

Community Care: Money Follows the Person

Position Statement approved by One Voice: May 15, 2006

Issue/Concern: A large number of seniors and persons with disabilities in Texas are unable to receive community care, due to the lack of state funding. Community care funds allow older adults and persons with disabilities of all ages to live in their homes thereby avoiding premature institutionalization. It is well documented that community care is less costly than institutional care. Texas has led a tremendous effort to expand community care through the Promoting Independence Initiative. Adequate funding of this initiative is necessary to enable Texans who are receiving expensive institutional care to return to live in the community, if they so choose.

Specific Policy Recommendation(s):

- ★ Increase state Medicaid funds for community care through federal waivers and Money Follows the Person programs, in order to increase the draw down of federal funds and to help more Texans receive community care support when they do not need or desire more costly institutional care.

How does this issue/recommendation relate to prevention and early intervention or maximizing federal funds for health and human services? Texas state and federal Medicaid dollars fund community care services. By increasing state general revenue funds, additional federal funds can be drawn down. Utilizing Medicaid funds for less expensive community care supports maximizing federal funds efficiently.

Supporting Facts/Research/Resources:

- ★ Nursing home services cost the Texas state government an average of \$30,882¹ a year per nursing home resident compared to the cost of providing community care at an average cost of \$15,529² per person
- ★ 55,579 Texans are currently on an interest list for community care services³
- ★ Research shows long term institutionalization of children negatively impacts all areas of their development, and the longer a child remains in an institution, the greater the negative impact on the child's life⁴
- ★ 1,590 Texas children in institutions are waiting to move into community care programs⁵ (*Community Care includes such services as attendant care, adaptive aides, nursing, medical supplies, and therapy.*)

Legislative Outcome: Appropriations passed the following riders in support of community care funding:

HB 1, Department of Aging and Disability Services, Rider # 14, Promoting Independence-Client Services. As clients relocate from nursing facilities to community care services, funds will be transferred from nursing facilities to community care services to cover the costs of the shift in services.

HB 1, Department of Aging and Disability Services, Rider # 37, Promoting Independence Plan. Out of funds appropriated above in strategy A.3.2, Home and Community-based Services, \$1,699,464 in general revenue funds in FY08 and \$4,859,969 in general revenue funds in FY09, and the associated federal funds, are set aside from funds appropriated for interest list reduction, for 240 individuals moving out of large intermediate care facilities and 120 children aging out of foster care.

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Laurie Glaze, Chair
Adoptation
Avondale House
Bering Omega Community Services
Care for Elders
Career and Recovery Resources, Inc.
Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston
ChildBuilders
CHILDREN AT RISK
Christ the Good Shepherd Catholic Church
Coalition for Behavioral Health Services
Collaborative for Children
Communities In Schools
DePelchin Children's Center
Family Services of Greater Houston
Fort Bend Regional Council on Substance Abuse, Inc.
Gateway to Care
Good Neighbor Healthcare Center
Gulf Coast CHIP Coalition
Harris County Healthcare Alliance
Healthcare for the Homeless-Houston
Houston Area Association for the Education of Young Children
Houston Food Bank
IntraCare Hospitals
Jewish Family Service
Justice for Children
Legacy Community Health Services, Inc.
Memorial Hermann Healthcare System
Mental Health Association of Greater Houston
NAMI Metropolitan Houston
Neighborhood Centers, Inc.
Northwest Assistance Ministries
San Jose Clinic
SEARCH
South County Community Clinic, DBA The Community Clinic
Spaulding for Children
Target Hunger
Texas Children's Hospital
The Arc of Greater Houston
The Center for Success and Independence
The Arrow Project
The Network of Behavioral Health Providers
United Way of Greater Houston
Wesley Community Center
YMCA of Greater Houston