



February 23, 2016

### **Save IRIS Responds to Your Questions**

Save IRIS has received many questions regarding how changes in long-term care will impact participants and their loved ones. We don't have all of the answers, but we promise to continue to seek them out and share information as soon as it is available.

#### **Question: "Is *The Stakeholders' Blueprint for Long Term Care Redesign* the same thing as the Department of Health Services (DHS) Concept Paper?"**

**Save IRIS:** No. This is not the same as the DHS Concept Paper.

[\*The Stakeholders' Blueprint for Long Term Care Redesign\*](#) was developed over several months by The Wisconsin Long-Term Care Coalition, which includes organizations representing consumers, aging and disability advocates, providers, workers, managed care organizations, and Aging and Disability Resource Centers across the state. Save IRIS is a member of this coalition and helped develop the Blueprint. The Blueprint was created to provide recommendations to legislators and DHS as "Family Care/IRIS 2.0" is developed. "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.

The DHS Concept Plan will describe what the "Family Care/IRIS 2.0" Medicaid waiver plan would look like. The Wisconsin Legislature's Joint Committee on Finance (JFC) will need to approve the Concept Plan for DHS to move forward with development of their plan. The final plan would then be submitted to the federal government's CMS (Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services) for approval. The DHS Concept Plan has not been released yet. [The DHS website says](#), "A draft of the concept plan will be published on the Family Care/IRIS 2.0 webpage the first week of March." DHS will hold 2 public hearings in Eau Claire and Madison on March 7th to solicit comments regarding the concept plan that will be submitted to the JFC on April 1, 2016.

Save IRIS will share on its Facebook page and website links to the concept plan as soon as DHS releases it. Save IRIS encourages its members to attend the March 7<sup>th</sup> public hearings, regarding the concept plan, in person or by accessing the webcast. Here is a link to more information about the public hearings:

<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/familycareiris2/index.htm>.

**Question: Why does Page 7 of the Blueprint say, “Participants must continue to have the right to hire family members or independent caregivers who are not affiliated with a provider as paid caregivers, as long as the chosen caregiver is not a legal representative of the participant or has other conflicts of interest?” Is it true?”**

**Save IRIS:** This language was included in the Blueprint in acknowledgement of a federal statute (not a state one) contained in [42 C.F.R. 441.301\(c\)\(1\)\(vi\)](#) which addresses conflicts of interest and who can be paid to provide a service, under a Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) Waiver. The state receives funding for the waiver from the federal government’s CMS and must follow federal statutes/rules. It is our understanding that DHS is required to develop and implement a plan to be in compliance with this federal rule. DHS has not released a plan yet, but Save IRIS will share it as soon as it becomes available. Questions about it should be directed to DHS.

Save IRIS leaders are concerned about this rule and they are learning more about how it might affect guardians or other legal representatives providing paid services. [Pages 12-14 of the Blueprint](#) provide specific recommendations regarding what a real self-direction option should look like. Save IRIS is committed to advocating for full budget authority and full employer authority in long-term care, regardless of the extent of a person’s disability. Save IRIS will continue to advocate that participants electing to self-direct have the right to hire any family members of their choosing.