

PRIORITY POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

During Spring 2010, four working groups studied the key issues and developed policy recommendations concerning Elder Economic Security, Workforce, Home and Community-Based Services, and Health and Disability Status. Attendees at the June Partner Summit then evaluated the recommendations and prioritized them. The recommendations below received the highest rankings.

1. Evaluate the state's current direct care workforce and make recommendations to improve recruitment and retention, as well as the development of standardized curriculum and/or certificate programs.
2. Develop a statewide plan for healthcare services and facilities for older adults and the disabled, which recognizes appropriate provider to care recipient ratios needed to provide comprehensive care to older adults and people with disabilities.
3. Promote home and community based services by eliminating all institutional bias in state law, policy, procedure, and practice.
4. Explore the implementation and potential funding sources for expanded home and community based services options including PACE, assisted living, adult day care, and other innovative new models.
5. Develop solutions to address the growing number of persons with dementia who will need long-term care support services, as well as better training for providers on managing behavioral challenges people with Alzheimer's disease may experience.
6. Convert Intermediate Care Facilities-Mental Retardation (ICF-MR) beds to waiver services to allow more residents of ICF-MRs to live in the community.
7. Conduct a study to identify why hospitals are reporting that hospitalizations from unintentional injury, suicide and overdoses have increased significantly for people age 60 or older.
8. Generate strategies to expand the use of hospice care across the state.
9. Conduct outreach to employers and consumers on the importance of participating in the newly enacted national, voluntary long-term care insurance program, which will be funded by opt-out payroll deductions.
10. Change the current assessment process for long-term care consumers to ensure that options and benefits counseling is occurring at the time of potential facility admission and that a presumptive eligibility or fast-track program is utilized.

