

Health and Human Services Finance and Policy Committee Covid-19 Hazard Pay

RE: Where is my recompense?

Greetings, my name is Nancy Anderson, I am (Maria del Lopez, Wellness Director) Wellness Assistance and I work at Benedictine Living Community of Minneapolis since 2013. I believe I have a good understanding of what it takes to work in the Wellness Department especially when you are fully staffed. However, during this covid-19 monstrosity. Our state of mind, emotions and physical endurance has taken its toll because of **lack of staffing**.

My job as a Wellness Assistant is to provide services to the residents which includes, their socials, emotional, mental, recreational and spiritual needs for a quality of life.

Our day is spent **75-85%** with the residents. Since the pandemic we have had to **work later and weekends due to the lack of staff**. We had to help make beds, helped deliver the food trays to resident's because they could no longer ate in the dining room and help the kitchen staff serve food due to an employee who walked off the job. We lacked staff in our department, which increased more responsibilities for the Wellness Director and I.

With 80+ residents who were just as concerned, confused and worried as we all have been, Wellness Director and I had to assure them and distract them from the reality of the shutdown, because they were not allowed to meet with each other, have their families visit nor gather for their favorite game; Bingo!

75-85% of our time was and still is given to the resident every day; we had to modify our programs and activities. We compensate how socialization was provided; we went door-to-door every day with in-room materials and social visits.

This still did not fulfilled their need to connection with each other. We had to find create ways to keep them motivated, had it not been for us in this profession, the State would of have seen more death because of their "lack to thrive."

We who are non-nursing professionals in Skilled Nursing Home facility can easily be overlooked. The wellness department provides the psychosocial wellbeing services to residents; which includes their socials, emotional, mental, recreational and spiritual needs for a quality of life.

Then came the riots, our facility is located at the edge of Minneapolis; this too put another fragile stricken stress on us workers, as well as the residents as we had to

drive in and out of the city. Wondering if it was safe, and now we are concern even more if Minneapolis votes to defund the police.

Nurses and aides received an increased pay of \$2.25 included bonuses to come into work. The Wellness Director and I **feel offended.** No one has rewarded us for our diligence; commitment and compassion for the resident. The Wellness department staff did not want the residents to suffer any more changes.

Now that being said, I want to draw your attention to those who stayed at home because of the same fears, uncertainty and seeing the world change into something we did not recognized.

1. They are paid to stay home!

While my non-nursing co/orts and I had to come to work with the same fears for ourselves, our families, living with the feeling of uncertainty of what the next day could bring; our world change too!

The only difference is that while we came to worked, the stay at home

junkies live off our backs!

2. Is the money only allocated to the nursing department?

Are we heroes for being here to?

How about those who mop the floors, cook, do the laundry? Etc.

All I keep hearing is more pay for nurses and aide including getting bonuses to come into work. I had to go to resident's room for over a year instead of have social group gatherings to keep them stimulated.

3. We are mandated to:

- mask wear,
- eye shields
- Vaccination to stay employed!

The Wellness Director had to work by herself while I stayed home because I tested positive and had to use up my PTO. The Wellness Director only received raise of .35-cent in January 2021.

The federal and State money that is being withheld by those with ZOOM jobs; while the State created stay-at-home junkies are also getting up to \$2,000 food stamps! Most of us working do not make that much in our paycheck! It is **offensive** to us because we still come to work to be paid, in this continual covid-19 Pandemic.

Where is our financial benefits?

We put our life in danger just like the nurses and the aides.

Where is the non-nursing professionals/Workers compensation in healthcare?

Our state of mind, emotions, and physical endurance has taken its toll!

The lack of staff has hurt us all.

We want our Covid -19 Pay too!

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you!

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