

PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF AGING



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Pennsylvania Long-Term Care Council
Potential Priorities/Strategies Based on Members' Feedback

Updated: Aug. 17, 2017

Priorities

- **Administrative Functions**
- **Adult Day Services**
- **Advance Directives**
- **Adult Protective Services**
- **Alzheimer's Disease & Related Disorders**
- **Assisted Living Residences**
- **Behavioral/Mental Health**
- **Community Health Choices**
- **Consumer Choice**
- **Consumer Education**
- **Home and Community-Based Service Wait Time**
- **Housing**
- **Informal Caregivers Support**
- **Language Diversity**
- **LGBT Senior Population**
- **Long-Term Care Insurance**
- **LTSS Funding**
- **Nursing Homes**
- **Nursing Home Transition Program**
- **Older Adult Protective Services**
- **Palliative Care Options**
- **Personal Care Homes**
- **Proposed Department of Health and Human Services**
- **Rebalancing**
- **Recruitment and Retention of Direct Care Workers**
- **Senior Community Centers**
- **Transitioning Individuals Born With Intellectual Disabilities**

Strategies

- **Administrative Functions**
 - Evaluate Independent Enrollment Broker to prevent service delays
- **Adult Day Services**
 - Examine the availability of this service option across the state
- **Alzheimer's Disease & Related Disorders**
 - Evaluate long-term services and supports for individuals living with Alzheimer's Disease and related disorders
- **Assisted Living Residences**
 - Evaluate third-party reimbursement (e.g., Medicaid Waiver)
- **Behavioral/Mental Health**
 - Examine behavioral health issues of senior citizens who are least 60 years of age, including limitations regarding the definition of behavioral health (e.g., does not include dementia) and funding (e.g., only includes certain causes)
 - Provide integrated mental health services to participants receiving home care
- **Community Health Choices**
 - Evaluate Community Health Choices (CHC) to prevent service delays
 - Assess educational efforts and assistance for accessing services
- **Consumer Choice**
 - Evaluate methods by which participants can accept personal risk when health and safety might be increased when exercising choice
- **Consumer Education**
 - Enhance education to seniors on available care options, including differences between options (e.g., assisted living versus nursing homes, etc.)

Strategies

- **Home and Community-Based Service Wait Time**
 - Implement presumptive eligibility (Aging Waiver)
 - Develop model of how to fund the program (Act 150)
 - Review enrollment issues
- **Informal Caregivers Support**
 - Encourage businesses to provide benefits (e.g., flextime, telecommuting, etc.) to allow employees to care for aging parents
 - Investigate adopting the United Way's "United for Caregivers @ Work" initiative in other geographic areas throughout the commonwealth
 - Provide/enhance education on the following: the Caregiver Advise, Record and Enable (CARE) Act; the LINK Program (ADRCs); advance directives; and qualifying hospital stays and long-term care coverage
- **Language Diversity**
 - Evaluate language barriers and outreach in various languages
 - Evaluate translation costs and impact on other services
- **LGBT Senior Population**
 - Educate the workforce on the needs of LGBT individuals
 - Consider expanding AARP established LGBT workshops across the state
- **Long-Term Care Insurance**
 - Educate consumers on planning alternatives for meeting financial consequences of long-term care (LTC)
 - Require insurance companies licensed to offer hybrid or linked products, including annuities with LTC riders, in Pennsylvania to also offer stand-alone, individual LTC policies

Strategies

- **Long-Term Care Insurance - continued**

- Require insurance producers who sell life, accident, and health insurance to complete the initial and ongoing training required by Section 39a.9 of Title 31 of the Pennsylvania Code to qualify such producers to sell long-term care insurance
- Develop a standardized educational program to teach producers the value and basic structure of a comprehensive LTC policy
- Make Individual LTC policy premiums 100% deductible above the line for state and federal income tax purposes
- Educate Pennsylvania consumers on the asset protections provided through a Long-Term Care Partnership plan
- Educate and provide Pennsylvania businesses/employers with introductory basics on voluntary long-term care insurance options to share with employees and new hires
- Require LTC insurance carriers to allow policyholders to elect options to maintain their coverage when a rate increase is approved

- **LTSS Funding**

- Examine inadequate Medicaid rates
- Extend Aging Waiver to Assisted Living
- Evaluate federal proposals for funding Medicaid (e.g., block grants)

- **Nursing Homes**

- Examine how nursing homes treat and protect residents, quality of care/life issues, and the role of physicians
- Evaluate care coordination, staffing/licensure standards, and hospital discharge process
- Evaluate ways to enhance surveyors' understanding of the complexities of nursing homes

Strategies

- **Personal Care Homes**
 - Evaluate third-party reimbursement (e.g., Medicaid Waiver, increasing the state SSI boarding home supplement, etc.)
- **Rebalancing**
 - Examine other states to determine proper split
 - Evaluate social model versus medical model
- **Recruitment and Retention of Direct Care Workers**
 - Address compensation deficiency (e.g., living wage, paid time off, overtime, etc.)
 - Assess training (including cultural competency), job quality, working conditions/environment (e.g., increase minimum nursing home staffing levels)
 - Find creative ways to attract young people (e.g., Peace Corp-type model) and educate about positive attributes of profession
 - Remove red tape/over regulation
 - Engage workforce in the care they are providing, the mission
 - Gather information from paid direct care workers on their needs, problems, and points of view
 - Invite students, schools, and caregivers to provide ideas on workforce sustainability
- **Senior Community Centers**
 - Evaluate ways to support and engage senior community centers in serving as an information and referral source for older adults (e.g., home and community-based services, Community Health Choices, advance directives, etc.)

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Pennsylvania Long-Term Care Council
August 24, 2017

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