



**Department of Health Services - State of Wisconsin  
Town Hall Results  
Advocate (SeniorCare Program)**

**Carrie**

**What could the Department of Health Services improve?**

Knowledge of and increased support/finances on agencies/programs that support/advocate and assist individuals with mental illness. In the long run, these programs save a lot more \$ as these individuals are less likely to have as many crisis situations, therefore will not need as many hospitalizations.

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

None

**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.

**Southwest Dane County Outreach**

**What could the Department of Health Services improve?**

Very concerned about the possibility that SeniorCare will be dismantled. Enrollment in Medicare Part D is just one time a year. Typically it takes an individual 1.5 hrs and a computer program for an enrollee to select a drug program that best fits their situation from over 40 options. Most seniors need professional assistance to complete the selection process. Premiums vary between \$180-\$1,308 annually. Med D has gaps in coverage, called the donut hole .

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

Govt cost in 2009 per enrollee for SeniorCare was \$588, while Medicare Part D subsidy by the govt was \$1,690. SeniorCare negotiates lower drug prices and saved \$50 million in 2009.

**Connie**

**What could the Department of Health Services improve?**

Consider a single payer plan for health care. Do not cut Medicaid programs or family planning. The 36 countries who have better and less expensive care have either a single payer or some hybrid of a single payer plan.

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

BadgerCare should be income based and asset based.

**Helen**

**What could the Department of Health Services improve?**

Please don't abandon seniors and poverty families or those on the border.

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

None

**Kim**

**What could the Department of Health Services improve?**

Improve efforts to diagnose and treat Alzheimer's disease and related disorders sooner. Improve integrated care coordination. Study cost benefits of referring WI veterans to federally funded VA benefits. Provide alternatives to existing inpatient and emergency department services. Consider the unintended costs of freezing family care.

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

None

**Carol**

**What could the Department of Health Services improve?**

My family is very pleased with the care provided for our aunt. She could not have survived without the help from the state and Fond du Lac county. Her final years were pleasant and we wish that for all elderly. Don't alter the program so that others might not have the benefits she enjoyed.

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

Certain supplies are given to enrollee (i.e. Depends). Be sure these supplies are used. If they are not wanted, don't give them. Many items were thrown out and a perceived better quality product was purchased.

**Thomas**

**What could the Department of Health Services improve?**

Against all cuts to poor and tax cuts to the rich.

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

None

**Elizabeth**

**What could the Department of Health Services improve?**

SeniorCare is a great program. Family Care allows people to stay in their homes and have care in a comfortable safe environment.

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

None

**Ronald**

**What could the Department of Health Services improve?**

In 2008 my son joined family care program due to a traumatic brain injury. I retired from the State early to care for my son. Family Care with MCO's involved is more of a business model of health care not a consumer model. The primary goal is no longer the welfare of my son but cost control.

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

None

**Dorothy**

**What could the Department of Health Services improve?**

Inner city people need ins, can't afford to go to private doctors. What do you expect people to do when you cut their ins?

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

None

**Molly**

**What could the Department of Health Services improve?**

Can't ask people living in poverty to pay premiums or copays.

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

None

**Tom**

**What could the Department of Health Services improve?**

Diagnos and effectively treat alzheimers sooner. As alzheimers numbers increase, public health issues arise. Early diagnosis helps detect other illnesses that share the same symptoms. Need improved care coordination. The unintended cost of freezing family care is going to be huge. If people are forced into nursing homes you are doubling the cost. Also, MA beds will be taken up and they are already difficult to find.

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

None

**peter**

**What could the Department of Health Services improve?**

Financially support job coaches and senior care workers more appropriately to coincide with this economy

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

decrease the amount paid to the political representatives and cut back on travel expenses for these individuals

**fern**

**What could the Department of Health Services improve?**

Stop with the plan to take away programs that keep people in their homes. As a daughter of aged parents the cost for nursing homes is crazy compared to what staff to assist the elderly in their homes but so much has been cut that both my parents and mother-in-law did have to go to the nursing home. The young people come out of a great education system to nothing with the wait list for community services. After sitting at home for 5 to 6 years they have lost so much they learned at school this is a waste to everyone.

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

With the family care we are paying too much money to the caesmanager and the whole large adiministrate to team for what they do for the person.

**Joanne**

**What could the Department of Health Services improve?**

Don't require seniors who are on the very successful and cost saving state pharmacy assistance program called SeniorCare to also have a Part D plan. This will hurt many seniors who can not afford Medicare Part D in addition to all their other expenses.

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

SeniorCare has been very successful due to the fact that they run the program very much like the VA runs their drug program, by making deals with the drug companies in the form of rebates and etc. Consider making changes in Medicare Part D in order to drive down the prices of drugs by again running the program more like the Veterans Administration does. Medicare Part D currently has too many choices for seniors. The majority of my seniors do not have computers and thus are unable to pick the most cost saving plan for themselves.

**Carol**

**What could the Department of Health Services improve?**

Not all BadgerCare recipients are free loaders and not wanting to work. For example daughter is single mother going to school and needs the coverage for her son. There is no broadband access in rural areas, and seniors can't use computers so who will help them? Concerned about waiting list when programs are capped. You will either be serving people on the front end (programs) or back end (ER visits).

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

Must let Family Care programs run their course to balance the cost and see the benefits.

**John**

**What could the Department of Health Services improve?**

Remove IRIS cap, allow more people to sign up. IRIS is less expensive than a nursing home.

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

Change SeniorCare deductible to co-ins, this will make drug company rebates available.

**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.

**Marie**

**What could the Department of Health Services improve?**

Many seniors can't afford Part D. Many people will be completely lost and don't understand applications. SeniorCare is more comprehensive and less expensive.

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

None

**Shawn**

**What could the Department of Health Services improve?**

Quality of IRIS workforce is lower. Invest in workforce, pay workers well. WI Quality Home Care Authority set up training structures that the budget repair bill abolished.

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

People should have the right to move from long term care to IRIS to save money.

**Sue**

**What could the Department of Health Services improve?**

None

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

The SeniorCare drug program should be kept as is. It works and serves Seniors in WI. It started before Medicare Part D. Please keep this program as is. We need BadgerCare as is. Farmers need it, low wage workers need it. Please keep counties (public workers) in charge of helping aging and disabled people. They know what to do to help.

**Erika**

**What could the Department of Health Services improve?**

Maintain SeniorCare, it is cost effective for the state and for seniors.

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

Continue SeniorCare as credible coverage. It is nationally recognized as a viable, cost effective program that supplies vital coverage for seniors.

**Ronald**

**What could the Department of Health Services improve?**

Any change that will restrict access to face to face eligibility services, require additional travel and expense, or require use of telephone or computer technology will adversely affect individuals that seek to apply for MA.

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

Create 7 administrative regions statewide. Counties within these regions would be contractors for income maintenance services in the specified region.

**Amy**

**What could the Department of Health Services improve?**

Open enrollment back up to people who need access to these services.

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

Yes, eliminate the tax breaks for the wealthiest Wisconsinites that Gov Walker keeps enacting. Instead, take care of the hard working citizens of Wisconsin who need help because they are unable to afford insurance.

**Jeff**

**What could the Department of Health Services improve?**

Expand program to include everyone so businesses do not have to provide ins. State ins only, no private health care.

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

More preventative care.

**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.