

ACTION ALERT

SUPPORT FOR AUDIT OF FAMILY CARE

In the late part of 2009, several state legislators began to publicly express concerns related to the State of Wisconsin's Family Care Medicaid Waiver program. A few legislators urged consideration of state audit of the Family Care program. Those legislators took action after hearing from constituents.

At a January 13, 2010, public hearing, members of the Joint Committee on Audit heard testimony from several people expressing concerns about Wisconsin's Medicaid program. Many of the concerns expressed related to Family Care. As a result, committee members asked the State Auditor to develop a proposal for an audit that would focus on Family Care.

No committee action has taken place since that hearing. The current legislative general floor session ends on April 22, 2010. Any proposals not passed at that time will "die" with the end of the session.

NOW IS THE TIME TO CONTACT YOUR LEGISLATORS TO URGE THEM TO SUPPORT AN AUDIT OF THE FAMILY CARE PROGRAM.

To find out who your legislators are and how to contact them, go to:

<http://www.legis.wisconsin.gov/w3asp/waml/waml.aspx>

Please consider copying in the co-chairs of the Joint Committee on Audit on any correspondence with your legislators. The co-chairs of the Joint Committee on Audit are:

Senator Kathleen Vinehout
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(608) 267-2871 (FAX)
Sen.Vinehout@legis.wisconsin.gov

Representative Peter Barca
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Madison, WI 53708
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(608) 282-3664
Rep.Barca@legis.wisconsin.gov

The Arc-Wisconsin urges you to contact these legislators with your thoughts about an audit of Family Care. It is always best to include specific concerns and how those concerns directly impact you. Attached is a list of points that might help in any correspondence with legislators.

FAMILY CARE AUDIT POINTS TO CONSIDER

- Family Care just celebrated its 10th anniversary. Now is a good time for a thorough audit of the program to help get a better idea of areas parts of the program that are not operating as well as they should, as well as to get a better idea of those parts of Family Care that have been working well. It is critical that findings from an audit be used to improve, and not harm, the ability of Family Care to provide critical long-term care serves to people when such services are needed.
- A growing number of legislators have already publicly expressed support for an audit of Family Care.
- The findings from an audit would greatly assist legislators in developing Wisconsin's 2011-13 biennial budget.
- An audit could help uncover spending and service trends. Comparisons of trends over time and with trends derived from data in other states would be very helpful.
- Findings from an audit of Family Care could be used to improve other Medicaid programs.
- Many Family Care members and providers continue to express frustrations related to navigating the Family Care system.
- Many people have expressed concerns about duplicative services at the state, MCO and provider levels. The findings from an audit would help determine if such concerns are founded.
- Some Family Care members have complained about the loss of critical services. The findings from an audit would help shed some light on such complaints.
- While an audit of Family Care would be a major undertaking, the State Auditor has stated that such an audit would not require as much new data collection as one might expect. The audit would make use of much data that has already been collected.