

Long Term Care for Adults in Final 2015-2017 WI State Budget: Key Items

Overall Approach

- Creation of new Integrated Health Agency (IHA) approach for Family Care for adults with disabilities and older adults, an integrated managed care model which includes all long term care (LTC), and primary and acute health care services, under one managed care umbrella.
- DHS must prepare a Summary Plan laying out the design and implementation process for the IHAs by April, 2016, and submit it to the Joint Finance Committee (JFC) of the legislature.
- JFC can approve or disapprove on an up or down vote (they can't modify the plan).
- If JFC approves the plan, DHS will submit a new Medicaid Waiver to CMS later in 2016.
- The new Plan and Waiver is supposed to start statewide operations in Jan., 2017.

Family Care

- Will be run by at least 2 IHAs in each region.
- DHS will decide the number of regions (probably not the same MCO regions we have now).
- Existing MCOS can compete to be IHAs in 2017 and beyond; hard to predict how many MCOs will survive (some legislators have said that the MCOs with experience in integrating LTC and health care will have the best chance); other likely IHAs = big insurance companies (some of them lobbied for this proposal during the budget).

IRIS

- will be eliminated as a separate Medicaid waiver program by 2017.
- Self direction will be an option in the new IHAs.
- Legislators have reassured constituents that the new self direction option "will be just like IRIS", but the actual budget language leaves questions re a) who will be eligible for SD, b) whether people will only get support during their individual planning process or on an ongoing basis, c) how the individual budgets will be calculated, and d) whether IHAs will be required to inform people that the SD option exists.

ADRCs

- will stay as is for now (i.e. mostly county-run).

Dane County and other "Legacy Counties"

- will be transitioned into Family Care by 2017, which will be administered by IHAs.

Stakeholder Input in the Planning Process

- Several legislators made reassuring comments during the budget to the effect that there will be ample opportunity for input during the planning process. But the actual budget language does not spell out a process for that, so it will largely depend on how DHS decides to do it.