

7/12/15 Budget Update from Wisconsin Long-term Care Coalition: Keep Our Care at Home, posted to Facebook on 7/12/15.

Governor Walker signed the budget bill into law Sunday afternoon. He issued over 100 vetoes. The major long-term care changes remain unchanged.

Here is a summary of what was signed into law today.

Long-term Care Redesign

- The Department of Health Services (DHS) is required to submit a new plan to the federal government for changes to the state's Family Care and IRIS waivers.
- Expand Family Care statewide by January 1, 2017 or a date determined by the Department through the waiver request
- The waiver will include:
 - o Integration of long-term care with acute and primary care, including Medicare services (to the extent allowable under federal law)
 - o The new integrated benefit will be provided by new entities called Integrated Health Agencies (IHAs). The self-direction option will be provided under IHAs as well.
 - o New geographic services regions will be created from the IHAs. Each region will have multiple IHAs.
 - o Provider audits to improve accountability in the provision of services
 - o An open enrollment period will be established.
- Requires DHS to consult with stakeholders prior to developing the final waiver request. They must also hold at least two public hearings and include progress reports on their waiver development in their quarterly reports to Joint Finance.
- DHS must submit their proposed plan to the Joint Finance Committee for approval or disapproval no later than April 1, 2016. If approved by the Joint Finance Committee, DHS can submit the waiver to the federal government.
- DHS will include any necessary statutory changes related to the approved waiver in its 2017-19 budget request.
- Long-term Care Districts will be permitted to operate as a Health Maintenance Organization.
- Any willing provider will continue for at least three years.
- ADRCs are maintained in their current form. However, there will be a study of the functional screen and options counseling to ensure reliability and consistency across ADRCs. There will also be a study of the integration of income maintenance consortia and ADRCs.