



Nota Bene – Schedules are not subject to change
Plan, Organize, Staff, Direct, Control

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GOVERNING BOARD
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September 2, 2020

Written testimony of [name of testifier], [title, ex. Administrator, Chief Operating Officer], [name of facility, Nursing and Rehabilitation Center] – Listening Session of the Public Health, Human Services Appropriations Committees – COVID-19 Connecticut Skilled Nursing Facility Issues

Good morning Senators Osten, Abrams and Moore, and Representatives Walker, Steinberg and Abercrombie, and to the members of the Appropriations, Public Health and Human Services Committees. My name is Martin Sbriglio. I am CEO at Ryders Health Management in Stratford, Connecticut. Ryders Health Management has been providing nursing home care in our communities for 70 years. We are a 746-nursing bed company, and we have 2000 employees working at our facilities. Thank you for scheduling this listening session and for including skilled nursing facility issues among the COVID-19 topics.

I would like to focus my testimony on the nursing facility occupancy issue we are facing, and how our concerns about our occupancy recovery path ahead present our biggest challenge as we continue to work diligently to get on the other side of this terrible pandemic.

But first I want to talk about where we were in March and where we are now.

Today, our nursing facility has No COVID-19 cases, either among employees or residents. In the height of the pandemic, we had over 100 cases.

Our nursing homes are members of the Connecticut Association of Health Care Facilities, and our story is not unlike almost all other nursing facilities, and what the operators, residents and caregivers experienced over the last months. However, when the knowledge of how COVID-19 was transmitting became known, and no one understood this is March, when testing became widely available, when we were able to secure adequate PPE, and when we set a successful course of action of infection prevention and control understanding the asymptomatic transmission we turned the corner on eradicating COVID-19 from our building, and it worked and it is working.

Here are comments on key areas:

Infection Prevention and Control / Source Control / Covid-19 Designated Facilities/units

Testing

PPE

Visitation

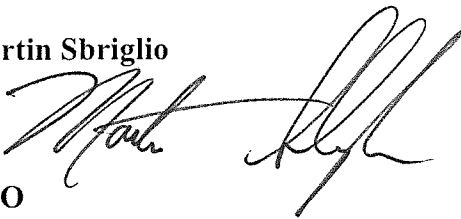
Staffing

and Funding / Provider Tax

The pandemic has taken a dramatic toll on our occupancy. In February, our occupancy was over 90% This month 68%. We are optimistic about the steady but slow continued occupancy recovery. The federal and state support we have received has been critical, but our main concern is that it will run out long before our occupancy recovers. That is not this month or next month. There is no question that a bridge to get us to a sustainable occupancy and revenue level is going to be needed later in the fall and into 2021. Even now, we are reducing hours, to keep our finances in balance. Still, we were not able to pay our Connecticut nursing home provider tax this last quarter, and thankfully the Department of Revenue Services waived the quarterly payment, but this bill is not forgiven. We must pay it back, but we are concerned about our ability to pay it back if and when we are in a better position to do so.

On behalf of everyone at Ryders Health Facilities, thank you and I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Martin Sbriglio

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Martin Sbriglio', with a stylized flourish at the end.

CEO

RN

Doctorate of Humane Letters

Licensed Skilled Nursing Admin.