



GASTON COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

330 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Way • Gastonia, North Carolina 28052
Phone 704-862-7540 • Fax 704-862-6777

Division of Social Services • Adult & Aging Services

September 19, 2018

MEMO

To: Gaston County Health & Human Services' Board

From: Michael Coone, Administrator of Adult & Aging Services

Re: Request for Approval to Raise Reimbursement Rate for In-Home Services' Contracts

On September 11, 2018, the Gaston County Home and Community Block Grant (HCCBG) Committee approved a request to increase the reimbursement rate for In-Home Services' Contracts from \$16.00 per hour to \$17.00 per hour.

This request was made by Adult & Aging Services (AAS) staff who are responsible for the provision of In-Home Aide Services to Gaston County seniors. This request was made in an attempt to resolve a growing problem with underutilization of In-Home Aide services due to difficulty with staffing at contracting agencies. Agencies are unable to provide appropriate staff for a number of clients who are eligible to be served. They report that it is a challenge for them to hire and retain qualified aides in the current job market; particularly Certified Nursing Assistants. In an effort to mitigate this problem and provide services to more eligible seniors, AAS staff requests the Health & Human Services' Board approve the rate increase supported by the HCCBG Committee. Expected benefits to the program resulting from this rate increase include:

- the ability to contract with an agency previously under contract that declined to continue their contract due to pricing. This agency provided a valuable resource to the program as they were able to staff the most difficult cases other agencies were unable to serve.
- flexibility for the contractors to increase wages to their aides to help them be more competitive in the current job market with regard to hiring and retaining aides.



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October 4, 2018

The Gaston County Health & Human Services' Board hereby approves the request by Adult & Aging Services staff to increase the contracted rate for the Home and Community Block Grant funded In-Home Aide Services to \$17.00 per hour effective October 1, 2018.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Chris C. Dobbins".

Chris C. Dobbins, MPH
Secretary, Health & Human Services' Board

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Robert S. Browne".

Robert S. Browne, PE
Chair, Health & Human Services' Board