

Introduction

Rehabilitation for Wisconsin in Action (*RFW in Action*) is a business association that represents the interests of its statewide membership of Community Rehabilitation Programs and other organizations. On December 1, 2011, the *RFW in Action* Board of Directors adopted a position in favor of consolidation of long-term care employment supports under the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development (DWD). *RFW in Action* has briefed legislative leaders, state agency personnel, and advocates on their proposal, which would move long-term employment supports from the Department of Health Services (DHS) to DWD, in consultation with the Secretaries of each of the Departments.

The proposal encompasses these provisions:

- Identification of Medicaid and state funding currently used for long-term supported employment in Wisconsin, including any funds the administrative and care management allocations that MCOs and Counties currently assess for these services, funds for employment specialist positions held by MCOs, and funds spent on staff positions in the DHS Office of Family Care Expansion;
- Authorization of an Intergovernmental Transfer of this funding from DHS to a new Division of Extended Employment Supports (DEES) to be created in DWD, with a Memorandum of Understanding signed by both parties that establishes how many FTEs¹ will be necessary for the administration of the new division;
- Determination of the date DEES will become responsible for the maintenance of integrated employment placements that are developed by the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR); and
- Creation of appropriate and reasonable rates for these extended employment services - DVR has demonstrated its ability to set statewide rates for services based on cost data from providers, which is why *RFW in Action* has proposed that DVR would assist in the process that DEES would use in setting rates, as well as for ongoing consultation during the transition.

Questions Related to the Proposal that Need to be Addressed

- 1) Are there any barriers to an Intergovernmental Transfer of Medicaid funds to be administered outside of DHS?
- 2) What approvals, if any, would need to be obtained in existing Medicaid waivers to enable the Department of Workforce Development to administer extended employment supports? What approvals would be needed from CMS to support this transition?

¹ Ideally, there will be sufficient capacity in each Workforce Development Area for authorization of services, as well as in the DWD offices in Madison for oversight of the division.

- 3) According to data from Wisconsin's Medicaid Management Information System, how much funding was spent on extended employment supports, statewide, in State Fiscal Years 2011 and 2012 in the Family Care and Community Integration programs? How much was spent in the first half of State Fiscal Year 2013?
 - a) How much federal money was spent in each of these time periods?
 - b) How much state money was spent in each of these time periods?
 - c) How much county money was spent in each of these time periods?
 - d) Were there any other funding sources for extended employment supports during each of these?
- 4) How many people were enrolled in extended employment supports during the time periods listed above?
- 5) How many vendors / providers of service served people receiving extended employment supports during the time periods listed above? What types of vendors provided these services and how much of these services did each type of vendor provide?
- 6) What effect, if any, would the movement of these funds have on the following:
 - a) The administrative and care management functions of Managed Care Organizations (MCOs)?
 - b) The availability of day program and prevocational services under Family Care and the Community Integration Program?
- 7) Should prevocational services also be administered by the Division of Extended Employment Supports?
- 8) Would the administrative allocations currently assessed by MCOs and the FTEs for Care Management associated with supported employment by MCOs be sufficient for the management of extended employment services under DWD at the state level, if they were transferred to DWD?
- 9) What other funding might be available to assist in the transition and ongoing management by DWD of extended employment supports (for example, Medicaid Systems Change funds)?
- 10) How does the DHS proposal for Family Care sustainability in employment and transition compare to the *RFW in Action* proposal? Are there any measurable milestones for increasing integrated employment being developed by DHS?

- 11) What administrative efficiencies might exist if extended employment supports were consolidated under DWD vs. the current administrative structure of DHS and the MCOs?
- 12) As an alternative to the *RFW in Action* proposal, would it possible to set up a dedicated funding stream for extended employment supports within the Family Care program to increase funding for long term supported employment?
- 13) How would extended employment supports be coordinated with care plans established in Family Care and Individualized Educational Plans?
- 14) How would a budget appropriation for extended employment supports make funding visible in such a way that it could be increased over time, to enable more people to enter job development programs funded by DVR?
- 15) How would the consolidation of extended employment supports under DWD simplify the program in such a way as to make it easier for people with disabilities and their families to understand it?