

PLEASE NOTE: Legislative Information **cannot** perform research, provide legal advice, or interpret Maine law. For legal assistance, please contact a qualified attorney.

Resolve, To Implement the Recommendations of the Report on Services for Elders and Other Adults Who Need Long-term Home-based and Community-based Care

Preamble. Whereas, as a result of legislation in the 124th Legislature, the Department of Health and Human Services engaged over 30 interested parties in a so-called "lean thinking" process that examined Maine's system of long-term services and supports; and

Whereas, this process resulted in a report to the Legislature that included recommendations and a specific Lean Implementation Plan; and

Whereas, the Lean Implementation Plan contains important changes and modifications that improve the efficiency, cost#effectiveness and quality of services delivered to consumers of long#term services; and

Whereas, it is the intent of the 125th Legislature to promote equity and optimize consumer use by streamlining the long#term care system into one structure that meets all long#term care needs within existing resources; now, therefore, be it

Sec. 1 Plan adoption. Resolved: That the Commissioner of Health and Human Services, within the limits of existing resources, shall adopt the Lean Implementation Plan effective July 1, 2012 and make its action items a work priority. For the purposes of this resolve, "Lean Implementation Plan" means the plan developed as part of the report prepared for the 124th Legislature by the Department of Health and Human Services entitled "Services for Elders and Other Adults Who Need Long-Term Home# and Community-Based Care," dated January 20, 2010; and be it further

Sec. 2 Elements. Resolved: That the specific action items under section 1 include, but are not limited to:

1. Consolidating the 2 existing waivers for adult and elderly community-based services, currently codified under MaineCare rule as Chapter II, Section 19 and Section 22 and taking any appropriate action with the United States Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to achieve the consolidation;

2. Consolidating the 2 personal care assistant programs currently codified under MaineCare rule as Chapter II, Section 12 and Section 96, exploring the feasibility of providing homemaker services under the consolidated programs and taking any appropriate action with the United States Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to achieve the consolidation;

3. Consolidating the 2 state#funded in-home care and community support services programs for elderly and other adults, currently codified under Chapter 65, Section 63 of the Office of Elder Services manual and Chapter 11 of the Office of Cognitive and Physical Disabilities Services manual;

4. Developing a long-term care services statewide plan that ensures access to care in the least restrictive environment;

5. Maximizing federal opportunities available through the United States Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services;

6. Consolidating the 3 existing consumer-directed service models into a single uniform self-directed model;

7. Maximizing individualization and flexibility of plan of care to ensure that appropriate and timely services are provided, including, but not limited to, allowing a care coordinator to make adjustments within a plan of care without requiring a new assessment as long as the net adjustment remains below the maximum value under the consumer's level of care;

8. Improving value and respect for direct care workers through initiatives that include, but are not limited to, creating strategy and standards for ensuring workforce training for all persons accountable to the long-term care system and exploring the feasibility of equalizing hourly reimbursement rates across the direct care worker continuum; and

9. Designing and establishing effective quality management strategy across funding streams and population groups to ensure a high-quality long-term care service system; and be it further

Sec. 3 Report. Resolved: That the Commissioner of Health and Human Services shall report to the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services on the progress of the Department of Health and Human Services in completing the Lean Implementation Plan action items under sections 1 and 2 by January 5, 2012.