



From Jan's Desk...

Press Release

To our members,

As some of you may have heard, Michigan is one of a few states that have been selected by the Federal government to look at reform of service delivery for people who are "dual eligibles", meaning people who have both Medicaid and Medicare. This system reform has the potential to significantly impact many people who have intellectual and developmental disabilities. So far, there has not been very much detailed information shared with stakeholders, but I am asking our members to become as informed as possible. I have attached some links that may provide helpful information. Please check it out. Dohn Hoyle will be keeping us all up to date on this issue as well through the Arc Michigan website and Friday mailings. If you don't get an email from The Arc Michigan every Friday, **NOW IS THE TIME TO SIGN UP FOR THIS IMPORTANT** email. Go to the Arc Michigan website and sign up for the email list. We need to remain informed!

A second very important issue that could impact people we serve involves the Adult Home Help Program, administered by the Department of Human Services. In a nutshell, many people stand to lose all home help services **if** they do not meet new criteria. Basically, if a person who receives home help currently **does not** need help in core activities of daily living such as eating, dressing, bathing, toileting, grooming, then they will receive **NO** home help services. So, if a person only needs help with cooking, cleaning, laundry, medication administration, then they will lose this important service because they don't have higher needs. In the least harmful cases, this is just a "rob Peter to pay Paul" situation, shifting the cost of those needed supports from one Medicaid pot of money to another. At **most** harmful, there will be people who simply lose these important supports. So, a person who can't cook, may not eat or may eat unhealthy foods or improperly prepared foods and become sick, thus costing the system even more **AND** harming the individual. We have seen similar measures to cut costs actually

create more cost in the long run. Dental services is one example of a time when the short term savings from not allowing folks to get preventative care was eaten up by the increase in healthcare costs related to poor dental hygiene (infections, etc.) We are asking that you consider going to the Department of Human Services website (Michigan.gov) and making comment on this policy change. Although that changes take effect October 1st, there is still time for public comment. I also recommend that folks talk about this issue with your state representatives. Even though the change is a policy change and not legislative, our legislators can impact this decision if they chose.

I think we can all agree that change is needed. With regard to the "dual eligible" changes that are in the wind, we just need to be at the table as decisions are being made and insure that the changes really create savings while at the same time preserving the quality and control of supports that we have long fought to gain. As far as the cost cutting measures currently in the works with DHS, we need to communicate to our legislators and the department that savings and change needs to make the most sense and not come on the backs of the most vulnerable citizens.

Thank you all for your advocacy.

Jan Lampman

NSCLC Webinar: Building an Integrated Appeals System for Dual Eligibles

Thursday, September 29, 2011

<https://www3.gotomeeting.com/register/441776518>

Kaiser Briefing: Release of 50-State Survey Data on Medicaid Managed Care Programs

Tuesday, September 13, 2011 from 9:30 AM to 11:00 AM (ET)

<http://www.eventbrite.com/event/2114152487>

AARP, Commonwealth, SCAN State Scorecard on LTSS

<http://www.longtermscorecard.org/>

NASUAD State Medicaid Reform Tracker

http://www.nasuad.org/documentation/nasuad_materials/8-11%20Medicaid%20Reform%20Tracker.pdf

