



The Wisconsin Long-Term Care Coalition

Keep Our Care at Home

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Long Term Care Coalition Calls for Changing the Focus of Long Term Care Redesign

The Wisconsin Long Term Care Coalition calls on the legislature to formally put an end to the year-long uncertainty created by the proposed long-term care redesign and announce that no action will be taken on the Family Care and IRIS 2.0 Concept Paper during 2016.

Since the Department of Health Services (DHS) released their Family Care and IRIS 2.0 Concept Paper at the end of March, many questions and concerns have been raised by legislators and long-term care stakeholders. Despite earlier claims that the proposal would both control Medicaid long-term care and health care costs by serving the “whole person,” DHS has now confirmed that the proposal will not result in any long-term care cost savings and will only provide a fully integrated benefit to 20% of current enrollees.

“The Joint Finance Committee had the foresight to require legislative review of DHS’s Concept Paper, and it is clear that what’s been proposed isn’t worth the disruption to our current system,” said Wisconsin Long Term Care Coalition Co-Chair Lynn Breedlove. “After 15 months of uncertainty, the 60,000 Wisconsinites that rely on Family Care and IRIS, their families, and the Wisconsin businesses impacted by the states’ plan deserve some peace of mind.”

Advocates and long-term care stakeholders are also concerned that several pieces of the Concept Paper are contrary to legislative intent. Specifically, the new self-direction model doesn’t preserve the key features of IRIS and the large, three-region model proposed requires risk-reserves far too high for most, if not all, current MCOs to compete in the new system.

Given that the Concept Paper fails to produce any long-term care cost savings, violates legislative intent in several key areas, and would only offer a fully integrated benefit for about 20% of current enrollees, the Wisconsin Long Term Care Coalition believes it is time to look for solutions within our current system.

“The focus should now be placed on containing health care costs without overhauling our long-term care system. We believe that by leveraging the strengths of our existing system, long-term care stakeholders can work together with DHS and the Legislature to put forth a new proposal that we can all agree on,” said Wisconsin Long Term Care Coalition Co-Chair Tom Frazier.

The Coalition recommends statewide expansion of the current integrated Partnership program, giving IRIS participants the choice to enroll in SSI Managed Care, and piloting other potential cost containment strategies.

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