



AFFORDABLE ASSISTED LIVING COALITION ILLINOIS

2023 ANNUAL REPORT



A Year of Thriving



A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

As 2023 ends, I am excited about what we accomplished for the Supportive Living Program (SLP) in terms of policy reform as well as on the community engagement front, especially after navigating through several years of the pandemic.

After celebrating Supportive Living activities virtually for the last three years, we took advantage of the opportunity to bring back in-person gatherings by hosting a successful two-day annual meeting in Springfield, where we learned valuable information from our knowledgeable speakers, met new friends, and reconnected with others. We brought back a revised version of our annual Wii Bowling and Spelling Bee competitions, where finalists from Supportive Living communities throughout Illinois traveled to compete in the State Championship on the final day of the meeting, allowing our members to cheer their residents on.

In addition to the in-person gatherings, we continued to hold our annual community competitions and promote a variety of educational, fun, and interactive activities to help encourage healthy and happy living for residents. We put continuing education needs at the forefront by co-hosting several informational webinars on a variety of topics for our members.

We also had another stellar year working with legislators to help protect different facets of the Supportive Living Program. We secured a desperately needed dementia care rate increase. We continued to work with HFS to implement a range of regulatory and legislative initiatives that impact the Supportive Living Program, honored AALC Legislative Champions at our Annual Conference and awarded Senate President Don Harmon with our 2023 AALC Legislator of the Year Award!

I am pleased with the forward direction AALC has taken and expect 2024 to be even bigger and bolder.

Karin Zosel
Executive Director
Affordable Assisted Living Coalition



A Future of Growth & Gatherings



A MESSAGE FROM AALC'S 2020-21 BOARD CHAIR

During my tenure as board chair of AALC, I'm proud of the work we've done to move the Supportive Living Program forward. I take great pride in how effectively AALC has elevated the Supportive Living program's importance in Illinois before lawmakers and the public. We provide a valuable service to seniors and persons with disabilities that can't be overlooked.

With the pandemic now behind us, I was especially excited to welcome the comeback of in-person gatherings such as the Annual Meeting and our Wii Bowling and Spelling Bee Competitions. Coming together, competing, learning, and socializing are vital to our Supportive Living Program.

AALC's successes speak volumes about the resilience of its members. In 2024, we'll keep up with in-person meetings and push for a robust legislative and regulatory agenda. Our track record shows that when we collaborate, we thrive, and I'm confident our accomplishments will continue throughout the new year.

Steve Horve
Board Chair 2022-2023

2023: A Year of Accomplishments



SUPPORTIVE LIVING DEMENTIA CARE ACCESS EXPANSION

AALC worked with the Illinois General Assembly and the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services (HFS) to expand the SLP dementia care setting. According to the current State of Illinois Alzheimer's Disease Plan, the number of Illinoisans 65 years of age or older living with Alzheimer's disease or a related dementia is projected to reach 260,000 by 2025. This year, AALC worked with its state partners to create an application process to expand access to dementia care services in specified geographic areas across the State.



EXPANDING VETERANS ACCESS TO SUPPORTIVE LIVING

AALC initiated an advocacy campaign to garner support for federal legislation that would give eligible veterans access to the Supportive Living Program. AALC met with members of the Illinois Congressional Delegation along with members of the National Center for Assisted Living. An opinion editorial was successfully placed in Illinois to highlight the issue and to urge co-sponsorship of the bills.

EMPOWERING GROWTH AND INCREASING SUPPORT

SNAP BENEFIT REPLACEMENT

Effective January 2023, SLP providers through the ARPA enhanced match have been receiving \$6.15 per day as an alternative to the lost SNAP Benefit.



Estimated benefit of \$19M annually.

NURSING FACILITY SUPPORT RATE INCREASE

Effective January 1, 2024, SLP rates will increase by approximately 3.2% because of the 12% increase to support component.



Estimated benefit of \$12M annually.

SLP DEMENTIA CARE RATE INCREASE

Effective January 1, 2024, rates for SLP dementia care setting providers will increase from 127% to 150% of the non-dementia care regional rate.



Estimated annual benefit of \$2.8M but will increase as additional approved locations become operational.

QUALITY PROGRAM INCREASE

Effective January 1, 2024, the rates will be increased across the board while data is collected to inform development of the quality metrics.



Estimated \$8M pool of funds to be distributed to SLP providers based on quality performance metrics.

A Closer Look

At Supportive Living

Supportive Living Communities throughout the state work tirelessly to provide seniors and persons with disabilities the opportunity to live in an affordable, safe, and caring environment. AALC is proud to represent the affordable assisted living model in Illinois and is constantly working to make sure that the program is recognized as a national leader in providing quality care to our most vulnerable residents.



157
certified providers
with **13,151**
apartments

12
dementia care
settings with
326 apartments

11
communities with
1,243 apartments
for persons ages
22-64 years
with physical
disabilities



FAST FACT:

The daily Supportive Living Program Medicaid Rate is **54.3%** of the Nursing Home Rate, which saves Illinois around **\$200 million** annually



10,060
Occupancy of Medicaid residents

2,354
Occupancy of private pay residents
(Oct. 2023)

77%
Approximate Medicaid occupancy

73
Illinois counties with Supportive Living
Communities



Nearly \$225,000
raised for PAC to
Protect SLP

90%
of Supportive Living
Communities are
members of AALC

31
vendor members
support the work of
AALC

Our Time to THRIVE

SUPPORTIVE LIVING 2023

As the pandemic receded in 2023, and under the theme of “Our Time to Thrive,” we were fully prepared and eager to embrace the year. We planned educational opportunities for members and resurrected new versions of favorite competitions and activities for Supportive Living Communities. These events were tailored to highlight how our residents thrive through Supportive Living.

AALC ANNUAL MEETING

Oct. 25-26

Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library & Museum
Springfield II

AALC hosted a two-day, in-person event filled with educational sessions, knowledgeable speakers, and generous sponsors. The event included an evening networking reception dedicated to honoring legislative representatives and recognizing Senate President Don Harmon with a special award. The festivities wrapped up with a friendly afternoon of spirited competition, as both spellers and Wii bowlers competed for the sought after title of State Champion.



HIGHLIGHTS:

140 Attendees

14 Educational Sessions

7 Sponsors

16 Speakers

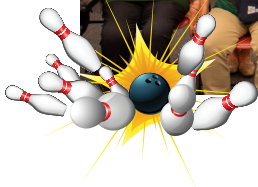
9.5 Educational Credits thru
SIU School of Medicine

WII BOWLING & SPELLING BEE RELAUNCH

After 3 years of virtual competition, our Wii Bowling & Spelling Bee competitors were thrilled to reunite in person to vie for the title of State Champions. Slightly retooled to fit the new norm, our competitions were still just as spirited and fun! Wii Bowling competitors from across Illinois competed virtually for the chance to make an in-person trip for the finals, while our Spelling Bee competitors met at a series of Regional Bee's to determine who would join the Wii Bowling finalists in Springfield in October. The smiles on their faces proved to us that 2023 was truly a time to thrive.

Wii Bowling Champions:

Heritage Woods of
Bolingbrook



Spelling Bee Champions:

Heritage Woods of
South Elgin



FRIENDLY COMPETITIONS

Throughout the year, our communities continued to participate in AALC's annual competition. So many great entries and so inspiring!



PHOTO CONTEST WINNER



Dream Flight:
100-year-old Frank
has the flight of a
lifetime on a WWII
era plane.

Frank Marshall, Evergreen Senior Living



TESTIMONIAL WINNER



"I want to get up in the morning instead of sitting in a chair and not doing anything. You never know what exciting things will happen at Evergreen. We have great activities, good food and great people. I have felt such a change in myself since moving here and Evergreen did that for me."

Tom Chamblin, Evergreen Senior Living



CENTENARIAN WINNER

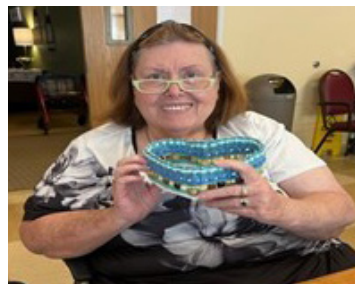


101 years
young!
DOB: 7/6/1922

Yarmilla (Yolly) Zaruba,
Cambridge House of Swansea



BEST OF OUR ABILITIES WINNER



Nancy Dow, Heritage Woods of
McHenry

What's Next?

2024 will continue to bring growth to our membership, our educational programs, and our policy outreach. We'll build on our past accomplishments while exploring new ways to build and improve Supportive Living in Illinois.

OUR LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES IN 2024 INCLUDE:

- Expand access to the Supportive Living Program Dementia Care Setting
- Increase the Personal Needs Allowance for residents
- Write into law the federally approved \$6.15 per diem to offset the loss of SNAP
- Preserve and protect the Supportive Living Program's Medicaid rate

ADDITIONALLY, WE ARE FOCUSED ON:

- Continuing our partnership with HFS to deliver relevant and timely educational content to AALC members
- Hosting an Annual Meeting in 2024, bringing together knowledgeable speakers to address topics of concern and provide an opportunity for members to network and build relations with others.
- Expanding opportunities for Supportive Living residents to engage through our annual Supportive Living activities.
- Strengthening our advocacy through the AALC PAC and recognizing our legislative champions

Who Qualifies for Supportive Living?

The Supportive Living Program (SLP) is open to any resident who:

- undergoes pre-admission screening (individuals seeking assistance through the Medical Assistance Program must be found in need of nursing facility level of care according to screening guidelines);
- is assessed to determine if functional risks and needs can be met in the SLP setting;
- has income no less than the current maximum allowable amount of Supplemental Security Income (SSI). SSI amounts for 2023: \$914.00 for a single person; \$1,371.00 for a couple;
- has had a tuberculosis test that indicates the absence of active tuberculosis. The test must be in accordance with the Control of Tuberculosis Code; and
- is not participating in any other home and community-based services waiver.



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2023

Steve Horve, President
Chuck Sheets, Vice President
George Dinges, Treasurer
Robert Gawronski, Secretary
Jerry Finis, Immediate Past President
Ben Hart
Rod Burkett

BOARD MEMBERS 2023

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Brian Cloch
Eli Finestone
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Ben Hart
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Wayne Smallwood
Michael Stein
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