



The Wisconsin Long-Term Care Coalition **Keep Our Care at Home**

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Long-Term Care Stakeholders Looking Ahead to 2017-2019 Budget

The Wisconsin Long Term Care Coalition took steps to continue the discussion about long-term care sustainability Tuesday by presenting members of the Legislature with several ideas to consider as they look to the 2017-19 state budget process.

“While stakeholders agree with the Department of Health Services’ decision to withdraw the Family Care and IRIS 2.0 Concept Plan, we remain committed to working with the Department and the Legislature to ensure continued sustainability of our long-term care system,” said Wisconsin Long Term Care Coalition Co-Chair Lynn Breedlove. “We appreciate the thoughtful and deliberative approach used by legislators to evaluate the DHS Concept Plan and look forward to building on the many positive conversations we’ve had over the past year.”

Stakeholders and legislators shared several key concerns about the Family Care and IRIS 2.0 Concept Plan: specifically, that the proposal resulted in no long-term care cost savings and only limited health care savings while significantly disrupting the lives of 60,000 people. Concerns were also raised about the potential elimination of the “any willing provider” provision, changes to the IRIS program, and the future of Wisconsin-based MCOs.

“There is clear evidence that our current long-term care system is already saving money, which means that a complete overhaul of Family Care and IRIS isn’t needed,” said Wisconsin Long Term Care Coalition Co-Chair Tom Frazier. “Improvements can be made by building on the strengths of our current system.”

Analysis done by the non-partisan Legislative Fiscal Bureau found that the overall Medicaid costs of long-term care enrollees increased by an average of 0.3% per person per year from 2010 to 2015. In addition, over 80% of new funding added to Medicaid in the last state budget went to programs other than long-term care.

“The Coalition has many positive ideas to improve our system that we hope the Legislature will consider in the next state budget,” said Frazier. “We are here to help and ready to get to work.”

The Wisconsin Long Term Care Coalition believes that health care savings and increased care coordination could be realized by expanding the current models of Family Care, IRIS and Partnership statewide; conducting an in-depth analysis of the small number of high cost long-term care enrollees to identify cost-savings ideas targeted toward this population; developing new prevention strategies which could delay and reduce the use of costly institutional care; including financial incentives in our current system such as “pay-for-performance” or outcome-based payments; and increasing coordination between Family Care and IRIS and the county-based mental health system.

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