

Northeast Wisconsin Family Care

CEO Report to the Community

July 17, 2011

District Formation, Development and Processes

- **DHS grant funding continues for NEW FC.** DHS staff officially informed me the last week of June that funding would continue.
- In early March, DHS directed us to scale back our planning when Governor Walker proposed his budget which included a “pause” or halt on further Family Care expansion. We scaled back our planning activities and did not make decisions that we had planned to make during the March-June period in anticipation of a March 1, 2012 operational start.
- We have conserved our grant funding for the January-June 2011 period and DHS is carrying over the remaining funds into the current biennium. At our current level of spending, this amount could carry us for 10-12 months for two staff, legal, Board member expense, office space, phone, travel, supplies, postage, limited technical advising and miscellaneous expense.
- We are where I expected we would be—our funding continues but DHS is not in a position to provide any further answers to us at this time. DHS wants us to continue—if they did not want us to continue, they would have let our funding lapse. The Senior Leadership is reviewing the current long term care programs, including Family Care, and considering potential changes to the current programs.
- DHS senior leadership is focused on other things at the moment. While we would all like have a definite timeframe for expansion, we do not know when the DHS senior leadership will make that decision. However, we continue to have the opportunity to shape our future and work with DHS on potential changes in Wisconsin long term care programs. DHS senior leadership has identified a few changes that they would like to see and have also raised some concerns about the current programs.
- We are in a period of uncertainty. We need to be patient but persistent. We are in uncharted waters to a certain degree; there is no template, there is no routine. We need to be proactive for Northeast Wisconsin as well as for the State in shaping our future.
- Our continued planning requires us to mutually agree with DHS what we should work on for the next period of time—yet to be determined. The planned deliverables are discussed below.

Planned Deliverables

- At the June Board meeting, I shared our planned deliverables for the next period of grant funding. We are currently doing some additional review and talking with DHS staff and we will be submitting our planned deliverables to DHS by August 1.
- The following are some of the areas have been suggested to consider or are areas that I have heard the Secretary and Deputy Secretary identify:
 - Virtual Pace Grant that DHS has received from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS.) DHS received a planning grant from the CMS and DHS to develop several pilots throughout the State beginning July 1, 2012, which would integrate long term care services and medical services.

Northeast Wisconsin Family Care is a member driven organization passionate about delivering service options by supporting personal choices which promote the greatest opportunity for an independent quality of life, in a caring, respectful, and efficient manner.

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- Increase the use of self direction by members—have members take greater responsibility for the direction of their care.
- Increase family and community support and supportive living.
- Demonstrate the cost effectiveness of the Family Care business model compared to the traditional waiver systems
- Our planned deliverables or focus for our continued planning include the following four major areas:
 1. Continue with our planning for infrastructure development. We expect that there may be changes in the Family Care model but we will need to have an infrastructure in place to handle whatever the Family Care model will be when we go operational.
 2. Increase the knowledge of use of self direction including having a more focused approach in Family Care.
 3. Plan for a fully integrated long term care and medical care model.
 4. Pursue DHS commitment to move ahead with Family Care expansion in Northeast Wisconsin. This will require further work in demonstrating the cost effectiveness of the Family Care business model.
- I think there is a good alignment between the interests that I hear from DHS on what they believe are important and our planned deliverables.
- Once DHS has established a timeline for expansion, then we would like to have a 12 month lead time before we go operational. There will be a great deal of intense work required to prepare for operations. If expansion continues to be deferred until the next biennium that would mean an operational start date of July 1, 2013, which would mean that, we would need to begin intensely preparing for operations July 1, 2012. If we get an earlier date for expansion, then we would need to begin our intense preparation beginning twelve months from the targeted start date.

Other

- On Thursday, July 13, the actuarial firm that has been working with us presented their preliminary final report. I will present the highlights of their report at the next Board meeting.

Key Messages

Following are key messages that I have been sharing with individuals, providers, and other organizations:

1. DHS wants us to continue with our planning. Our planning funding continues. DHS does not want us to shut down and have to start all over at a later time.
2. DHS is currently reviewing all of the long term care programs and determining what, if any, design changes that they want to make.
3. The passed State Budget allows the Wisconsin Secretary of Health Services to move on expansion with Family Care if he determines it would be cost effective. Cost effective was determined by the Legislative Joint Finance Committee—which means that Family Care costs would be less than current waiver costs.

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4. Areas of focus in our planning include: demonstrating cost effectiveness, planning for increased self direction, planning for impacting total costs through alignment or integration of long term care services and medical services, and continued planning for infrastructure.
5. When DHS Senior Leadership is ready to move ahead, they will tell us. Until then, we need to be patient, persistent and helpful.

If you have any questions and or need additional information, please feel free to give me a call at 920-857-9854 and/or email me rolf.hanson@new.rr.com.

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