



The Wisconsin Long-Term Care Coalition

Keep Our Care at Home

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Long Term Care Coalition unveils Blueprint for long term care redesign

MADISON, WISCONSIN – More than 60 organizations and stakeholder groups, including people with disabilities and older adults who use Wisconsin’s Family Care and IRIS programs, are delivering a comprehensive blueprint to the Capitol this week, outlining their vision for how the new long-term care system should look in the future.

The 2015-2017 state budget included a major redesign of the long-term care system which more than 60,000 people rely on for help in getting out of bed, using the bathroom, going to work and participating in community life. The Department of Health Services has until April to submit their redesign plan to the Legislature.

The stakeholders who developed the Blueprint over several months include organizations representing consumers, aging and disability advocates, providers, workers, managed care organizations, and Aging and Disability Resource Centers across the state. *The Stakeholders’ Blueprint for Long Term Care Redesign* contains recommendations to guide legislators and the Department of Health Services as they develop the long term care system of the future.

“The Stakeholders’ Blueprint represents the core values, goals and policies that stakeholders believe should be part of Wisconsin’s future long term care system,” said Lynn Breedlove, Co-Chair of the Wisconsin Long Term Care Coalition. “We are here to help and hope that many of these ideas will be adopted. We want to roll up our sleeves and work collaboratively with the state to create a cost-effective and quality system.”

In March, the Department of Health Services will release their concept paper for long-term care redesign, and hold public hearings to receive public comment. The Legislature, Department of Health Services and long term care stakeholders must use this time to jointly determine the values and goals of Wisconsin’s long-term care system and build the new program around those objectives.

“Our ideas build on a long term care system which already enjoys high consumer satisfaction. We want to ensure that people continue to receive the support they need to live in their own homes and communities, which is where they prefer to be,” said Tom Frazier, the other Coalition Co-Chair. “We know people prefer home-grown, local supports. This blueprint would keep the system regionally and locally based, which would minimize disruption to the people it currently serves.”

The Wisconsin Long Term Care Coalition looks forward to an ongoing long term care redesign process that incorporates new ideas and best practices for a successful and sustainable long term care system. This kind of dialogue was the hallmark of the public process that led to the creation of Family Care, Partnership and IRIS, and is one of the main reasons Wisconsin currently has a long term care system that many other states have tried to emulate. We believe this is the only way to create a lasting self-improvement engine within the long term care system that will lead to continued self-examination and innovation.

For details of the full 40-page report and Executive Summary, visit:
www.wilongtermcarecoalition.org/stakeholders-blueprint

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