

**April 8, 2016**

## Brief



### State Long-Term Care Redesign Update

The 2015-2017 State Budget, Act 55, directed the Department of Health Services to prepare and submit to the Joint Committee on Finance, by 4/01/16, a report regarding the feasibility of integrating Income Maintenance Consortia and Aging & Disability Resource Centers and a Family Care/IRIS 2.0 Concept Plan to serve as the foundation for the waiver and/or state plan submission to the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Service (CMS) for approval to implement these significant reforms to Family Care. Both of these documents were released last week and can be found online at the locations indicated.

- DHS Concept Plan —

<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/publications/p01242.pdf>

- ADRC/IM Consortia Integration Report —

<https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/misc/lfb/>



**Aging**

**Advocacy Day**

**Wed., May 18 2016**

**Join us at the State Capitol** to learn more about the issues impacting older adults, develop new skills, connect with other advocates and take the Wisconsin Aging Advocacy Network (WAAN) message directly to your state legislators. Stay tuned for more details.

### U.S. Senator Tammy Baldwin Champions Reform to Improve Palliative and Hospice Care

On Wed., April 6th, U.S. Senator Tammy Baldwin introduced a bipartisan reform to grow, improve and sustain the palliative care and hospice workforce. The bill is cosponsored by U.S. Senators Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV) and Ron Wyden (D-OR).

The **Palliative Care and Hospice Education and Training Act (PCHETA)** calls for strengthening training for new and existing physicians, those who teach palliative care, and other providers who are part of the palliative care team. The Act also boosts palliative care research and provides incentive awards to eligible health professionals who agree to teach or practice in the field of palliative care for at least 5 years.

The Wisconsin Aging Advocacy Network (WAAN) joined the Alzheimer's Association Wisconsin Chapters, Alzheimer's & Dementia Alliance of Wisconsin, Milwaukee County Commission on Aging Advocacy Committee and the Palliative Care Network of Wisconsin in supporting this bipartisan bill.

## Older Americans Act

### Appropriations:

### Update on Sequestration



Over the past three fiscal years (FY 14 — FY 16), some Older Americans Act (OAA) programs have experienced at least partial restoration of sequestration cuts. Other OAA programs (IIIB & Title VII Ombudsman Program), however, have not had any funding restored from the 2013 sequestration cuts. Title III B (Supportive Services) funding has fallen to the lowest levels since 2004.

The threat of future sequestration cuts for Older Americans Act programs and other nondefense discretionary (NDD) programs is, unfortunately, not gone. The 2011 Budget Control Act (BCA) introduced automatic spending cuts (sequestration) that began in 2013 and are scheduled to end in 2021. These cuts are split between defense spending and nondefense discretionary spending. The Bipartisan Budget Act (BBA) of 2015, signed by President Obama last fall, raised the budget caps (established by the 2011 BCA) on both defense and nondefense funding for fiscal year 2016 and provided funding to partially offset sequestration cuts. The budget agreement did not, however, establish specific funding levels for individual programs. Appropriations Committees have the task of determining specific funding levels for programs, including NDD programs such as the Older Americans Act, SHIP, ADRCs, Senior Corps, LIHEAP, etc.

In mid Dec., President Obama signed a spending bill (Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2016) for the rest of fiscal year (FY) 2016 (Oct. 1, 2016 – Sept. 30, 2016). Included in the bill were small funding increases to Title III C1 (congregate meals), III C2 (home-delivered meals) and III-E (Family Caregivers Support). Also included were long-overdue and much needed increases to the OAA Title VI (Native American) funding: **Title VI Part A** (nutrition and other aging services) increased by 19% and **Title VI Part C** (caregiver supports) increased by 25%.

The BBA of 2015 established effectively flat overall funding levels for FY 2016 and FY 2017. According to the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging (n4a), competition among discretionary programs is high for any very limited increases available for discretionary programs. **In order for OAA programs to be successful in FY 2017, we will really need to step up our efforts to make the case for increasing OAA funding.** The Wisconsin Aging Advocacy Network (WAAN) is once again developing issue briefs specific to Older Americans Act reauthorization and funding. These briefs will be made available to the aging network next month to assist with advocacy efforts. Stay tuned for updates!

**Older Americans Act**

**Reauthorization 2016**

**Heads to the President's Desk!**



Congratulations advocates, five years of perseverance and hard work have paid off! Yesterday (April 7th), **the U.S. Senate approved the amended version of S. 192** passed by the House last month. The amended bill, which has now passed in both chambers, adds funding authorization levels for FY 2017— FY 2019 to the bill language initially passed by the Senate last July.

The bill will now moves to the President for his signature. Once signed, **this legislation reauthorizes the Older Americans Act for three years (through 2019).** It is time to **thank your Members of Congress** for their support of this critical legislation and for the vital home and community-based services that the Older Americans Act (OAA) authorizes and funds in your community.