

Residential Care Homes in Nevada ask to work with the Alzheimer's task force to improve & grow the options available for those Nevadans afflicted with Alzheimer's.

I am an active medication tech instructor for Residential Care homes, my father is an operator and president of AHHON and I also represent the entire industry including RCHCAN with my following statement.

I am aware of the negative image that many group homes in Nevada have. But I am here to share my and other members of our industry's desire and intention to improve the quality standards of care in our RCH's across Nevada.

Also I would like this panel and audience to know that Nevada's NRS 449 regulations are among the strictest in the nation.

While most states have a few of these items we are one of the only states to require all of levels of protection, safety and enforcement. Nevada is required by NRS 449 to have:

Sprinklers,

Beltca certified administrator,

Liability insurance,

Annual surveys,

Public transparency of annual surveys and complaints,

Unannounced inspections by the state long term care ombudsman, and

Close monitoring by the well-established regulatory body of the HCQC.

For reference I have given a handout that compares assisted livings/residential care state to state. Three additional items that are not listed on the state to state comparison which we do have are a beltca certified administrator, liability insurance, and sprinklers..

The industry is proud to stand not only on our regulations but also on our proven track record of safety over an extended period of 17 years. Nevada was one of the first states to require 13 R sprinklers and have had no deaths in a sprinkled Residential care home for 17 years. Many other states including California still do not require sprinkler and only recently required liability insurance. Other states have less frequent inspections and many are not publically available on the web site.

At a time when there is a shortage of community based long term care beds that can accommodate those with heavier care needs including dementia and Alzheimer's care and a rapidly growing need for even more category 2 level beds members of RCHCAN and AHONN are committed to working with all agencies to ensure our residents with dementia and Alzheimer's have a place to go. We know of no other care alternative for Alzheimer's patients in Nevada except SNF's who in general do not want these residents.

We are concerned that a new trend in the state long term care system to care for Alzheimer's or dementia patients may be toward these non-sprinkled, less monitored SLA's and will not only affect the quality of care and safety of the cognitively impaired residents placed in these SLA homes but also affect the supply and reimbursement levels for current category two dementia beds and various waivers that are needed for Dementia care in Nevada.

We ask the Alzheimer's task force to be long term partners with us to work toward continued improvements in quality and availability for safe, high quality, beds for residents with Alzheimer's and or dementia.

Mr Jay Castillo- Ahonn