Provide more consumer information about assisted living

Issues:

- Assisted living is a fast-growing option for older Minnesotans who want accessible residences with services to help them live semi-independently.
- About 1,700 facilities with 69,000 beds are registered as housing with services establishments in Minnesota. Under state law, some of these establishments are also considered assisted living. Many vulnerable adults in assisted living settings receive Medical Assistance for home care and other services.
- Unlike nursing facilities, assisted living facilities are not licensed by the state or federal government. Data on the quality of services in these settings is not easy to find.
- The Department of Human Services purchases hundreds of millions of dollars in assisted living services through Medicaid-funded home and community-based services.
- Both DHS and families who pay for services want these services to be high quality and a good value.

Proposal:

Governor Tim Walz proposes creating an assisted living report card and a consumer and family survey to establish quality reporting in assisted living. This proposal includes:

- Surveying consumers and families to inform assisted living quality measures.
- Piloting quality measures and new data collection methods.
- Developing an online report card platform.
- Launching and maintaining the report card.

Benefits:

- Input from some of the 47,000 people who live in assisted living facilities, and up to 50,000 of their family and friends, will help future consumers make more consumer information available and prompt providers to improve quality.
- Data from the report card will help DHS understand trends in assisted living service delivery.

Fiscal impact:

- $1.73 million in FY 2020-21; $1.54 million in FY 2022-23
Related information:

- DHS vulnerable adult protection and elder abuse webpage: https://mn.gov/dhs/people-serve/adults/services/adult-protection/

DHS Communications: March 2019