



Restore Choice to Family Care Members

The Family Care program is very important to the tens of thousands of people who depend on it for long term care. As of December 2012, Family Care, Partnership, and PACE served 13,656 adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD), who are among Wisconsin's most vulnerable citizens.

Since the Legislative Audit Bureau's report about the program was published in April 2011, problems with the program have continued to affect these individuals. While some areas of the state appear to be doing better than others, people with I/DD served by at least three of the eight managed care organizations (MCOs) have

lost some of the choices that the program promised to give them when it began, including the choice of where and with whom to live, the choice of where they work or spend their daytime hours, and opportunities to participate in recreational activities in their communities.

Hundreds of members of MCOs have:

- Been forced to move from the homes where they had lived for many years.
- Had days of vocational services eliminated from their work schedules.
- Had to stay at home, instead of being able to go out to work or to community activities.

Recommendations

- **Maintain a Full Range of Service Options.** Require that a person-centered planning process identify all the choices available to members, so that they can make informed decisions. Guardians and family members should not be forced to choose community employment as a goal for their wards in order to receive the pre-vocational services that their wards need to develop and maintain skills.
- **Use Better Assessment Data.** Replace the Wisconsin Long Term Care Functional Screen on which the funding for MCOs is based with an assessment that has greater validity for people with I/DD, or add more questions to it on behavioral, medical and cognitive functioning, so that the funding better reflects their home and community support needs and provides more options.
- **Require MCOs to Notify Guardians and Family Members When Assessments Are Being Done.** If an assessment is used to determine funding and/or program choices for their wards, guardians and family members should be given an opportunity to participate in the assessment process and to invite providers to participate.
- **Create an Oversight Body for Family Care.** Require the governor to appoint a group of Family Care stakeholders (including families and guardians of MCO members and their providers) with oversight authority to regularly monitor, assess, and recommend changes to the program.
- **Collect Consumer Satisfaction Data on a Regular Basis** – Complete satisfaction surveys at least once a year with a large sample of people with I/DD & their families.

Please support a Family Care reform bill.