



State of Wisconsin
Department of Health Services

Scott Walker, Governor
Kitty Rhoades, Secretary

August 25, 2015

Maureen Ryan, Co-Chair
Beth Swedeen, Co-Chair
Kristin M. Kerschensteiner, Co-Chair
Survival Coalition
P.O. Box 7222
Madison, WI 53707

Dear Ms. Ryan, Ms. Swedeen, and Ms. Kerschensteiner:

Thank you for your letter dated August 17, 2015 regarding the 2015-17 budget proposals. As you know, Act 55 directs the Wisconsin Department of Health Services to convene a minimum of two public hearings to solicit stakeholder input regarding the changes to the Family Care and IRIS Programs. The Department intends to go beyond these requirements in seeking advice and counsel from stakeholders. These efforts will include:

- Eight Town Hall meetings to be held regionally around the state in September (dates to be announced);
 - One of these hearings will be conducted with the Survival Coalition and other advocacy organizations
 - Another of these hearings will be held for tribes and tribal stakeholders
- In addition to the eight Town Hall meetings, the Department will meet with the following Councils, Committee and Board to seek advice and counsel:
 - Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
 - Council on Mental Health
 - Council on Physical Disabilities
 - State Council on Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse (SCAODA)
 - Governor's Committee for People with Disabilities
 - Board on Aging and Long Term Care
- Written comments will be solicited by the Department from stakeholder organizations as well as from the general public during a public comment period, which will be announced in the near future.

The Department is committed to ensuring that the general public, program members and participants, advocates, and stakeholders will have ample opportunities to comment on proposed reforms to the Family Care and IRIS Programs.

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You also inquired as to whether the Department intends to implement the current Family Care/IRIS Programs in the remaining legacy waiver counties or to delay such implementation until after the Act 55 changes are made to the system. The Department expects to announce its decision in this matter shortly.

Thank you again for contacting us. We look forward to your participation in the stakeholder engagement process.

Sincerely,


Kitty Rhoades
Secretary

cc: Scott Walker, Governor
Jon Hoelter, DHS Legislative Liaison
Brian Shoup, DHS, DLTC Administrator