



## HEA 1391 Report, Part 2 Comments

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments as you begin your work on the HEA 1391 Report, Part 2. LeadingAge Indiana, IHCA, and HOPE have been working with Medicaid on a 5-8 year plan for nursing home reimbursement and other components of the long term services and supports system in Indiana and have provided recommendations for consideration in this planning process. These recommendations address many of the issues identified for your recent public hearing and have been attached for your consideration.

As I understand the purpose of the hearings, the Division is interested in identification of any data sources, research, and other information that will help in addressing the issues identified and if there are any other areas that should be included for consideration.

Based on the areas noted in the public hearing notice, here are some resources that could be useful:

- <http://www.leadingage.org/CAST.aspx> - The Center for Aging Services Technology is part of our national affiliate, LeadingAge. The LeadingAge Center for Aging Services Technologies (CAST) is focused on development, evaluation and adoption of emerging technologies that will transform the aging experience. As an international coalition of more than 400 technology companies, aging-services organizations, businesses, research universities and government representatives, CAST works under the auspices of LeadingAge, an association of 5,500 not-for-profit organizations dedicated to expanding the world of possibilities for aging. They can be a great resource on the issues of telehealth and remote patient monitoring. I can connect them to you for any specific information you might need.
- [http://www.leadingage.org/Center\\_for\\_Housing\\_Plus\\_Services.aspx](http://www.leadingage.org/Center_for_Housing_Plus_Services.aspx) - This is another center at LeadingAge dedicated to how affordable housing and services can be integrated. Changing the balance between institutional and home and community based services will require that affordable congregate senior housing is more available. These settings are not only attractive to seniors but also provide an efficient platform for service delivery. LeadingAge and LeadingAge Indiana represent the nonprofit HUD 202 affordable housing projects in the US and Indiana. I can connect you to resources at this center for more information, experiences in other states, and advice.

Other areas to specific attention or research would be:

- Eligibility determination for the Medicaid Waiver in assisted living. The time frame for eligibility needs to be a lot quicker through presumptive eligibility or other mechanisms. This is a particular need for persons who spend down in assisted living. Another option is



determining if there is a way to pay back to the date of application for assisted living instead of the date of eligibility.

- You might look at the Housing with Services Establishment program in Minnesota for ideas on expanding options in congregate settings. I can put you in touch with staff at our affiliate in Minnesota.
- Scrapping preadmission screening and replacing it with a more targeted and effective options counseling approach will be critically important in rebalancing the system. While making people aware of the availability of options counseling while in the hospital is important, it is often too early to determine what setting will eventually be most appropriate for them. If they are going into a SNF for a Medicare stay, this seems to be the most appropriate time for targeted options counseling, especially for Medicaid beneficiaries.

I hope this is helpful and look forward to being part of the planning process. Please let me know how I can be of assistance.

Jim Leich, President/CEO  
LeadingAge Indiana