

Lessons from Home

Recommendations of the Round Table
Education Series on Long Term Care
February 2008



THE GENERATIONS PROJECT

Process

- Nov/Dec 2007
- Consumers, advocates, families, professionals & legislators
- Three days of deliberations
- Produced 45 recommendations

Good LTC System

- Consumer choice
- Consumer rights & responsibilities
- Services are available
 - When, where, and as needed
- Demonstrate cost effectiveness
- Produce enhanced quality of life
- Improve health outcomes

Concerns

- Indiana's LTC system continues to be imbalanced
- State is not implementing and funding programs as intended by the General Assembly
- Laws are still biased toward NH care
- Discrimination (unintended) against low income minorities & rural residents exists

CHOICE and Medicaid Waivers

- Release funds on time
- Stop arbitrary cuts in funding
- Fully implement SEA 493 & CHOICE
- CHOICE Board appointed as required in statute
- Publish accurate data

Home Care is best

- Quickest & most reliable way to reduce need for Medicaid funded NH care
- Implement Money Follows the Person
- Use Medicare funds on temporary basis
 - Short term home care funding source
- Implement Private Hire Act
 - Optimize Self Directed Care (SDC)

Market defined services

- Don't limit slots for CHOICE & Waiver services
- Provider rates should reflect local markets
- Link targets for HCBS with effective diversion and conversion programs

Level the Playing Field

- Establish HCBS as an entitlement
- The time to act: *Before* hospital discharge
 - Screen for inappropriate NH placement
 - Pre-admission Screening (PAS)
 - Route persons to most appropriate setting
 - Medicaid eligibility determination
 - Presumptive eligibility would streamline process and save money

State Policies

- Unintended consequences doing harm
- Welfare modernization
 - Stopping people from entering system
 - Understaffed DFR offices
 - Not accepting Medicaid applications
 - Telecommunication based eligibility
 - Harmful to people with cognitive and physical impairments

State Policies

- Threat of ending home delivery of supplies and services
- Rule application/interpretation
 - Arbitrary application and denials
 - Stonewalling instead of answers
 - Should include consumers, advocates, AAAs, CILs in review and decisions
- Include LTC in Universal Care Proposals

Minority, Rural, & Other Unique Populations

- Research and identify services needed
- Involve in all HCBS policy and program decisions
- Educate people about needs of all minority populations
- Serve unique populations with LTC needs
 - Brain Injury, MS, CP and others
 - Bring out-of-state services home

Consumer Empowerment, Rights, & Protections

- Consumer-directed care a priority
 - Extend to all HCBS & transportation
 - Increase number of AAA case managers to work in partnership with consumers
 - Broker services
 - Intervene and troubleshoot when problems arise
 - Develop care plan in partnership with consumers

Home Care Workers

- Full and timely funding for adequate care
- Retain and train more workers by
 - Improving pay
 - Funding benefits--especially health care
 - Increasing training
 - Improving working conditions
- Establish an independent provider network (IPN)

Rights & Responsibilities

- Educate LTC/HCBS consumers & families
- Implement adequate & effective regulations to protect consumers
 - Substantial fines when necessary
 - Punishment of providers who do harm
- Establish sufficient funding for ombudsman, guardianship & protective services
- End estate recovery if family is providing home care

Education & Empowerment

- Implement public education programs on HCBS
- Re-establish Governor's Conference on Aging
- Pursue affordable, accessible, safe housing
 - Safely transition & divert consumers from NH
 - Universal design & home modifications
 - Aging in place
 - Creative housing initiatives
 - NORC
 - Lifelong Living Communities
- Support working family caregivers

Nursing Home Industry

- Use savings by lowered NH use to
 - Grow HCBS
 - Educate public about all LTC options
 - Improve HCBS work force
 - Improve Quality of Care in NH
- Make all nursing home care “high quality”
 - Tougher standards
 - Better pay, working conditions, benefits, & training for direct care workers

Department of Aging Programs

- Continued, developed & scrutinized for viability
- Communication and transparency of claims is critical
- Re-establish AAA authority to negotiate CHOICE rates
- Privatization of services should be evaluated

Conclusion

- “The need for home and community based services is profound in every community, among all demographic groups and in all regions of the state.”
- Solutions must be implemented by a variety of people and institutions
- Cooperation & communication are key
- Public needs to know



Goal



A balanced and humane system of
long term care in Indiana

Thanks

- To the fifty participants in the round table education series
- To member organizations of TGP
- To The Retirement Research Foundation

Full report available at
www.generationsproject.org

Questions



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