



## Medicaid Redesign Talking Points

January 18, 2011

With the Cuomo Administration poised to redesign the health care system, there's never been more at stake, nor has there been a greater opportunity for transforming aging services. How would you redesign the Medicaid program? What are your cost-saving ideas? The best ideas will come from your own experiences. Here are a few things to consider:

- Have you developed a program or a process that is cost-effective and improves outcomes?
- Have you or families/consumers struggled to access the most appropriate care for an elderly or disabled consumer?
- Are there rules, regulations or administrative processes that make your job more difficult or prevent consumers from accessing the care that is most appropriate and that they prefer?

Here are some talking points to get you started:

Why we support the redesign of senior services:

- Consumers are seeking more freedom of choice with regard to how and where they receive services. The foundation of care is shifting from traditional institutions and segregated services to new nursing home models, independent housing with supports, residential care options such as assisted living, an array of home- and community-based services and organized systems of care such as PACE.
- In the absence of a strategic framework to promote collaboration and an organized continuum of services, resources from the health care field, social services sector, entrepreneurial ventures and housing sector have been cobbled together to form the current LTC system.
- Without an overall LTC policy agenda driving decision-making, policymakers have taken a piecemeal approach to developing programs and have allowed budget cuts to determine policy. This approach has left the elderly and disabled and their families guessing what service options are available in their communities and which options fill their LTC and other needs.
- On a daily basis, providers are confronted with the effects of fragmented regulatory and reimbursement systems that do not reflect the changing needs of an aging population.

High-level strategies for the state and key stakeholders to undertake to redesign senior services in New York:

- Home- and community-based services, other non-institutional alternatives and new nursing home models should be made more widely available by addressing issues of service capacity, housing supply, capital financing, reimbursement, regulation, program administration, technology and transportation.
- More flexible use of personnel and support for formal and informal caregivers are needed to ensure access to services.

- Service delivery must reflect accountability and shared risk among patients, providers and payers.
- Care and services should be coordinated and organized, using creative models, health information technology and a uniform assessment and standardized service authorization process.
- The state should provide incentives for consumers to take financial responsibility for their long term care and restrict divestment of assets to qualify for Medicaid. The state should also enhance Medicaid estate recovery efforts.