



# *Public Policy Updates*

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**Statewide Chapter Meeting**

**October 23, 2019**



# What We'll Cover

- Direct Care workforce payments
- Family Care/IRIS updates
- Legislative Updates
- Governor's Task Force on Caregiving



# Medicaid Personal Care Increase

- A total of \$37,647,600 in 2019- 20 and \$53,399,300 in 2020-21 was budgeted to increase reimbursement for personal care services.
- Increase is for personal care provided on a fee-for-service and managed care basis (personal care in Family Care), as well as for personal care services provided to IRIS participants, including self-directed IRIS personal care services.
- Payments were supposed to increase as of July 1, 2019. Department says they won't be retroactive.



# Family Care Direct Care Workforce Increase

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- A total of \$14,763,800 in 2019-20 and \$22,322,700 in 2020-21 was budgeted to increase the direct care and services portion of the capitation rates DHS provides to managed care organizations (MCOs) to address direct caregiver workforce challenges in Family Care only.
- This money is in addition to the funding provided in the 2017-19 biennial budget for the same purpose. The Department required MCOs to pass additional funding on to providers in the form of wage increases, bonuses, or additional paid time off for certain direct care workers, or to fund employer payroll tax increases that result from increasing workers' wages.

# Family Care Direct Care Workforce Increase

## Family Care Direct Care Reimbursement

	2019-20			2020-21		
	<u>GPR</u>	<u>FED</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>GPR</u>	<u>FED</u>	<u>Total</u>
2017-19 Increase (Part of MA Cost-to-Continue)	\$12,500,000	\$18,257,900	\$30,757,900	\$12,500,000	\$18,402,300	30,902,300
2019-21 Increase	<u>12,000,000</u>	<u>17,527,600</u>	<u>29,527,600</u>	<u>15,000,000</u>	<u>22,082,800</u>	<u>37,082,800</u>
Total	\$24,500,000	\$35,785,500	\$60,285,500	\$27,500,000	\$40,485,100	\$67,985,100

# Family Care/IRIS Waiver Renewals

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- Family Care waiver renewal in 2019, expected to be approved by CMS. Minor changes.
- In 2020: Possible state plan amendments : technology services; employment definitions; uber/lyft transportation options.
- In 2020: IRIS waiver renewal. Alignment with Family Care waiver.
- Will be public comment opportunity in spring.

# Legislative Updates: Provider Transformation

- Several states have taken steps to recognize the scope of changes required of providers to be in full compliance with the HCBS settings rule.
- Legislators are drafting a targeted (optional) Transformation Fund bill for providers offering facility-based pre-vocational (sheltered workshop) and day services.
- The fund would support providers to make changes to their business model and help providers comply with new federal home and community-based regulations.
- Free expert technical assistance.
- \$6.75 million for up to 30 providers; one-time award of between \$25,000 and \$150,000. Additional performance payments. Any provider is eligible.

# Legislative Updates: ABLE Legislation???

- ABLE Accounts allow people with disabilities to save money without jeopardizing benefits.
- In Wisconsin an eligible person with a disability can put up to \$15,000 total in an ABLE account in one year (and more than \$400,000 over time). Someone who is working and paying taxes may be able to contribute up to \$12,060 more annually.
- Wisconsin does not have an ABLE program.
- One legislator is holding this up...



# Governor's Task Force on Caregiving



- Best opportunity to get bigger solutions to direct care workforce crisis.
- The Arc Wisconsin is a co-chair.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting October 25 in Madison; next meeting November 18 in Green Bay.
- Has bi-partisan legislator members, along with a variety of stakeholders (29 members).
- Goal is to have recommendations ready for the next state budget.

# Governor's Task Force on Caregiving

## Main charges of the Task Force:

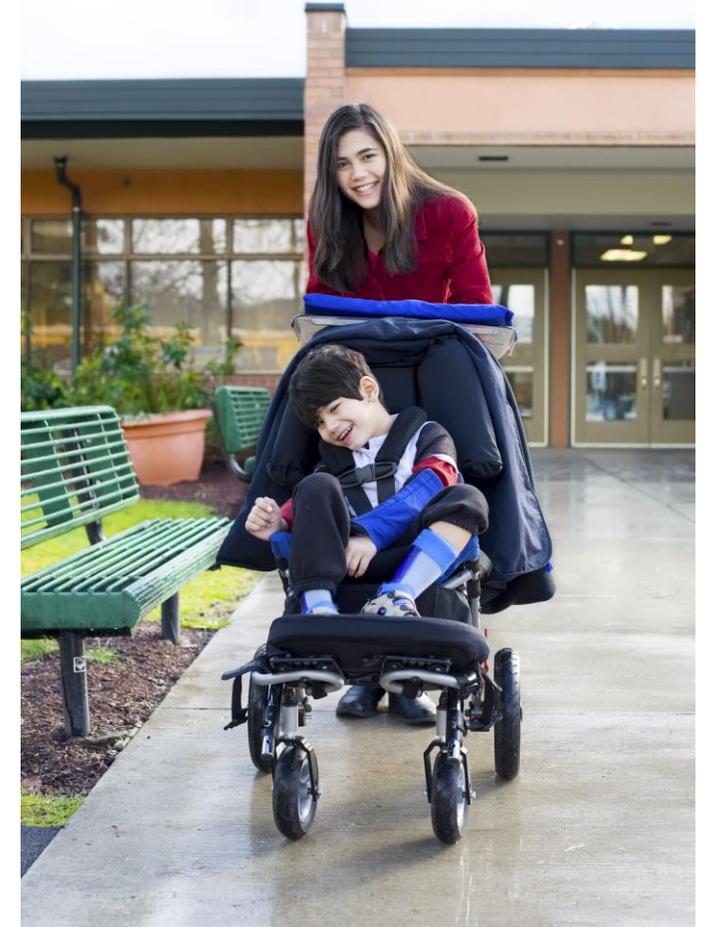
- \* Strategies to attract direct care workers
- \* Strategies to retain direct care workers
- \* Strategies to improve wages for direct care workers
- \* Strategies to improve fringe benefits for direct care workers
- \* Strategies to improve healthcare for direct care workers
- \* Strategies to improve respite supports for family caregivers
- \* Other supports for family caregivers
- \* Establish a home care provider registry or matching service to help people find workers



# Governor's Task Force on Caregiving

Sampling of ideas shared thus far:

- Caregiver assessment as part of functional screen/eligibility process
- Care provider pool/co-op
- Hire people with disabilities to work in care environment
- Tech certification program for care workers (i.e. “badging”) (tuition assistance)
- Develop an app to match care workers with families
- Streamline and uniformity with background checks (make some prohibitive offenses reviewable with conditions)
- Technology, when appropriate i.e. Night Owl
- Tax credits for caregivers (unpaid family or paid caregivers)
- Increase threshold for people to qualify for Badger Care



What are Your Ideas?

