



For Immediate Release

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Save IRIS Responds to the Family Care/IRIS 2.0 Concept Paper

Save IRIS has reviewed the Department of Health Services' [Family Care/IRIS 2.0 Concept Paper](#), which provides an overview of what the new Medicaid waiver will include. Save IRIS thanks Secretary Rhoades and the staff at DHS for the opportunity to review the paper and to share ideas at public hearings and stakeholder meetings. Save IRIS is especially interested in the "Member Self Direction of Long-term Care Services" section of the Concept Paper, as IRIS participants have a keen interest in maintaining their option to completely self-direct their long-term care services and supports through full employer and full budget authority.

Save IRIS is pleased to see the following components of the Concept Paper:

- "Personal choice, self-determination, person-centered planning, and cultural competence will remain key tenets."
- Members may continue to self-direct all or some of their long-term care services and that the long-term care services that are available to IRIS participants today will continue to be available.
- Quality Measures will be in place that focus on Consumer Outcomes utilizing National Core Indicators and that measure Consumer Satisfaction through Ombudsman Services, IHA Scorecards, and independent evaluations.
- There is flexibility through continuous open enrollment if a participant's needs and/or preferences change and flexibility for the participant to change the level of self-direction without returning to the ADRC.

Since this is a concept paper and not the full waiver proposal, there are many details that Save IRIS has questions about, such as the role of the "care team" that is referenced, whether the participant will maintain full budget authority within the new assessment and budget-setting process, and what full employer authority will look like in the new system. Save IRIS looks forward to continuing the dialogue with DHS regarding these topics and is hopeful that the full waiver proposal retains the self-direction principles and the spirit of the current IRIS program that has served over 12,000 participants & their families well.

"Save IRIS, Wisconsin's Self Direction Advocates" is a non-partisan association of IRIS participants and their allies dedicated to promoting self-direction in Wisconsin.



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