

AAA Committee Recommendation Report

Report to the AAA Board

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Date: 7 August 2017

From: Access Committee Legislative/Advocacy Committee Nutrition/Wellness Committee

History/Related Actions

At the 6/28/17 Legislative/Advocacy Committee meeting, Dane County funded mental health services for senior adults was discussed:

Mary Grabot, DCDHS Adult Mental Health Community Services Manager, presented an overview of Dane County adult mental health services and explained what led to the discontinuation of the Mobile Outreach for Seniors Team (MOST) Program – a development that Focal Point directors reported has created a gap for Medicaid-ineligible seniors in need of initial mental health interactions, assessments, and treatment plans.

Frazier suggested the Committee recommend that the AAA Board request Dane County Executive Joe Parisi to consider the creation of a task force to study a cost-effective way to serve Medicaid-ineligible seniors with mental health needs – a population that is consuming an inordinate amount of case managers' time and isn't receiving the help it needs. Committee members were in favor. Frazier will create an outline for the creation of a task force.

A letter was drafted and attached for your consideration/approval.

Financial/Budget/Other Resource Implications (if any)

Unknown

Recommendations

To approve the attached draft letter requesting the formation of a Mental Health Services Task Force.

Attachments

Mental Health Services Task Force DRAFT Letter

Proposed Mental Health Services Task Force Letter

Dear County Executive Parisi:

This is a proposal concerning 2018 AAA Budget Priorities—Mental Health Services.

PROPOSAL: Request Dane County Executive Joe Parisi appoint a Task Force to develop a mental health program to address a growing problem in the Dane County aging community. This task force would identify relevant elder advocates, community leaders and organizations, develop a plan of action, and seek funding to provide mental health services to older adults who are not eligible for Medicaid.

BACKGROUND: During the process of developing priorities for the Area Agency on Aging 2018 county budget, the 15 Focal Point Directors identified the lack of mental health services for the elderly as the number one priority of the aging network in Dane County. Not only is this a growing problem as the population ages, but it was affected by the elimination of the Mobile Outreach for Seniors Team (MOST), a model county funded program that provided mental health services to Medicaid eligible older adults in their own homes. Despite the recent introduction of the county's Comprehensive Community Services Program for Medicaid eligible consumers, seniors who are not Medicaid eligible or who do not have private insurance are being left with no options for mental health services. While it does not seem probable that the county can provide funding for a program like MOST for non-Medicaid eligible seniors, it may well be possible to develop an innovative, cost-effective approach to alleviating the problem.

POSSIBLE COMPOSITION: The Task Force should include representatives from the 15 Focal Points including Directors and Case Managers, and representatives from the Area Agency of Dane County, the ADRC of Dane County, the Dane County Adult Mental Health System (Department of Human Services), mental health providers, and others.

OUTCOMES: Within a specified time period (e.g. three months) the Task Force will develop a plan for serving the underserved target group and will then seek funding (grants, contracts, County levy, etc.) to implement the plan - probably on a pilot basis in Dane County. The result will be a significant decline in the number of non-Medicaid eligible older adults who do not have access to mental health services.

We appreciate all you do for seniors in Dane County and look forward to working with you to develop solutions to this concern.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Bill Clausius, Chair

cc: Lynn Green