

FACILITY NEED REVIEW

FOR HCBS PROVIDER LICENSE APPLICATION

ASSURED COMFORT HOME CARE LLC

BROUSSARD,

LA 70518.

August 2020



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This review is written to provide data, evidence and explanations to demonstrate the need for Assured Comfort Home Care (ACHC) to be licensed as a HCBS provider in Broussard, Lafayette Parish, LA. In this review, the following were established:

- The HCBS provider-to-enrollees in Region four, where ACHC services will be domiciled, is 1:53.
- There is only one HCBS provider in Broussard city catering for the mentally ill, disabled and/or seniors in a community of about 12,700 people. Assuming conservatively, it imply that one HCBS provider will cater for the needs of 100 HCBS enrollees daily.
- There is high percentage of bed occupancy in the nursing homes in 2019. With present COVID-19 pandemic, many LTSS recipients now prefer in-home care for fear of contracting the virus and death.
- Louisiana is lagging behind in LTSS Program rebalancing in the nation. The state needs to do more to promoting HCBS as an alternative to institutional care placement as it has been shown to be effective. This has been done in other states by engaging more HCBS providers.

Based on these, it is important to have more HCBS providers to bridge the gaps and continue to improve access to care and needs of the vulnerable in Broussard. ACHC hereby implore the FNR committee to approve our application in other to proceed to licensure, so that more care is given to vulnerable residents in Broussard.

Adarian Bourgeois (MBA, M.Sc. *Human Service Counseling*)

Owner and ACHC Designated Representative

17th August, 2020.



ASSURED COMFORT HOME CARE

Assured Comfort Home Care (ACHC) is a limited liability company with EIN – 85-1864709 certified by the Secretary of State of the State of Louisiana to provide its services in the State. The owner and proposed administrator of ACHC is Adarian Bourgeois, a human support and behaviour specialist with over 15 years of experience.

Adarian Bourgeois is an experienced care provider for aging population and people with disabilities. She discovered her caregiving ability when she had to play the role of in-home caregiver for her mother. Despite previously bagging an MBA degree, Adarian's love for caregiving made her go back to pursue a Master's Degree in Human Service Counselling from Liberty University. She now has over 15 years of experience working with children, seniors and people with disabilities providing them motivation and leadership, and also advocating for their family, social and emotional needs. This made her to start Assured Comfort Home Care LLC in 2020.

The motivation to start the ACHC stemmed from her caregiving passion, and the rising need for Home and Community-based Service (HCBS) providers in the U.S. communities¹. ACHC intends to operate as a HCBS provider for people with mental illnesses, intellectual or developmental disabilities, and physical disabilities through one or more of the following:

- Monitored in-home care support for medical needs of individuals;
- Personal care support for individuals to develop skills and assist them on daily living at home and in the community;
- Supervision of independent Living of individuals; and
- Providing respite Care.

ANTICIPATED COMMUNITY OF OPERATION

1. BROUSSARD

ACHC shall be operating as a HCBS provider in Broussard. According to the Department of Health and Hospitals Administrative regions, Broussard is under Lafayette Parish which is located in Region 4 (**Figure 1**).

Broussard has a population of about 12,700 based on the data from the United States Census Bureau released in July 2019 with an expected growth rate of 3.72% in 2020.

¹ <https://www.kff.org/health-reform/fact-sheet/the-louisiana-health-care-landscape/>

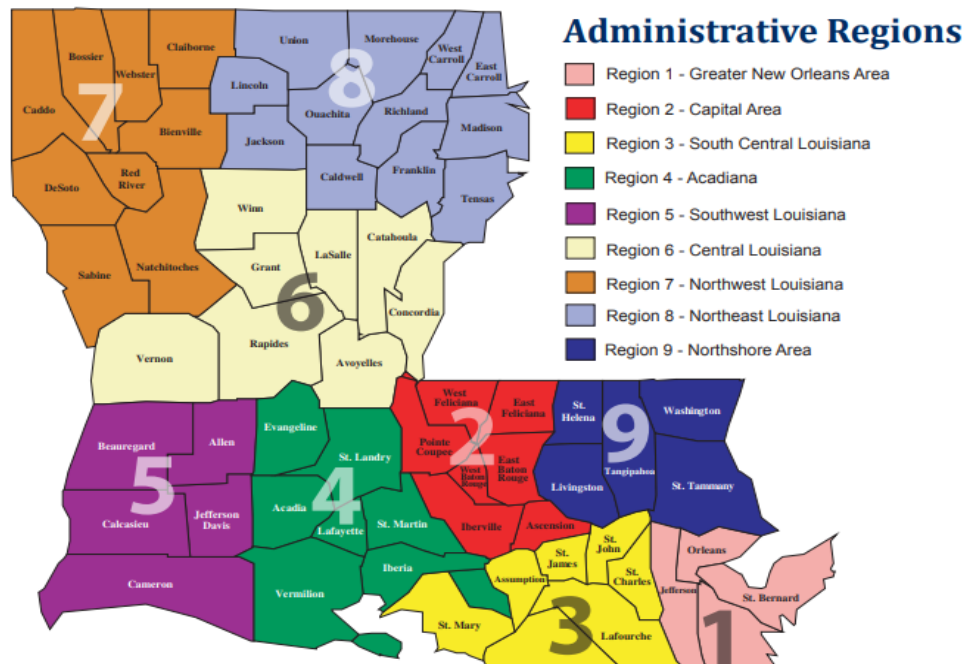


Figure 1: DHH Administrative regions²

Broussard is the third most populous city after Lafayette and Youngsville in the region, both cities are at a distance of 6.4 miles (13 minutes driving) and 5.3 miles (9 minutes driving) from Broussard respectively³.

There are 1,137 (8.53%) residents that are > 65 years old and 1,100 (8.7%) residents under the age of 65 living with disability^{4, 5} in Broussard.

2. HCBS FACILITIES

According to 2018 FY Medicaid HCBS Enrollment report-by-state published in 2020 by Molly O'Malley Watts et al., 20,600 people registered for HCBS in Louisiana⁶. Also, the Louisiana inventory of Community Home/Group Utilization Reports for facilities in Louisiana reported that 2,264 beds were enrolled for the HCBS program between January and December 2019 with 96.1% of beds occupied within this period.

² http://blfhf.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/12/DHH_AdRgnlMap_12.pdf

³ <https://www.distance-cities.com/>

⁴ <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/broussardcitylouisiana>

⁵ <https://worldpopulationreview.com/us-cities/broussard-la-population>

⁶ <https://www.kff.org/report-section/medicaid-home-and-community-based-services-enrollment-and-spending-appendix-tables/>

In Lafayette Region, 282 beds were enrolled with 93.5% occupancy between January and December 2019. In Lafayette parish where Broussard city is located, there are 15 facilities with 104 beds enrolled for HCBS, 92.40% of the beds were occupied during this period and almost half of the facilities in the parish have > 93% bed occupancy (**Figure 2**).⁷

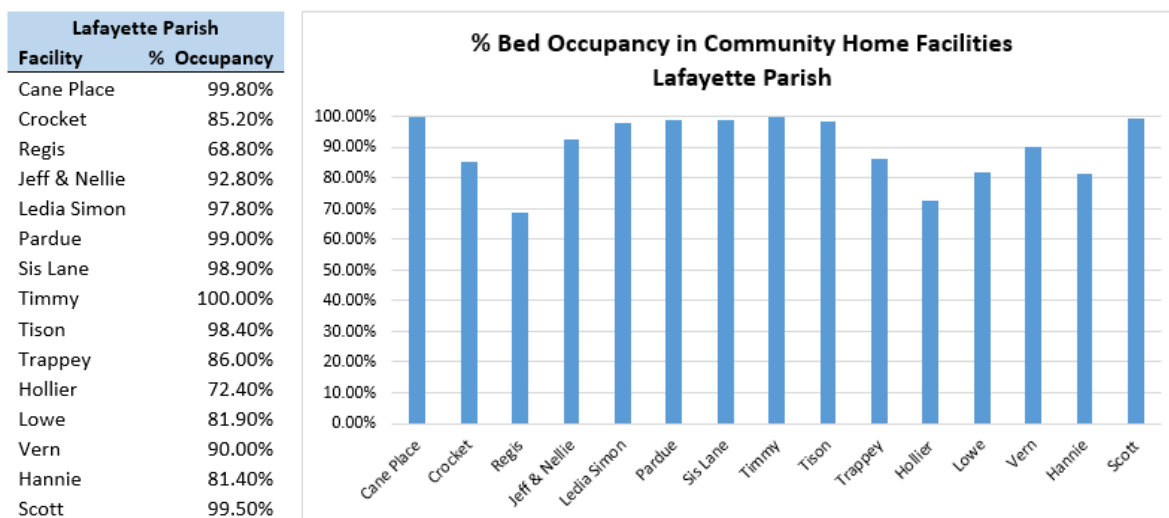


Figure 2: Percentage bed occupancy for facilities in Lafayette Parish.

3. HCBS PROVIDERS

According to the records from the Louisiana Health Standards Section for different program providers directory (last updated August 2020), there are 3254 program providers licensed to practice in Louisiana. 583 (18%) of the providers are licensed to provide Home and Community-based Services in the state, only 40 (6.9%) of them are licensed to provide services in Lafayette Parish.

The Louisiana Health Standards Section record goes on to show that there are 37 (92.5%) HCBS providers in Lafayette city alone. This leaves only 1 (2.5%) licensed HCBS provider in each of the other three geographical cities under Lafayette Parish – Youngsville, Scott and Broussard⁸.

4. CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

The ravaging coronavirus has infected more than 5 million Americans and has resulted in about 168,000 deaths in the United States, it has no doubt created an atmosphere of fear. 7,916 persons have contracted COVID-19 in Lafayette Parish and it has claimed about 100 lives⁹.

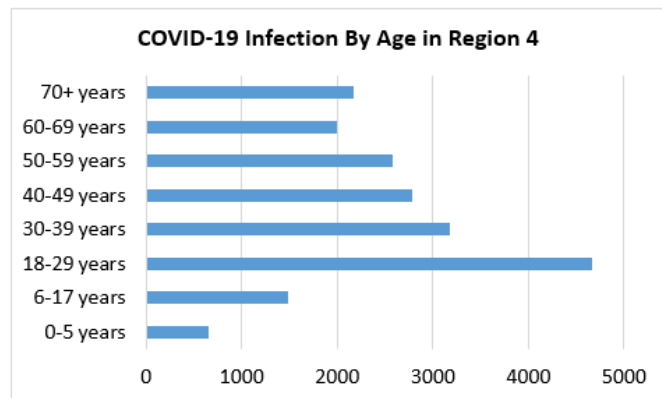
⁷ https://ldh.la.gov/assets/medicaid/hss/docs/FNR/FNR_Reports/MR_2_052020.pdf

⁸ <https://ldh.la.gov/index.cfm/page/3008>

⁹ <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2020/us/coronavirus-us-cases.html>

A WHO situation report indicate that seniors and older adults with underlying conditions are at higher risk of getting severe COVID-19 disease¹⁰.

MaryBeth also reported that people receiving Long-Term Services and Supports in care facilities are at increased risk of contracting coronavirus, and those benefitting from HCBS may be at greater risk of adverse health outcomes and unmet daily self-care needs¹¹.



NEED FOR MORE HCBS PROVIDERS IN BROUSSARD

According to HCBS providers licensing standards and Louisiana Behavioral Health Partnership Service Definitions, every HCBS providers are expected to cater for 10 – 20 functionally impaired adults and seniors^{12, 13}. From the data in earlier sections, 583 HCBS providers are to give care to 20,600 persons who registered for HCBS program in Louisiana. This put HCBS provider-to-enrollees ratio at 1:35, implying that one provider will care for 35 functionally impaired adults and seniors. There is need to increase the number of HCBS providers in the state to reduce the provider-to-enrollees ratio.

There are 244,000 people residing in Lafayette Parish¹⁴, the functionally impaired adults and seniors in this population are expected to be catered for by 40 HCBS licensed providers in the parish. Data from U.S. Census Bureau reported that 8.7% of the population in Lafayette Parish < 65 years live with disability. Even if only 10% of this functionally impaired adult and senior population enroll for HCBS (underestimation), the provider-to-enrollees ratio comes to about 1:53. Clearly, the parish needs more HCBS providers to care daily for the needs of these special population.

¹⁰ <https://www.who.int/docs/default-source/coronaviruse/situation-reports/20200311-sitrep-51-covid-19.pdf>

¹¹ <https://www.kff.org/coronavirus-covid-19/issue-brief/covid-19-issues-and-medicare-policy-options-for-people-who-need-long-term-services-and-supports/>

¹² [https://ldh.la.gov/assets/medicaid/hss/docs/HCBS/Home And Community Based Services Regs.pdf](https://ldh.la.gov/assets/medicaid/hss/docs/HCBS/Home%20And%20Community%20Based%20Services%20Regs.pdf)

¹³ <https://ldh.la.gov/assets/docs/BehavioralHealth/LBHP/ServicesManual-Current.pdf>

¹⁴ <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/lafayetteparishlouisiana>

Out of 40 licensed HCBS providers in Lafayette Parish, a staggering 92.5% (37) are licensed to practice in Lafayette city alone. Sadly, just one licensed HCBS provider is available for the other three cities in the parish – Youngsville, Scott and Broussard. Still relying on data from U.S. Census Bureau website for the proportion of functionally impaired adults¹⁵, and assuming a conservative 10% of them enroll for HCBS program, the HCBS provider-to-enrollees ratio in Lafayette, Youngsville, Scott and Broussard would be 1:30, 1:82, 1:72, 1:110. Only Lafayette city has a fair HCBS provider-to-enrollees ratio due to high number of licensed HCBS providers there. It is noteworthy that license to practice as a HCBS provider is location-specific, HCBS providers in Lafayette city cannot come to come Youngsville, Scott or Broussard to give care even though it is not far. This calls for an urgent need to license more HCBS providers in Broussard and other cities.

Furthermore, the consistently high percentage of bed occupancy in community home facilities can make the Louisiana Health Department to call for Request for Facility Proposals. 1,175 out of 2,264 beds available were occupied in community home facilities between January and December 2019 in Louisiana, this gives about 96% occupancy. Within the same period, Lafayette Region and Parish had a bed occupancy of 93.5% and 92.40% respectively. Issuance of more HCBS license is more desirable to keep bed occupancy below the 93% threshold, rather than calling for another Request for Facility Proposals. This is worth considering because of the present coronavirus pandemic ravaging the world, it has caused anxiety, isolation and depression among people with disability and seniors¹⁶. Preference for HCBS program among elderly, disabled and mentally challenged explains why HCBS enrollment is rising and will continue to in the coming months. The best way to prepare for this HCBS program enrollment surge is to issue more HCBS provider license to interested and qualified applicants.

Many studies have shown that most people receiving Long-Term Services and Supports (LTSS) prefer not living in a long term care facility before the coronavirus pandemic outbreak, this has called for LTSS Program rebalancing. Louisiana Health Department stated that HCBS programs performs as well or better than nursing home facilities with respect to avoidable hospitalizations and HEDIS (Healthcare Effectiveness Data Information Set) measures, saving \$13,000 for seniors.

¹⁵

<https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/lafayettcitylouisiana,lafayetteparishlouisiana,scottcitylouisiana,youngsvillecitylouisiana,broussardcitylouisiana/PST045219>

¹⁶ <https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/disability/news/2020/06/24/486733/investing-home-community-based-care-coronavirus-pandemic-future-disasters/>

State Medicaid agencies and departments of aging and disability have recognized the role of HCBS in improving access and quality of care, which is why the proportion of LTSS spending on HCBS rose from 10% in the 1980s to about 57% by 2016¹⁷. The benefits of HCBS program is huge and cannot be overemphasized. While most states now promote HCBS as an alternative to institutional placement, it would seem Louisiana is lagging behind the nation in this stride because only 49% of older adults and functionally impaired adults receive services through HCBS compared to the national average of 61%^{18, 19}. This shows that there is need for Louisiana to increase the number of HCBS licenses issued to interested and qualified applicants.

REQUEST FOR FNR APPROVAL

These findings strongly indicate the need for more HCBS providers to cater for mentally challenged, disabled persons and seniors in Broussard community. The risk of contracting COVID-19 and death has made many seniors in the Broussard community prefer home care even more. Owing to this, the number of people registering for HCBS in Broussard is increasing and will continue to rise over the coming days.

To cope with increasing HCBS program enrollment, there is need to increase the number of licensed HCBS providers in Broussard. We hereby request humbly that ACHC application for Facility Need Review approval be favorably considered in order to move on to the next stage of licensure.

Thank you in anticipation.

¹⁷ <https://www.medicaid.gov/medicaid/quality-of-care/downloads/hcbs-quality-measures-brief-3-rebalancing.pdf>

¹⁸

https://ldh.la.gov/assets/docs/Making_Medicaid_Better/Publications/LTC/LTSSPositionPaperforLouisiana.pdf

¹⁹ <https://ldh.la.gov/assets/docs/BayouHealth/RFI-11282012/LTC-RFI-1129.pdf>