



Cincy Senior Corner



Trusted Senior Home Care

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Looking for Ideas to Modernize Medicaid

Balancing needs of taxpayers and consumers, Ohio Gov. John Kasich created the Office of Health Transformation to modernize the Medicaid health coverage program. Medicaid impacts 2.2 million low-income citizens - many of whom are seniors.

Federal allocation decreases, places burden on Ohio

You probably know state and federal governments share responsibility for Medicaid funding. And you probably aren't surprised to learn the federal allocation will decrease next year. That means Ohio's contribution would grow significantly if nothing is done to control spending, according to the new Office of Health Transformation.

The Office determined that long-term care, home- and community-based services, and behavioral health and physical health services are provided through 11 or more delivery systems. Some are insured by both Medicaid and Medicare. This redundancy has led to higher costs, a lack of coordination, over-use, poor health outcomes and patient confusion.

To meet the challenge, the Office of Health Transformation is taking suggestions from interested Ohioans. Who better to comment than professionals who work with Medicaid recipients, or taxpayers who don't want their money to go to waste?

New Office of Health Transformation wants your ideas

Make Medicaid recommendations or share best practices you've seen that achieve better health, better care or cost savings. Or suggest which ineffective programs should go. The Office wants "to create incentives to promote better care, not more care or the wrong care," according to Director Greg Moody.

Such incentives were incorporated into Gov. Kasich's proposed budget for fiscal years 2012 and 2013 to:

- Coordinate care for Medicaid recipients.
- Treat the whole person, including physical and behavioral health.
- Give Ohioans choices to live with dignity where they prefer, such as their own homes.
- Reset payment rules for hospitals, managed care plans and nursing facilities to reward value, not volume.
- Contain short-term Medicaid costs and ensure financial stability over time.

The State House of Representatives recently passed a general fund budget that largely reflected the governor's proposals. The House suggested increased spending for the PASSPORT Medicaid health coverage program for services in home and community settings, while cutting spending to nursing home operators. The State Senate will consider the budget next.

What you can do

- Watch developments that impact Medicaid recipients, especially seniors.
- Check out the Office of Health Transformation's website at <http://healthtransformation.ohio.gov>. They make it easy to sign up for email updates and share ideas for modernizing Medicaid. Click on the website's "Contact Us" tab.

A Caring Choice Releases Video - Family members explain why they trust A Caring Choice.
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Available Help: If you have questions regarding what type of non-skilled services are available and how to pay for them, call us at 513-574-4148.

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A Caring Choice provides In-Home Care Services to enable Cincinnati's elderly to safely remain in their homes. Services are personalized, affordable, available 7 days per week - 24 hours per day and include: cooking, cleaning, laundry, transportation, personal hygiene assistance, companionship and medication reminders.

A Caring Choice, Inc. - 2010 Cincinnati USA Regional Chamber "Small Business of the Year" Runner Up

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