

## Proposed Long Term Care Changes

### FAQ's

- Why make any changes at all?
  - The single biggest cost-driver in our budget is Medicaid, cost-to-continue
  - This last budget, of the \$1 billion in new revenue that the state saw, \$700 million had to go straight to Medicaid just to keep it running
  - Medicaid has gone from 8% of the state budget to 17% in just 3 budgets
  - Doing nothing is not an option
  - Integrating acute and primary care with long term care services ensures participants continue to get quality service while providing a better value for taxpayers
  
- Why isn't IRIS being maintained as a separate program?
  - Largely to do with the points above—the future of healthcare is integration
  - The reason it is a separate program in the first place is because IRIS is mandated by the feds as a FamilyCare alternative
  - All this does is fold the administrative side of IRIS into one entity This is a reflection of our commitment to making self-direction permanent in Wisconsin
  
- Why are you opening the doors to for-profit insurance companies to push out local MCO's?
  - Short answer: we're not
    - One of the reasons JFC went with a regional plan is to ensure that currently operating MCO's would have an opportunity to continue on. The statewide plan proposed by Governor Walker would not have offered that option

- Why are you taking away IRIS?
  - Again, short answer: We're not
    - Our long term care plan continues the statewide expansion of FamilyCare and IRIS to the counties that did not already have it. Our plan is still several years away from being implemented and, until then, **FamilyCare and IRIS continue as is.**
    - Our plan defines “self-directed care” in state statute, a protection that IRIS has never had
    - Our plan mandates that self-directed care be offered as an option in FamilyCare
    - It mandates that each participant have budget authority, as well as the ability to hire and fire their own personal care workers
    - Most important, all services currently covered under IRIS **must be offered** under the new plan.
  
- How can we be sure there is real oversight of this plan as it is drafted?
  - The legislature has mandated that DHS consult with consumers, providers, and the public during their process
  - DHS will hold public hearings
  - The plan also requires DHS to come back to Joint Finance with a draft plan, which JFC can approve, or not, as it so chooses