

State of HCBS: Impact of State Budget on Home Care and Assisted Living Providers

About Me: David Evancho

- Development and Compliance Supervisor at AAA9 since 2019
- Started as a compliance monitor with AAA9 in 2017.
- Manage a provider network of roughly 170 providers.
 - OAA
 - PASSPORT
 - Assisted Living Waiver
 - Participant Directed

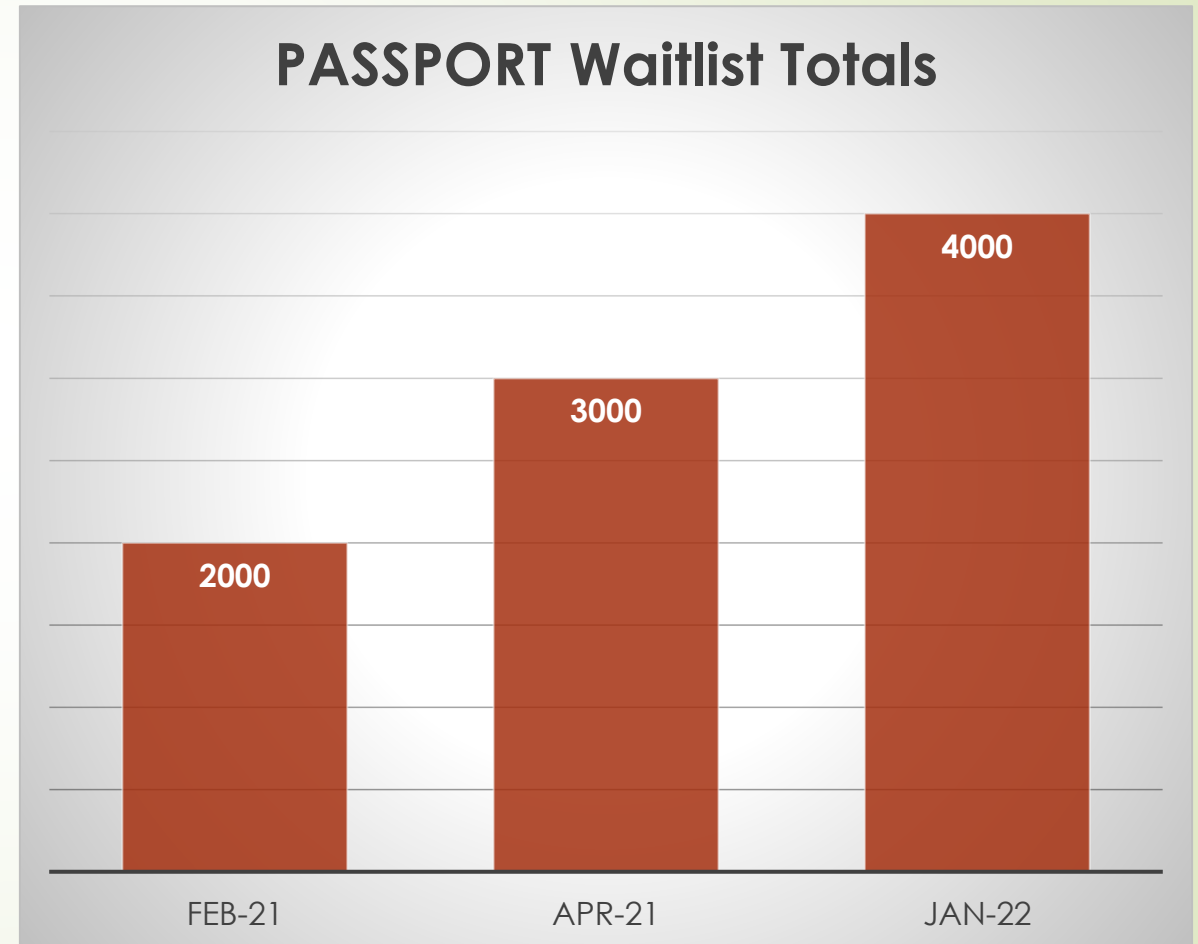


The Problem

- Personal care providers want to provide quality care but over the last several years have been dropping out of PASSPORT due to low reimbursement rates.
- Care workers receive low wages, and do not typically receive mileage reimbursement, benefits, sick or personal leave or paid training.
- Different rates and requirements for similar work result in competition for a small number of workers and an imbalance in the system.
- Provider certification, especially for self-direction, takes too long and is different for each program. This is a particular problem for family members who are ready to help but need additional support.

Ohio AAA HCBS Program

- Includes individuals enrolled in programs who are going without personal care because of lack of direct care workers.
- Programs include Older Americans Act, Medicaid waivers, and local levy programs.
- In January of 2022, almost 4,000 older adults were enrolled in PASSPORT and going without care.



Provider Roundtable

- ▶ On November 1st, 2022 AAA9 help a provider roundtable at our office in Cambridge Ohio.
- ▶ Addressed the workforce crisis with our provider network, local legislators, ODA, ODM, O4A, and consumers.



Where we were in 2022

- Home Health Agencies in our AAA9, region had an average of 35 HHA positions available as of November 2022.
- 20 of those positions were typically filled.
- On average 15 HHA positions were available within an agency.



Where we were in 2022

- Home Health Agencies in our region, had an average of 8 HHAs leave employment every 6 months.
- Providers identified that this was an increase in this occurrence compared to years past.



Where we were in 2022

- On average open HHA positions take 1-3 months to fill.
- Once those positions are filled, HHAs were only staying employed for an average of 1-3 months before leaving.



Identified Challenges:

- ▶ Main reasons identified for HHAs leaving employment were:
 - ▶ Low wages
 - ▶ Poor benefits package
 - ▶ No mileage reimbursement



2024-2025 State Budget:

- **Healthy Aging Grants:** \$40 million in state American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding to counties through county commissioners
- **MyCare Expansion Statewide**
- **Senior Community Services:** small increase in funding for SFY 2024 and 2025
- **Housing and APS increases**
- **HCBS Rate Increases:** rate increases were approved for multiple services:
 - 47% increase to personal care service rate
 - 31% increase to adult day service rate
 - 48% increase to assisted living waiver rates
 - 22% increase to home delivered meals



What has the impact been from these changes?

- ▶ Home Health Agencies in our AAA9, region have an average of 30-35 HHA positions available as of August 2024.
- ▶ Anywhere from 15-20 of those positions were typically filled.
- ▶ On average 15 HHA positions are still available within an agency.




What has the impact been from these changes?

- ▶ Home Health Agencies in our region, had an average of 6 HHAs leave employment every 6 months.
- ▶ On average open HHA positions take 1-3 months to fill.
- ▶ Once those positions are filled, HHAs were only staying employed for an average of 6-12 months before leaving. (increase from 1-3 months in 2022)



Challenges providers are still experiencing:

- ▶ Main reasons identified for HHAs leaving employment that have not changed:
 - ▶ Low wages
 - ▶ Poor benefits package
 - ▶ No mileage reimbursement



How the State Budget changes have impacted AAA9:

- ▶ **Significant increase in CHCAs (Independent Providers) in the AAA9 region.**
 - ▶ As of September 2024, we now have a total of 67 providers
 - ▶ At the end of 2023, we only had 44 providers contracted in our region for this service.
- ▶ **Decrease in overall consumer waitlist in the AAA9 region.**
 - ▶ As of September 2024, there are 118 consumers on our waitlist for PP services
 - ▶ At the end of 2022, AAA9 had roughly 300 consumers on this list.

Federal/State policy changes to monitor:

- ▶ Continue to monitor the upcoming State Budget Cycle (SFY 2026-27)
 - ▶ Direct Care Workforce Sustainability
 - ▶ Indexing of Provider Rates
- ▶ Next Gen MyCare rollout

