

TRANSPORTATION

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Issue: Home Health Agency

Employees' Inability to Provide Transportation

- Currently many people with disabilities are eligible for supports from home health agencies
- Staff are trained to provide medical or daily living assistance in the home
- Staff is not currently able to drive clients outside of their homes
- Consequently clients are isolated and homebound

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- Question: If Area Agencies and vendors can (in fact NEED to) assist people to get involved in their communities and are allowed to drive them, why can't home support agencies do the same? Do some agencies allow their staff to drive and others not? What can we do to change the policies in place that prohibit this?



Assessing the Medicaid Situation

- The Developmental Services 10 area agencies can currently assist with transportation through the Community Care Waiver
- This waiver is Medicaid funded and flexible in funding programs and transportation
- Nursing home health agencies do not have a Community Care Waiver program
- Nursing home health agencies do have the Choices for Independence Waiver, which provides transportation only for medical appointments and specific hands-on tasks such as grocery shopping

Assessing the Medicaid Situation (Continued)

- This covers the elderly with medical needs and/or adults with physical disabilities
- DHHS tried to make rule changes to the Choices for Independence Waiver but instead issued a policy memo due to resistance to changes

Potential Solutions to Medicaid Transportation Issue

- Model current nursing home policies around transportation and apply to the home health agencies
- Currently, nursing homes' Medicaid/Medicare rules allow for transportation to community outings
- How can we make this happen?



Target Legislative Change

- Contact local representatives and discuss issues around transportation and Medicaid
- Find sponsors/representatives who would be willing to put forth legislation around these rule changes
- Anticipated problem with this Action (Legislative Change): Current climate of the state budget and economy could prohibit passage



Other Potential Solutions

- Creation of **SCC (State Coordinating Council)**: Consist of major funding agencies and stakeholders that establish policies and assist regional efforts while monitoring results
- New Hampshire received a grant for \$35,000 to develop a study around transportation
- The study was conducted by Nelson-Neygarrrd
- Recommendations on how New Hampshire should proceed with transportation
- Out of this study came legislation to form the SCC
- SCC formed 10 Regional Coordination Councils

Creation of Regional Coordination Council

- 10 regions were formed to better understand and assess transportation needs on a community level
- Region 1: **Grafton-Coos**
- Region 2: Carroll
- Region 3: **Belknap-Merrimack**
- Region 4: **Sullivan**
- Region 5: Cheshire
- Region 6: **Eastern Monadnock**
- Region 7: **Nashua**
- Region 8: Manchester
- Region 9: Derry-Salem
- Region 10: **Southeast (ACT)**

Goals of The State Coordinating Council

- Better use of resources to improve services
- Streamline funding and reporting
- Formation of regional Brokerage Services which will act as a clearing house and central point of contact to provide information regarding transportation resources within the region



Challenges to the State Coordinating Council

- Unavailability of a dedicated transit funding stream
- As a result of New Hampshire's lack of funding/commitment towards transportation, NH is turning away millions of dollars from the federal government



Action

- Co-Host a forum with the National Multiple Sclerosis Society
- The goal of this forum is to form a partnership around transportation and develop a common approach and message about transportation needs
- Targeted participants will be all stakeholders to include: AARP, Granite State Living, Cancer Society, NAMI, IOD, families, etc.
- The objective of this forum is to create a united voice/partnership around transportation needs



Action (Continued)

- This united voice will be powerful
- It will be used at transportation meetings and legislative hearings
- With this voice, we will be able to bring awareness to the lack of transportation and the need to do something about it
- We must fund transportation



Summary

- The issue concerning transportation needs is complex
- We looked at potential solutions to include new legislation to change the current Medicaid rules, and talked about some of the challenges with this solution
- We talked about the SCC and RCC, where they are today, and future challenges
- Funding is the number one issue around solving the transportation need
- Building a strong partnership with stakeholders and families through a forum is vital to advocating for funding