



Indiana Association of Area Agencies on Aging 2012 Public Policy Priorities

In support of older adults and individuals with physical disabilities who overwhelmingly prefer to age successfully in their own homes and communities, the Indiana Association of Area Agencies on Aging (IAAAA) is committed to developing a coordinated long-term care strategy for Indiana that will rebalance Indiana's long-term care investment, generate federal and state level savings in Medicaid and Medicare and increase the availability of and access to home and community-based services. To achieve this outcome, IAAAA is promoting six policy priorities.

Accountability and Transparency

IAAAA supports accountability and transparency in long-term care services in Indiana, including the provision of regular public reporting of long-term care services and expenditure data to monitor the state's long-term care rebalancing efforts and improve the performance of its long-term care system.

Aggressive Rebalancing

IAAAA supports aggressive rebalancing through the immediate shifting of more Medicaid long-term care expenditures from institutional care to home and community based care to fund a substantial increase in Aged and Disabled Waiver slots.

CHOICE

IAAAA supports the maintenance of the CHOICE program at or above current funding levels, and the use of CHOICE solely for clients unable to receive services through the Medicaid Aged & Disabled waiver as the result of their level-of-care, income and/or service needs.

Options Counseling and ADRCs

IAAAA supports the provision of dedicated, adequate on-going funding for Options Counseling as provided through Indiana's Aging and Disability Resource Centers (ADRC's) that support and empower

consumers and their families to consider all options, including the use of their own resources, for providing for their long-term care needs.

Single Point of Entry

IAAAA supports a single point of entry to services for older adults and people with disabilities of any age for its ease, simplicity of access, and the ability of agencies to leverage additional resources from local, state and federal sources, including the use of volunteers.

Health Promotion and Prevention

IAAAA supports the maximization of state and federal resources for health promotion to decrease chronic disease management and long-term care costs, and increase longevity and quality of life.

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IAAA Key Issues

In September 2011, the *State Long-Term Services and Supports (LTSS) Scorecard*¹, a multidimensional approach to measure state-level performance of LTSS systems that provide assistance to older people and adults with disabilities, ranked Indiana 47th in the nation for its efforts. The *Scorecard* examines state performance across four key dimensions of LTSS system performance: (1) affordability and access; (2) choice of setting and provider; (3) quality of life and quality of care; and (4) support for family caregivers. It is designed to help states improve the performance of their LTSS systems.

Accountability and Transparency

- ❖ Indiana does not currently provide regular public data on long-term care service utilization and expenditures in the state. This makes it difficult to track the effectiveness of these programs in reducing institutionalization, improving quality of care or reducing costs.

Aggressive Rebalancing

- ❖ The Medicaid Aged and Disabled Waiver allows individuals to use Medicaid funds to pay for long-term care services in their own homes rather than in a nursing home. Although the Waiver is more cost effective and consumer preferred, Medicaid's only long-term care entitlement is nursing home care. To control Medicaid spending, the State of Indiana has limited the number of people that the Waiver may serve.

CHOICE

- ❖ CHOICE prevents the need to access more costly nursing home care, and it requires those who are financially able to contribute proportionately to the cost of their own care. The CHOICE program helps a unique population that other funding sources, including the Aged and Disabled Waiver, cannot serve. AAAs can deploy CHOICE funds quickly to address emergency situations and prevent clients from declining into a nursing home level of care.

Options Counseling and ADRCs

- ❖ ADRCs offer consumers one-stop access to information, support and linkages to local, state and national care services while reducing fragmentation and simplifying access to long term supports and services. Despite its value to long-term care planning and coordination, the federal government currently does not guarantee Options Counseling funding through Medicare, Medicaid or other programs. Options Counseling funding has not kept pace with the increasing demand, and funding may not be available in the future.

Single Point of Entry

- ❖ A single point of entry through the AAAs is the best means to ensure an efficient and effective delivery system. For the elderly and their caregivers who may struggle with navigating more complex systems, it is an essential element to linking the consumer with the care they require.

Health Promotion and Prevention

- ❖ A variety of evidence-based non-medical interventions have proven to help older Hoosiers make healthier choices. With sufficient health promotion funding, AAAs and their community partners can provide effective intervention programs to help older adults prevent and manage chronic diseases.

¹ Reinhard, Susan C., et. al. *Raising Expectations: A State Scorecard on Long-Term Services and Supports for Older Adults, People with Physical Disabilities, and Family Caregivers*. AARP, The Commonwealth Fund, and The SCAN Foundation, September 2011. www.longtermscorecard.org.