


WITF-FM, Public Radio in Central Pennsylvania


Advocates call for the state to properly regulate personal care homes

03/23/2007, *Jen Rehill*

(Harrisburg) -- Advocates for the disability community and senior citizens are not pleased with news that 75-percent of the state's personal care homes have expired licenses. But, they say it was worse three years ago, when there was almost no state regulation of personal care homes at all. Corey Rowley, director of the Pennsylvania Statewide Independent Living Council, says her group supported sweeping regulations enacted by Welfare Department Secretary Estelle Richman in 2005. Now, she says, those rules need to be implemented.

 [00017_coreyrowley1.mp3](#) AUDIO, Rowley said *“Seventy-five percent is not acceptable. This is people’s lives we’re talking about. My other reaction is that the story a few years ago would have been more dismal.”*

Rowley says she hopes the situation will draw public attention to the issues at personal care homes.

 [00018_coreyrowley2.mp3](#) AUDIO, Rowley said *“We will be watching to make sure the number goes down and that there is a plan of how they will get to that other 75% and what they’re going to do about it”*

She says the Council will be watching to make sure the inspections are done. Ultimately, though, Rowley says her organization would like to see a move away from placing disabled people in personal care facilities. She says providing folks basic services in their own homes -- help with dressing or shopping -- would allow many people who don't need full-time medical care to maintain their independence.

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