



Governor's Aging Services Budget Recommendation Rejected by Senate and House Panels

Both the state Senate and House Appropriations Subcommittees on Community Health have rejected the Governor's proposed increases in funding for aging services. The House removed over \$4 million and the Senate put \$100 placeholders in the budget, deferring the funding responsibility to its full Appropriations Committee. Senators are wary of making recommendations until they see the FY 2013 revenue projections, which will be reported by the Revenue Estimating Conference in May. Most distressing is the amount proposed for nursing facility transitions. According to officials, \$3 million will only support transitions for three months, forcing many older adults who could live in the community to remain institutionalized.

Governor's Recommended Increases	House Subcommittee Recommendation	Senate Subcommittee Recommendation
\$500,000 for information and assistance	\$0	\$100 placeholders for each recommendation
\$250,000 for dementia detection and caregiver support	\$0	
\$350,000 to support elder abuse detection and prevention	\$0	
\$11 million to reduce MI Choice waiting lists	\$8 million	
\$3.1 million to support nursing facility transitions	\$3 million	

AAA 1-B Holds Forums on Integrated Care Sends Public Comments to State Officials

Nearly 100 consumers, advocates and service providers shared their thoughts about the state's plan to integrate the care for individuals who receive both Medicare and Medicaid services at two public forums hosted by AAA 1-B and State Representatives Gail Haines and Lesia Liss. Rep. Haines, who co-hosted the event in Waterford, is the Chairperson for the House's Health Policy Committee, and Rep. Liss, who co-hosted the event in Warren, is the committee's Minority Vice Chairperson. Officials from the Department of Community Health gave a brief overview of the plan and listened to the audience feedback.

It is likely that one or more managed care organizations will be responsible for managing the acute, primary care, behavioral health, and long-term care services for approximately 200,000 dually-eligible individuals. The plan received mostly positive feedback, especially on the intent to deliver services under the philosophy of person-centered planning and that current services would continue for beneficiaries. However, participants were concerned about the lack of specificity on how care management services would be coordinated, and by whom; and they asked for more information about the passive mandatory enrollment of beneficiaries, the enrollment process, and the ramifications to beneficiaries who choose to opt-out of the integrated care model. A compilation of participant feedback has been sent to the Department of Community Health and is available for viewing on the AAA 1-B website. To read the initial draft of the state's plan, the AAA 1-B response, and forum participant feedback, click on <http://www.aaa1b.com/advocacy/senior-advocacy-issues-and-positions/>.

Older Americans Act Reauthorization Update

In Washington, more than a dozen Senators issued statements of support for reauthorization of the Older Americans Act (OAA). Senator Bernard Sanders (I-VT) introduced the first reauthorization bill last summer; and to date four other Senators have introduced OAA bills that complement the original bill. It is expected that all of the bills will be combined into one comprehensive package later this spring. However, according to the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging, without Republican support for the package, it will likely not move forward.

Reauthorizing the OAA is an opportunity to improve and modernize the Act's provisions, aligning programs with the needs of today's older adults.

On March 28, the National Council on Aging (NCOA) held a Capitol Hill Advocacy Day in support of the Older Americans Act. Advocates at home were invited to participate as well and sent nearly 1,700 e-mails to Congress that day. Check out the NCOA website to learn how you can get involved, <http://www.ncoa.org/public-policy-action/virtual-advocacy-day.html>.

Senator Bernard Sanders is a vigorous champion for the Older Americans Act. View his inspiring March 28 speech on by clicking on YouTube.com logo:



In terms of funding Older Americans Act programs for FY 2013, the AAA 1-B urged Michigan Senators Carl Levin and Debbie Stabenow to support a 12% increase in funding to keep pace with the growing need for services. On March 29, they joined fifteen other Senators on a letter calling for the increase.



OLDER MICHIGANIANS DAY

Wednesday, June 20 10:30 - 2:30
State Capitol, Lansing

A rally on the Capitol Lawn – tent with seating
Remarks from Legislative Leaders
Meetings with individual Legislators
Free Lunch for ticketholders
Senior Citizen of the Year awards

2011 – 2012 Legislative Priorities

- Invest in quality Long-Term Care options focused on cost-effective solutions that meet the needs of citizens
- Provide suitable housing, transportation and health care choices to support independent living and strengthen the economy
- Ensure safety and security through elder abuse protections

Contact Ann Langford at AAA 1-B for more information and free lunch tickets by e-mail at alangford@aaa1b.com or by phone at (248) 262-1282. Also check out oldermichiganiansday.com.




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