

MARCH 2015

## ADULT LONG TERM CARE

### ISSUE:

Survival Coalition advocates for a community-based support system that allows adults with disabilities to live inclusive lives in the community with individualized and appropriate services to meet their needs.

### BACKGROUND:

Wisconsin's system of Long Term Supports helps people with disabilities and elderly residents maintain better health and independence through support/services in their own homes, and other community-based settings.

Family Care and IRIS currently serve nearly 55,000 older adults and individuals with developmental or physical disabilities, all of whom qualify for a nursing home level of care. These programs, unlike acute and primary health care, provide daily personal supports (such as help with bathing, dressing, and meal preparation), and transportation and support for work and community activities.

People in 57 of Wisconsin's 72 counties now have access to comprehensive supports through Family Care/IRIS, with an additional 7 counties transitioning into these programs. Thanks to Family Care/IRIS, reliance on costly nursing homes and other institutions has been dramatically reduced, and adult waiting lists for home-based support have been eliminated in Family Care/IRIS counties.

Even though Family Care/IRIS is not fully implemented statewide, the programs have generated tremendous savings to the Medicaid budget while improving health and the quality of people's lives. Annual Medicaid nursing home days dropped from 8.8 million in 2002 to 5.7 million in 2012, a 35% reduction saving taxpayers well over \$300 million/year. The number of older adults in WI nursing homes has decreased by 9,000 since the reforms were put in place. The portion of the overall

Medicaid budget spent on nursing homes dropped from 62% to 31% over the same period.

The Department of Health Services (DHS) oversees Wisconsin's Long Term Care programs including Family Care/IRIS, Aging and Disability Resource Centers (ADRCs), and several community-based Medicaid waiver programs. ADRCs, Managed Care Organizations, IRIS Consultant Agencies, and direct service provider businesses (including employment, residential, transportation, personal and home health care, etc.) all work to help people stay independent, gain more independence, and live in the community.

### SURVIVAL RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Preserve and build upon the current cost-effective system. Remove the proposed changes to Family Care & ADRCs from the budget.
- Remove the proposal to eliminate IRIS from the proposed budget.
- Keep the types and levels of services that are included in Family Care/IRIS the same.
- Expand Family Care/IRIS statewide using the existing Family Care, IRIS, and ADRC models.
- Pursue integrated care through expansion of the existing Family Care Partnership program.
- Involve and engage all stakeholders through a transparent process if there are changes planned to long term care programs.
- Consolidate Wisconsin's two remaining Long Term Centers for the Developmentally Disabled.

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### FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT SURVIVAL COALITION CO-CHAIRS:

**Maureen Ryan**, 608-444-3842; [moryan@charter.net](mailto:moryan@charter.net)  
**Beth Swedeen**, 608-266-1166; [Beth.Swedeen@wisconsin.gov](mailto:Beth.Swedeen@wisconsin.gov)  
**Kit Kerschensteiner**, 608-267-0214; [Kitk@drwi.org](mailto:Kitk@drwi.org)

Visit the Survival web site at:  
[www.survivalcoalitionwi.org](http://www.survivalcoalitionwi.org)

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