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JOINT COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

MEMORANDUM

To: Members
Joint Committee on Finance

From: Senator Alberta Darling
Representative John Nygren

Date: October 1, 2015

Re: DHS Report to JFC

Attached is a progress report on the development of the federal Medicaid waiver request to implement reforms to Family Care and IRIS programs, pursuant to Section 9118(9)(d)2 of 2015 Act 55.

This report is being provided for your information only. No action by the Committee is required. Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions.

Attachments

AD:JN;jm



State of Wisconsin
Department of Health Services

Scott Walker, Governor
Kitty Rhoades, Secretary

September 30, 2015

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ST. FINANCE

The Honorable Alberta Darling, Senate Co-Chair
Joint Committee on Finance
Room 317 East
State Capitol
P.O. Box 7882
Madison, WI 53707-7882

The Honorable John Nygren, Assembly Co-Chair
Joint Committee on Finance
Room 309 East
State Capitol
P.O. Box 8953
Madison, WI 53708

Dear Senator Darling and Representative Nygren:

As you know, 2015 Act 55, the 2015-17 Biennial Budget, mandates implementation of significant reforms to the Family Care and IRIS programs.

Section 9118(9)(d)2 of Act 55 requires the Department to provide progress reports on the development of the federal Medicaid waiver request to implement the reforms. Please find attached the progress report for the September quarter.

Please contact me if you have any questions about this report.

Sincerely,


Kitty Rhoades
Secretary

Family Care/IRIS 2.0 Update

Reforming the Family Care and IRIS Programs

2015 Act 55, the 2015-17 Biennial Budget, mandates implementation of significant reforms to the Family Care and IRIS programs. It directs the Department to develop the necessary federal Medicaid waivers and state plan amendments to implement the reforms and consult with consumers, providers, and other stakeholders as it develops the proposal. Act 55 also requires DHS to provide quarterly updates to the Joint Committee on Finance on its progress in developing the proposal.

As of September 2015, the Department is in the initial stages of developing the reform plan. Given the scope and complexity of this initiative, the Department has assembled an internal project team, consisting of workgroups made up of subject matter experts. In the coming months, this team will develop aspects of the waiver proposal based on Act 55 requirements and testimony gathered through the multiple public hearings held across the state as well as the testimony submitted to the Department in written format by October 30, 2015. The Department has not yet had substantive conversations with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services about the proposal.

Public Hearings

Act 55 directs the Department to hold no fewer than two public hearings to gather public input on the reform. Stakeholder input is highly valued by the Department, and therefore, the Department has chosen to hold seven public hearings. To keep stakeholders informed of the public hearings, the Department has created a dedicated website (<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/familycareiris2/index.htm>) and email distribution list accessible through the website. To further engage stakeholders, the Department has made each hearing available through a live webinar. Those attending the meeting through the webinar may submit their testimony which is then read at the public hearing.

The completed public hearings are as follows and include the number of attendees at each hearing:

- September 9, 2015 - Brown County Public Library, Green Bay, 5:00 pm - 8:00 pm
 - 64 in person and 30 webinar attendees
- September 21, 2015 - Northcentral Technical College, Wausau, 9:00 am - 12:00 pm
 - 78 in person and 30 webinar attendees
- September 21, 2015 – Hayward High School, Hayward, 5:30 pm – 8:30 pm
 - 39 in person and 25 webinar attendees
- September 23, 2015 – Goodman Community Center, Madison, 9:00 am – 12:00 pm
 - 91 in person and 55 webinar attendees

In addition to the seven public hearings, the Department has also scheduled the following meetings in order to gather testimony:

- September 29, 2015 – Meeting with advocate groups and the Board on Aging and Long Term Care
- October 22, 2015 – Meeting with the Tribal Long Term Care Study Group
- Date to be determined – Meeting with Providers and Payers

The public hearings/webinars are being recorded and posted for viewing on the Department's website for those unable to attend.

In addition to the opportunity to testify in person at the public hearings or live webinars, the public may submit written testimony by email or U.S. mail through October 30, 2015. Further information is available on the website.

Additional Engagement of Stakeholders

In addition to the seven public hearings and three additional meetings detailed above, the Department has and/or will meet with the following councils, boards, and committees:

- Governor's Committee for People with Disabilities – September 10, 2015
- State Council on Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse – September 11, 2015
- Statutory Council on Blindness – September 17, 2015
- Wisconsin Council on Physical Disabilities – October 22, 2015
- Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing – Date to be determined
- Council on Mental Health – Date to be determined

Next Report – December 30, 2015

The Department intends to provide a final report on stakeholder engagement, details regarding the attendance at the public hearings, as well as the main themes the Department extracted through the process of gathering testimony.

The remaining public hearings that will be reported on in the December 30, 2015 report are:

- September 28, 2015 – La Crosse Public Library Auditorium, La Crosse, 12:30 pm - 3:30 pm
- October 6, 2015 - Wilson Park Senior Center, Milwaukee, 9:30 am - 12:30 pm
- October 7, 2015 – Goodman Community Center, Madison, 5:30 pm – 8:30 pm

The Department will also report on the following three meetings arranged to gather testimony:

- September 29, 2015 – Meeting with advocate groups and the Board on Aging and Long Term Care
- October 22, 2015 – Meeting with the Tribal Long Term Care Study Group
- Date to be determined – Meeting with Providers and Payers