



Ohio Association of Area Agencies on Aging
Advocacy. Action. Answers on Aging.

Larke Recchie
Executive Director

June 13, 2017

Ohio Association of
Area Agencies on
Aging (o4a)

88 E. Broad St.
Suite 870
Columbus, OH 43215
Phone: 614/481-3511
Fax: 614/481-3566
o4a@ohioaging.org
www.ohioaging.org

Barbara Sears, Director
Ohio Department of Medicaid
50 West Town Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Dear Director Sears:

Ohio's Area Agencies on Aging have been consistently voicing our concerns about the expansion of managed care to long term services and supports since the Governor's budget proposed a move to managed long-term services and supports (MLTSS) in February of this year. We are grateful for the on-going dialogue that was established with the Ohio Department of Medicaid (ODM) and the Ohio Department of Aging (ODA) as well as with members of the Ohio legislature. We are pleased that you listened to our concerns about the impact on individuals receiving home and community based services, and the local providers who serve them particularly as it relates to concerns about timely access to services, prompt payment to providers, and continuity of coordination and services. As a result, we offer our support for a MLTSS system in Ohio that includes provisions we have discussed that address those concerns.

The Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs) have been administering home and community-based services and managing providers for older adults for over 25 years and have more recently been among the care coordinators for individuals under age 60 receiving home and community services. Additionally, seven of the twelve AAAs are integral partners in Ohio's managed care MyCare demonstration. We have experience with both fee for service home and community-based services, and managed long term services and supports (MLTSS). This experience and our role as regionally based organizations embedded in our communities are the basis of our advocacy on MLTSS. Our ultimate commitment is to the consumers we serve and the local providers we partner with, not the payer.

We support the legislature's proposal to create a diverse Advisory Committee to assist the State with design and implementation of MLTSS. Your commitment to requiring AAAs to perform the role of waiver service coordinator for the MLTSS managed plans selected by the state will provide the continuity of services and local community expertise as in the MyCare Ohio demonstration.

We further applaud the commitment to provide opportunities to develop innovative models to further include AAAs in the delivery of home and community-based services. Managed care plans in other states, particularly California, have used a similar model with their AAAs. We feel that this last component can address many of the concerns you have heard regarding delays in services for consumers and payment for providers, especially those in rural Ohio.

Should the state take managed care forward to this new arena of services, these provisions along with the other additional technical provisions ODM has recently shared with us to be included would be a large step in the right direction. We support all these efforts to address the concerns for continuity of coordinated services, consumer access to services and for timely provider payment in an Ohio MLTSS program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Larke Recchie". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Larke Recchie

CEO

Cc: Speaker of the House Cliff Rosenberger
Senate President Larry Obhof
Director Stephanie Loucka
Patrick Stephen