across the State.

In response to COVID-19, Governor Cuomo issued Executive Order 202.6 delineating essential services, indicating clearly which businesses/industries are classified as such. We commend the Governor for including "Elder Care" as an essential service, however we have heard from many programs largely in NYC that Seniors are staying home, sometimes through no fault of their own as their SADC program may have closed due to COVID-19 and the directives from MLTC's that members can no longer attend.

Managed Long Term Care companies (MLTC's) ended SADS services on 3/18/2020 abruptly, without case coordination and discharge plans. Advising SADS staff to complete discharge forms as "discharged back to MLTC." Cuts were across the board. Some SADS's report members have no phone or internet or other means to communicate. Social Adult Day Care staff are well trained and have a personal relationship with participants, they can take an unnecessary strain from the healthcare system when regular home care services are unavailable due to the spread of COVID-19.

**Our priority concerns include the following:**

1. Seniors are calling 911 unnecessarily due to isolation, anxiety and regular supports and services being cut.
2. Personal care aides not available due to illness or quarantine leaving patients with no care or support other than MLTC care managers, after thirty days members will be discharged from managed long-term care
3. Direct care not available due to members COVID-19 exposure, as above no support other than MLTC care manager
4. CDPAS aide not available because of childcare and or fear of spreading disease to their elderly relative
5. MLTC care managers with high caseloads 120 to 250 to 1, (SADS have ration 7-1) not available for case assistance and regular medication reminders, causing unnecessary hospitalizations
6. Elderly with no supports unable to go grocery shopping or get essential items
7. Falls



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Reports are that the COVID-19 cases will increase exponentially possibly with 80 % of the population infected, in this situation SADS can support MLTC members with a tele-health model for support. Keeping SADS funding in place now, will ensure businesses will stay open and support the city and state with emergency planning when if home care supports become unavailable because of widespread transmission

**Possible solutions include:**

1. Wellness calls
2. Flu and COVID-19 education calls for the members and the family
3. Medication self-administration reminders
4. Arranging for appointments and transportation to the healthcare providers

*Additional services may include but not be limited to*

- Deliveries of essential items (SADS centers have vehicles and drivers)
- Non-perishable food
- Daily check ins and support to mitigate social isolation
- To support the MLTC's case coordination efforts
- Caregiver support
- Translation
- Transportation

We would like to schedule a call with you and your staff your earliest convenience to address these concerns considering this fluid situation.

Thank you for your consideration of this request, and we look forward to hearing back.

Sincerely,

Amy Davis

President