

South Dakota Summary of Public Comments

HCBS Settings Final Rule

Compliance Date 03/17/2023

	Comment	DHS/LTSS's Response to Comment
1	<p>One commenter expressed their support for Aurora Brule Assisted Living, stating that the setting is the only Assisted Living within a 15-mile radius. The commenter stated that residents have the opportunity to attend church, school sports, children's programs, and community events in the area.</p>	<p>DHS/LTSS appreciates the comments made on behalf of Aurora Brule Assisted Living. The comments will be included in Aurora Brule's Final Evidence Package for review by CMS.</p>
2	<p>One commenter expressed their support for Wellshire Huron Assisted Living, stating that there are two other Assisted Livings in the area, but one is primarily mental health, and the other does not accept Medicaid. The commenter noted that one benefit to being attached to the nursing home is that AL residents are able to access Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy, and Speech Therapy without having to leave the grounds. Many residents at Wellshire Huron have family in the area and would lose out on their independence and time with people they know if they had to move.</p>	<p>DHS/LTSS appreciates the comments made on behalf of Wellshire Huron Assisted Living. The comments will be included in Wellshire Huron's Final Evidence Package for review by CMS.</p>
3	<p>One commenter expressed their support for Avera Brady Assisted Living. The commenter stated that residents have access to Therapy and to their loved ones who may be in the attached Nursing Home.</p>	<p>DHS/LTSS appreciates the comments made on behalf of Avera Brady Assisted Living. The comments will be included in Avera Brady's Final Evidence Package for review by CMS.</p>
4	<p>Eleven commenters expressed their support for Bethel Suites Assisted Living. One commenter stated that Bethel is the only Assisted Living in the community and it is an integral part of the community. They noted that if the Assisted Living were to close, the community impact would be catastrophic. Residents are able to attend community activities, family gatherings, and school events when they desire. Another commenter stated that the AL has a remarkable environment which is designed to help people maintain their independence as well as keep their dignity. Another commenter stated that the assisted living has a waiting list, so if the setting had to close, there would be more people impacted than just those who currently reside there.</p>	<p>DHS/LTSS appreciates the comments made on behalf of Bethel Suites Assisted Living. The comments will be included in Bethel Suite's Final Evidence Package for review by CMS.</p>
5	<p>One commenter expressed general support for all Heightened Scrutiny settings in South Dakota. The commenter stated that having the Assisted Living attached to the Nursing Home is beneficial when partners/married</p>	<p>DHS/LTSS appreciates the comments made on behalf of Heightened Scrutiny settings in South Dakota. The comments will</p>

	<p>couples do not have the same level of care and wish to remain in close proximity. Assisted Living residents would have to move out of their home community if the settings were to close, which would cause relocation stress.</p>	<p>be included in the settings' Final Evidence Packages for review by CMS.</p>
6	<p>Two commenters expressed support for Wilmot Assisted Living, stating that there are no other Assisted Livings in the area. One commenter noted that residents who have family and friends in the area enjoy participating in community events. Local groups come into the facility to help with activities as well. Another commenter stated that there would be a lot of displaced seniors if the setting didn't exist.</p>	<p>DHS/LTSS appreciates the comments made on behalf of Wilmot Assisted Living. The comments will be included in the setting's Final Evidence Package for review by CMS.</p>
7	<p>One Stakeholder group expressed appreciation for the efforts made by DHS to implement these federal regulations in the least disruptive way for assisted living residents who are benefitting from participating in the state's Medicaid waiver program. The commenter stated that the preservation of access to assisted living beds remains a high priority in South Dakota, especially in rural communities with few health care options. The commenter also encouraged South Dakota Medicaid to continue to be as flexible as possible in implementing the federal rules, including those well-intended directives regarding locking rooms, access to food and transportation, and supporting individuals who desire to work. They stated that Assisted Livings in South Dakota vary widely in the services offered based on the needs in their communities and the economic realities under which they must operate. To the fullest extent possible, resources should continue to be directed at meeting the needs of residents rather than toward compliance with additional regulation.</p>	<p>DHS/LTSS appreciates the comments made on behalf of Assisted Livings in South Dakota. The comments will be included in the settings' Final Evidence Packages. It is LTSS's priority to ensure residents needs are met, while also ensuring compliance with CMS' regulations.</p>
8	<p>One comment was made on behalf of all rural Assisted Living locations that are integrated into Skilled Nursing Facilities. The commenter stated that residents who live in these settings are enabled to have their needs met in a way that allows them to remain in the community they have called home for many years. Limiting the availability of these settings would have a negative impact on residents who would lose or limit their community and family integration due to the need to move many miles away to have their healthcare needs accommodated.</p>	<p>DHS/LTSS appreciates the comments made on behalf of Heightened Scrutiny settings in South Dakota. The comments will be included in the settings' Final Evidence Packages for review by CMS.</p>