

Home- and Community-Based Services Partners Panel Charter

Background

The Minnesota Department of Human Services (DHS) administers home and community-based services for a wide range of Minnesotans who need long-term support services. This includes persons of all ages with physical disabilities, intellectual and developmental disabilities, mental illness or other chronic health conditions.

Minnesota's goals for its long-term support system are to:

- Increase the proportion of individuals supported in the community;
- Increase the person-centeredness of our long-term care system;
- Increase the transparency of the system for consumers and funders; and
- Ensure an accountable, sustainable, quality support system for Minnesota's citizens.

In 2008 a Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) Expert Panel was convened to assist in developing a Profile of Minnesota's home and community-based services system and to discuss strategies for simplifying and otherwise improving Minnesota's HCBS. Since its inception, the HCBS Expert Panel has completed their work on the State LTC Profile, provided input into selection of Provider Performance Measures, engaged with DHS to consider issues and priorities, and supported sub-groups who explored detailed policy and program issues. In 2011, the work of the Expert Panel, newly renamed "Home- and Community-Based Services Partners Panel", will continue to evolve to meet the needs of the emerging HCBS system in Minnesota.

Charge

The Panel will support continuous improvement in the HCBS system by providing a communication link among the system's stakeholders and by supporting specific initiatives.

Communications

DHS and stakeholders will participate in the HCBS Partner Panel to:

1. Share information among members' networks to minimize "surprises" during this period of change and development.
2. Explore opportunities and challenges in meeting the long-term goals for HCBS system from diverse perspectives.
3. Provide information, input and feedback to one other regarding needs, concerns, benefits, and values related to the HCBS system of supports.
4. Provide information, input and feedback to one another about consequences and implications of proposed policy and practice changes.

5. Serve as communication liaisons between DHS and their various constituencies by disseminating critical information to them and collecting and reporting responses to questions framed by DHS and by the Partners Panel at large.
6. Share information about research, advocacy, and other relevant activities.
7. Use email, website, listserv, and small group conversations to support information dissemination and shared decision making.

Initiatives

In this role, members of the Partners Panel will:

1. Participate (or recommend others to participate) in CCA-led HCBS-related work groups.
2. Provide support for development of an HCBS quality management system.
3. Support the HCBS Provider Report Card and the Continuing Care Dashboard.
4. Provide stakeholder involvement in programs that support the Money Follows the Person initiative.
5. Support integration of employment with other parts of the HCBS system.

Expected Outcomes

- Common, system-wide understanding of the opportunities and constraints that shape the Minnesota HCBS system.
- Consistent access to information regarding DHS policy, strategy, and activities regarding HCBS.
- Continuous improvement in performance of the HCBS system and its various components across the state.
- Successful completion of HCBS-related projects and initiatives.

Membership

The Partners Panel will be composed of individuals with expert knowledge and experience with long-term support services, including representatives of consumer and family advocates, mental health advocates, county groups, existing advisory and policy groups, state agencies, and other related groups. Members of the Panel represent organizations that are engaged in state-wide activities to support HCBS.

Logistics

The Panel will be sponsored by the Continuing Care Administration of the Department of Human Services. Panel meetings will be facilitated and supported by DHS staff. It will meet alternate months.