



Department of Health Services - State of Wisconsin Town Hall Results Advocate (Other Programs)

Mental Health Services

Diann

What could the Department of Health Services improve?

Get going on setting up the insurance exchange needed for when the Affordable Care Act takes effect. Set up the exchange so it is fair to people with mental illness and addiction issues.

Do you have any cost savings suggestions for the Department of Health Services?

When setting up the insurance exchange change the financial incentives for hospitals and doctors so that the new health care system will result in cost savings.

Mental Health Services

Mike

What could the Department of Health Services improve?

Regionalize the services in WI. 72 counties create way too much overlap. For instance, reorganize around Lake Winnebago Area from Fond Du Lac to Green Bay and combine services.

Do you have any cost savings suggestions for the Department of Health Services?

Make the new National Mental Health Law work to attract more psychiatrists to our state to eliminate the wait times that drive up costs.

Mental Health Services

Phil

What could the Department of Health Services improve?

Keep level of funding to medical services at same level, particularly to those with greatest needs: mentally ill, poor, and children.

Do you have any cost savings suggestions for the Department of Health Services?

Continue to support programs that aid people at home. Focus on local support through county funding. Avoid cuts that impair preventative care for mentally ill children and aged.

Medicaid

Abby

What could the Department of Health Services improve?

Develop a continuum of care for adults with mental illness that includes early intervention and access to uninterrupted treatment.

Do you have any cost savings suggestions for the Department of Health Services?

Reduce the exorbitant costs of people with mental illnesses being housed in jail, hospitals, and nursing homes by increasing community support services, such as comprehensive community mental health & AODA treatment/housing/employment, such as ACT or CST programs.

CORE and Basic

Ellen

What could the Department of Health Services improve?

I believe that both the CORE and Basic plans should continue and be expanded. The opportunity to seek preventative care and get control over chronic issues that having either CORE or Basic offer low-income individuals with no dependent children will help lower costs for emergency treatments and major health failures. I believe it can become cost effective through low premiums and long-term overall savings from preventing high-cost medical situations. The number of people who qualify and are on the waitlist is a testament to the need for this program.

Do you have any cost savings suggestions for the Department of Health Services?

Make HMO selection process less confusing for individuals - privatizing has not eliminated or reduced the need for state and county workers to help correct errors in HMO selection. Or the confusion of having an HMO that is not accepted in the consumer's area -

Medicaid in general

Kathryn

What could the Department of Health Services improve?

Thank you for this opportunity to share my perspective on the state's Medical Assistance program. I am a breast cancer survivorâ€”tomorrow will mark 8 years since I was diagnosed. I am also a volunteer with the American Cancer Society. My cancer was found at a relatively early stage, thanks to a screening mammogram covered by insurance I had through my employer. My doctor has told me that even a one-year delay would have probably meant a different outcome for me. Many people are not as fortunate as I. They rely on Wisconsin Medical Assistance programs for screenings and exams. A strong Medicaid program is vital in providing access to care for these people, access that is so necessary to fight cancer. Delays in diagnosis and treatment result in increased costs associated with later-stage cancers. Today we know that as many as 60% of cancer deaths could be avoided if we apply our knowledge about cancer prevention and detection. This would create huge savings for our health care system. People who have a regular source of care, including those enrolled in Medicaid, are more likely to access prevention services, get their recommended screenings, and have health problems identified early. Tools such as reminder systems, quality measures and provider accountability should be developed to further encourage the use of preventive services. An emphasis on proven prevention and wellness strategies in our health care delivery systems can help curtail health care costs and save lives. However, increased cost-sharing for preventive services can create barriers that discourage working families from accessing those services, ultimately increasing the incidence of late-stage disease and their associated costs. Many people who have chronic medical conditions see several health care providers. A lack of communication can sometimes lead to duplication of services and conflicting prescriptions. Studies have shown that having a regular source of coordinated care with the same provider over time leads to better quality of care, better outcomes, and lower costs. Over half of current Medicaid benefit expenditures in Wisconsin are still fee-for-service payment systems that reward volume and may not provide incentive for communication and coordination across providers. I also am the co-guardian of my sister who has Down Syndrome. She relies on Family Care for transportation and supportive services so she can continue to live in her home in the community. Over the past 7 months, because of fluctuations in the hours she worked, her eligibility and the amount of her premium for Medical Assistance changed almost weekly. Without the eligibility grace periods and the staff to work with me on these issues on her behalf, she may have been without coverage at a time when she needed medical care for her multiple health issues. I urge you to keep people like my sister in mind when you consider changes to these programs. Thank you.

Do you have any cost savings suggestions for the Department of Health Services?

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WI Mental Health System

Recovery Implementation Task Force

What could the Department of Health Services improve?

Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) Programs should be added to the WI Mental Health System. The wide range in quality of Community Support Programs (CSP) across the state does not afford WI consumers access to equal services. Person Centered-ACT standards require service coordination across time and setting. 24/7-ACT standards require evening and weekend coverage and availability of 24/7 face to face crisis intervention by ACT team members. Integrated Care-ACT standards require RN's as part of the treatment team and directly address the integration of physical health and mental health. Employment-ACT standards require vocational specialists on the team and employment related services with a focus on meaningful community based jobs through supported employment. Use of Peer Supports-ACT standards require peer specialists on the team. ACT standards specify a staffing pattern that ensures coverage and depth allowing prompt response to increased consumer needs and ensures coverage of scheduled contacts.

Do you have any cost savings suggestions for the Department of Health Services?

None

WI Well Woman Program

Susan

What could the Department of Health Services improve?

Absolute focus in health improvement.

Do you have any cost savings suggestions for the Department of Health Services?

None

Prader Willi

Ann

What could the Department of Health Services improve?

My aunt has Prader Willi. I am greatly concerned that IRIS will not provide the care she requires for a safe and happy life. A support system of knowledgeable, caring, and competent professionals is needed and this is not cheap. Remember those few in our state who were born with Prader Willi Syndrome and don't let them reside in the shadows of life. Public funding for the adequate care of these fragile individuals is important to us all, especially to those who know, care, and love them.

Do you have any cost savings suggestions for the Department of Health Services?

None

Birth to 3

Patricia

What could the Department of Health Services improve?

Birth to 3 services help children overcome their developmental delays and disabilities become productive members of society. Medicaid support is vital for the success of the 0-3 services.

Do you have any cost savings suggestions for the Department of Health Services?

Encourage you to support waiver applications which provide additional revenue to support 0-3 dollars.

Centralized Income Maintenance

Becky

What could the Department of Health Services improve?

Waitlist for Family Care & IRIS is devastating for families. Continue with implementation of family care and IRIS. Centralized IM - poor, untimely service.

Do you have any cost savings suggestions for the Department of Health Services?

For years studies consistently show community services are more cost effective than institutional/nursing home care.

General remarks

Paul

What could the Department of Health Services improve?

My wife receives Medical Assistance. Her experiences with this system have been quite good, for which we are thankful. Please continue to offer Medical Assistance services in an honorable way.

Do you have any cost savings suggestions for the Department of Health Services?

No, I can not say that I do right now. Please continue, however, to offer your department's services in a manner that is respectful of the people you are serving. Thank you.

Basic Need Services

DeAnn

What could the Department of Health Services improve?

I see most working class individuals who are in great need of Short Term Assistance to keep their housing, obtain food, clothing and medial treatment. Unfortunately, government programs are not set up to encourage self sufficiency and welfare for ALL. They are set up to maintain a non-working class in society. It is an ineffective way to spend tax payer dollars.

Do you have any cost savings suggestions for the Department of Health Services?

Programs should be available based on need not on the number of persons in the household and income. If someone is in need of medical treatment they should be able to obtain affordable healthcare. It is not difficult to determine if someone is sick. Many communities including Richland County have set up Free Clinics for their residents who are w/o insurance. Many people donate their time because it is an undeniable need. A referral from a medical professional should merit available and affordable Medical Treatment. A doctor's referral to a dentist should justify available and affordable dental treatment. We are the United States; we do not need to provide every low income family with full medical coverage, housing assistance, energy assistance and all other resources that are available merely because of how many people are in the household and their income. As a Disability Benefit Specialist, I talk to individuals who have worked their entire life and they face losing everything they have worked for due to an illness or injury. They cannot get any help once they become injured until they exhaust all of their resources. This type of assistance does not promote self sufficiency or the welfare of ALL. If programs were in place for individuals to maintain self sufficiency there would be a cost savings across the board within the DHS in WI. The national government created a dependent class of people. Are we going to climb the mountain ahead or focus our attention on the past? I pray for an equitable outcome to the budget. Together we stand.

All

Simonson

What could the Department of Health Services improve?

By not implementing any of Walkers proposed ideas.

Do you have any cost savings suggestions for the Department of Health Services?

Yes, do not listen to Walker, do not apply any of his/ALEC groups proposed programs. The other cost saving idea I have is to help remove Walker from office. He has cost the state enough.

Food share/SLMB+/ MA spendown

Lori

What could the Department of Health Services improve?

When we have seniors who qualify for MA spendown or qmb/slmb and especially slmb+ the process for application has to be repeated which is confusing and overwhelming to the senior but also makes for extra work for human services. Many times it could be avoided if the application was more inclusive and directly asks for the slmb benefit and processers asked the clients about the benefit. We often get them later in mid cycle of their food share benefit and repeat the process all over. Also, Dane County switches workers on clients repeatedly. They also submit volumes of notifications that could be streamlined saving postage fees and paper.

Do you have any cost savings suggestions for the Department of Health Services?

See above.

NAMI

Marge

What could the Department of Health Services improve?

We are experiencing a 3% decrease to our budget in a group home setting. The needs of the people I serve have increased. There are no options for more help. Our salaries for care staff income are \$9-\$10/hr. Medicare & Medicaid cuts only give us more back breaking hard work.

Do you have any cost savings suggestions for the Department of Health Services?

Recycle unused unwrapped medications. There is a huge amount of waste. Why do we need teams of 2 with MCO? We already have a nurse on our staff. CHP is a slow middle man. As a program manager I could easily get the services in line for my residents. We did this before CHP took over.

Katy Beckett

Anna

What could the Department of Health Services improve?

Preserve funds for Medicaid recipients (level of service). Decrease pre-authorizations, paperwork necessary to receive aid. Do not allow governor's appointed person to have unilateral decision making.

Do you have any cost savings suggestions for the Department of Health Services?

Utilize a yearly pre-authorization process vs. continued paperwork & pre-authorization. Continue to have private insurance companies cover services rather than shift to taxpayer in Wisconsin.

Wisconsin Well Woman

Joanne

What could the Department of Health Services improve?

Instead of cutting funding for programs, streamline the whole program (i.e. BadgerCare, Core, Medicaid) into one Medical Core for all, eliminate any insurance company involvement.

Do you have any cost savings suggestions for the Department of Health Services?

Look at Minnesota and Vermont for potential cost savings and complete coverage for all.

Well Woman

Gail

What could the Department of Health Services improve?

Ensure participants have access to preventative services, delayed access to care increases cost.

Do you have any cost savings suggestions for the Department of Health Services?

None

Medicaid

Mary

What could the Department of Health Services improve?

The Department has had legislative oversight and public input on any proposed changes to Medicaid. My son, who was diagnosed with Schizoaffective Disorder in 1995, now lives independently, works part time, and has achieved a good quality of life. If there would be changes to Medicaid which would affect his health benefits, especially his medications, he would relapse. He has not been hospitalized for the symptoms of his illness since 2000. Wisconsin has been providing good care, and I so want this to continue.

Do you have any cost savings suggestions for the Department of Health Services?

People who cope daily with mental illness need safety nets, especially when leaving a hospital or when discharged from jail. Without these processes for housing, appointments with psychiatrists, etc. in place, costly hospital expenses occur or incarceration can happen. Racine County with NAMI Racine have Crisis Intervention workshops twice per year for their police officers. When minor infractions occur if someone is off their medications or undiagnosed, these officers diffuse the situation and get medical help for the person. These training sessions could be implemented throughout the state. The cost is minimal in comparison to incarceration, and best of all, the person is helped.

non insured

Natasha

What could the Department of Health Services improve?

Making healthcare more accessible to those who need it. School based clinics are a must to provide point of service care where it is needed most in the inner city schools. Sometimes the school nurse is the healthcare person the student sees. Parents have to take off work or will not seek healthcare for their child at all because they cannot afford to miss work. This forces them to send a sick child to school and hope they make it through the day. Also programs to help curtail marijuana use among our children.

Do you have any cost savings suggestions for the Department of Health Services?

Allowing in school clinics for acute care. Incentives for nurse practitioner's to practice in schools. Offer more free community events where they are needed most. Continue to monitor trends and provide evidence based care based on the trends.

Proposed Budget Cuts to Mental Health Services

Mel

What could the Department of Health Services improve?

Don't cut county mental health, human services, education or any other programs. The biennial budget will decimate those programs, resulting in untold misery and more people being put in jail and dying early.

Do you have any cost savings suggestions for the Department of Health Services?

Yes. Collect the more than 1 billion in taxes now owed by various Wisconsin Corporations; raise the state tax rate on incomes over \$200,000 and corporations, sufficient to cover the shortfall. DO NOT CUT human services, education etc.