

**May 10, 2016**

## State Aging and Resource Center Offices Move to the Division of Public Health

On April 11, 2016, the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) issued a news release regarding the creation of a new Division of Medicaid Services (DMS). The release included details regarding the merger of the Division of Long Term Care and the Division of Health Care Access and Accountability into the new Division of Medicaid Services, **as well as information on moving the Office on Aging and Office for Resource Center Development (ADRCs) into the Division of Public Health.** All of the offices of the Bureau of Aging and Disability Resources (BADR), the two mentioned previously as well as the Office for the Blind and Visually Impaired (OBVI) and the Office for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (ODHH), will move from the Division of Long Term Care to the Division of Public Health before the end of the year.

To view the news release go to: <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/news/>

## Advocates Urge Joint Finance Committee (JFC) to Delay Action on Family Care/IRIS 2.0

Since passage of the state 2015–2017 state budget last July, the state Department of Health Services (DHS) has been working on designing a new care model, Family Care/IRIS 2.0, which will expand Family Care statewide and transition the program “to an outcome-based model that coordinates all of an individual’s care needs.” The goals of the new system include producing better member outcomes (improved health and well-being) and slowing growth in the Medicaid expense budget.

Consumers and advocates support some of the proposed changes and are willing to continue to work with the state on initiatives to improve member outcomes and cost-efficiencies, but feel the state should proceed carefully to ensure those who are

# Brief



currently receiving services don’t get hurt.

Advocates continue to have questions on key components of the plan and are asking for further details before the JFC takes action on DHS’ plan to move ahead with redesign. See the Wisconsin Long-Term Care Coalition webpage:

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

As the state considers shifting the long-term care system to for-profit insurance companies, in addition to following national media stories related to Managed Care Organization (MCO) performance, you may also be interested in data available from the Kaiser Family Foundation’s “Medicaid Managed Care Market Tracker” - <http://kff.org/data-collection/medicaid-managed-care-market-tracker/>

## Aging Advocacy Day

**Wednesday, May 18, 2016 Madison, WI**

**9:30 a.m.–3:00 p.m.**

**State Capitol | 2 E. Main St., Madison, WI**

**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.

**Register online by Fri., May 13th:**

**<https://wiha.wufoo.com/forms/aging-advocacy-day-in-the-wisconsin-state-capitol/>**

## CMS Medicaid Managed Care Final Rule

Last week, the federal Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) released new regulations related to Medicaid (MA) Managed Care. The Medicaid Managed Care Final Rule, among other things, details the expectations for states and managed care organizations (MCOs) that contract with the federal government to deliver managed long-term services and supports (LTSS) for older adults and people with disabilities.

According to a recent Justice in Aging article, "States have until 2018 to fully implement the regulation's policies and it is important for advocates to engage in the process." For a summary of some of the key changes and additional information on how low-income older adults could benefit from some of the new regulations go to: <http://www.justiceinaging.org/medicaid-managed-care-regulation-preview/>



### Encourage Your Representative to Cosponsor the DELIVER Act

H.R. 4942, the DELIVER Act - this bipartisan legislation would amend the tax code to increase the tax deduction for volunteers who deliver meals to homebound individuals from 14 cents per mile, where it has remained unchanged for nearly two decades, to the standard business mileage rate, which is currently 54 cents per mile.

The Wisconsin aging network has been working with members of Congress for years to increase the tax deduction for volunteers. This legislation is a step in the right direction and with the help of our colleagues around the country, we can put the power of the national aging network behind this and get this bill passed into law!



BLAZE A TRAIL: MAY 2016

## Older Americans Act Signed into Law!

It's been five long years since the last Older Americans Act (OAA) reauthorization expired, but the wait is finally over! On April 19, President Obama signed the OAA Reauthorization Act of 2016 into law! The reauthorization demonstrates the commitment of the President and Congress to the health and well-being of the nation's older adults.

If you have not already done so, now is the time to thank your members of Congress for their strong show of bipartisan support for the OAA.

For a summary of the changes included in the Older Americans Act Reauthorization Act of 2016 go to:

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/senate-bill/192>

**May is  
Aging & Disability  
Resource Center Month**