September 16, 2020

From: FADSA Inc. (Florida Adult Day Care Service Association)

Attn: Deputy Mayor Maurice Kemp

Dear Deputy Mayor Kemp:

We the Adult Day Care Industry has been struggling since our doors were closed on April 3, 2020. We are reaching out to plead for the reopening of the Adult Day Care Centers. As you well know, we have been closed for 6 months now and our members are suffering from a massive depression and a deterioration of mental and physical functions. The families are also pleading for the reopening of the ADC Centers because due to the Phase 2 opening they have been called back to work and the families that depend solely on Adult Day Care to survive and care for their seniors have no choice but to send them to us. We sent to Mayor Gimenez office a reopening plan illustrating all the recommendations and precautions taken to ensure the well-being, security and safety of our senior members and staff. We also stopped receiving economic help from the Medicaid LTC programs on July 2020 and it is getting very difficult for Adult Day Care Centers across Miami-Dade County to pay their rent and keep their businesses afloat. Many ADC Centers have reached out to their district commissioners for monetary support with no luck or answer regarding any funds assign to our industry.

The main aim of an Adult Day Care Center is to provide quality care and enriching interaction with other participants. Some activities include: Arts and crafts, music, games (bingo, scrabble), in/outdoor activities (yoga, Pilates), interest discussion (books, films), general socialization and conversations intended to form friendly relationships in order to maintain the mental problems under control. Adult day services (ADS) providers are an integral part of the home and community-based services system and serve more than 260,000 older Americans and Americans with disabilities. A large portion of people receiving ADS experience dementia (31%) and/or live with chronic conditions such as diabetes (31%) and heart disease (27%). And, about 4 in 10 people who receive ADS are over the age of 75 (42%). Adult day services have also been an important source of support for veterans, including about 6,500 veterans receiving ADS funded by the Department of Veterans Affairs. People who attend adult day centers often need a range of services and support, including meals, social activity, medical/nursing care and therapies. ADS providers are critical toward meeting these needs. Additionally, ADS offers respite to family members. Seniors who attend adult day services typically do so during normal business hours, allowing their family caregivers to continue to work and engage in the community. ADS providers not only provide older Americans and Americans with disabilities with key services while keeping them in their homes, but also do so in a cost effective manner. In a 2019 estimate from Genworth, the national median cost of adult day services is $1,625 per month, compared to more than $4,000 for assisted living and more than $7,500 for nursing home care. ADS represent a smart investment for aging services, and the loss of these providers could raise costs for consumers, states and the federal government. Without a robust network of ADS providers, many people who currently receive ADS could be forced into more costly settings, such as nursing homes. A loss of ADS providers could also force family caregivers out of the workforce to provide full-time care.

During a fundraiser held by the Adult Day Care Industry for Mayor Carlos Gimenez at one of our ADC Centers, he assured us that once Miami-Dade County numbers came down to 5% infection rate or less, we would be allowed to reopen our centers. As of now, we don’t even have a proposed reopening date. We need to be considered an essential and crucial business for our Senior Community that is the most in need. We are the only county on the State of Florida that is keeping Adult Day Care Centers close for business. We are not a park or a recreational facility. The Adult Day Cares are very discontent with the way the County has been treating our business during these unprecedented times we are living. We need to resume our daily operations to secure the mental health of our members.

We hope Mayor Jimenez can make the correct decision and allow us to reopen by September 28, 2020 to continue servicing the most vulnerable of our population, our seniors.

Sincerely,

FADSA Board of Directors.