



National  
**PACE**  
Association

**Oral Statement of Cheryl Wilson, RN, MA, LNHA  
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San Diego, California  
On behalf of the National PACE Association**

**Before the Ways and Means Health Subcommittee  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Hearing on Promoting Integrated and Coordinated  
Care for Medicare Beneficiaries  
June 7, 2017  
2:00 p.m.**

- Good afternoon Mr. Chairman, Mr. Ranking Member, & other distinguished members of the Subcommittee.
- I am Cheryl Wilson, CEO of St. Paul's Senior Services and St. Paul's PACE, in San Diego, California.
- I represent the National PACE Association, and their 122 PACE organizations with 233 sites, in 31 states, .. serving over 42,000 participants each day.

### What Is PACE?

- PACE stands for the Program of All Inclusive Care for the Elderly. A community based Health & Social Services provider, which receives a capitated payment rate to serve a frail set of Medicare eligible seniors, all of whom are at a nursing home level of care, but are being cared for at home by the PACE team.
- The average participant is 77, female, and lives with multiple chronic, complex conditions, limiting their activities of daily living. 50% have some form of dementia. But through PACE 95% percent live at home. Even more challenging, at St. Paul's PACE, 50% of those we serve live alone at home.
- Along with PACE, St. Paul's Senior Services is a full-service, nonprofit organization established in 1960, providing retirement residential homes, HUD housing, assisted living, memory care, day programs, Skilled Nursing, and now, housing for homeless seniors.

### Benefits of PACE

- By providing timely, clinically appropriate treatments and social supports, PACE participants experience higher quality of life, optimal medical outcomes, with lower costs.
- Two weeks ago, I had lunch with a lady enrolled in our PACE program. She had all her belongings wrapped securely in a plastic bag. She told me her other "stuff" was outside all wrapped up because of "bugs." She shared with me her multiple, major medical conditions, and her inability to get out to grocery stores, or to her doctors for visits. Thus, she had a history of visiting the emergency room every two to three months, which she hated because of the long waits, all the hubbub, and the fact that no one ever spoke to her, rather only about her and over her.

She said she was getting to like the PACE staff, but it was taking time to believe that they could be so **nice and really mean it**. In fact, this participant had spent the first three weeks in PACE sitting outside the building with **care being delivered either to her at home, or on the bench outside, due to her paranoia and fear of exploitation**. She finally agreed to have her home treated for bed bugs and other infestations, to receiving personal care, and to having her belongings wrapped up until she was willing to give them up for three days of freezing needed to eliminate all infestations.

**In the meantime**, this lady is provided with delivered dietetically appropriate meals, daily home medication management, twice weekly personal care at the PACE center, weekly physician visits, social services, psychiatric interventions, and many other ancillary services.

**In the four months she has been with PACE, this lady has not experienced a single emergency room visit.**

### **Fostering the Growth of PACE**

- PACE serves many frail elders and individuals with disabilities today, but we could serve many more.
- **The decade-old PACE regulation must be updated immediately. While CMS has issued a proposed rule, it has yet to issue a final rule.**
- Similarly, CMS could support PACE growth by implementing **Congressionally-granted pilot authority** to serve new populations with similar needs and medical complexities. **We ask CMS to move the pilots forward quickly.**
- **Other steps forward are some statutory improvements to enable PACE to better serve moderate income Medicare beneficiaries.**
- PACE has incorporated many of the reforms promoted by Medicare including **coordinated care** and **integrated financing**. PACE has proven to be a good value to taxpayers, while increasing the quality of life for many of our nation's elders, persons living with disabilities, **and their families**.

### **Conclusion**

- St. Paul's and the other PACE centers across the nation have successfully provided high quality and cost-effective care to one of the frailest and most medically complex segments of the Medicare population.
- NPA and its membership are committed to working **with you** so that more Medicare beneficiaries will have access to this innovative program, and that PACE organizations may operate most efficiently and effectively.
- **In all my years in health care, I know that PACE is the very best model of care as professed to me by HHS Secretary Tommy Thomson over 15 years ago.**
- Thank you, Chairman Tiberi , Ranking Member Levin, and members of the Subcommittee.
- I look forward to answering your questions.