

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Authors: Thissen and others

Subject: Community Consortium Demonstration Project; Waiver Expenses

Analyst: Randall Chun, 651-296-8639

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Overview

This bill requires the commissioner of human services to establish an older adult services community consortium demonstration project and specifies project requirements. The bill requires specified grant funds to be transferred to a community consortium account and requires the commissioner to evaluate the project and report to the legislature. The bill also classifies costs related to physical activities as allowable expenses for home and community-based waiver programs.

Section

- 1** **Costs associated with physical activities.** Amends § 256B.092, by adding subdivision 4c. Effective upon federal approval, classifies costs associated with physical exercise or other physical activities included in the person's individual service plan as an allowed expense for the MR/RC waiver, to the extent the costs will not increase the person's annual budget amount. Requires the commissioner to submit an amendment to CMS by October 1, 2008 .
- 2** **Costs associated with physical activities.** Amends § 256B.49, by adding subdivision 22. Effective upon federal approval, classifies costs associated with physical exercise or other physical activities included in the person's individual service plan as an allowed expense for the CAC, CADI, and TBI waivers, to the extent the costs will not increase the person's annual budget amount. Requires the commissioner to submit an amendment to CMS by October 1, 2008 .
- 3** **Older adult services community consortiums.**

Section

Subd. 1. Establishment. (a) Requires the commissioner of human services, in cooperation with the commissioners of health and housing finance, to develop and implement, beginning July 1, 2009, a three-year demonstration project for older adult services community consortiums. States that a consortium may consist of health care and social service providers, county agencies, health plan companies, and other community stakeholders within a demonstration site, that have established a process for joint decision-making. Demonstration sites may include a portion of a county, an entire county, or multiple counties.

(b) Requires each community consortium seeking to participate to submit an application to the commissioner. Lists requirements for the application.

(c) Requires the commissioner to establish a process to review and consider applicants. Requires the commissioner to designate up to three community consortiums as demonstration sites.

(d) Requires each community consortium selected to participate to establish a local group to assist in planning, designing, implementing, and evaluating the coordinated service delivery system within the demonstration site. Requires planning to build upon current planning processes developed by county gaps analyses and Elder Care Development Partnerships.

Subd. 2. Goals. States that the community consortium demonstration project is intended to accelerate the development of community-based services to fill identified gaps through use of a pool of funds and flexibility in their use and distribution. Requires projects to be designed to:

(1) ensure consumer access to a continuum of older adult services;

(2) create an adequate supply of affordable home-based alternatives to care for persons currently using nursing facilities, or likely to need nursing facility services in the future;

(3) establish and achieve measurable performance targets for care delivered throughout the continuum of care; and

(4) support the management of chronic and complex conditions through greater coordination of all services needed by older adults.

Subd. 3. Priority for other grants. Requires the commissioner of health to give priority to community consortiums selected as demonstration sites when awarding technology-related grants. Requires the commissioner of the housing finance agency to give priority to community consortiums selected as demonstration sites when funding projects to create or preserve affordable housing options for older adults. Requires the commissioner of transportation shall give priority to community consortiums selected as demonstration sites when distributing transportation-related

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funds to create transportation options for older adults.

Subd. 4. Federal approval. Requires the commissioner of human services to request any federal approvals or waivers necessary to implement the community consortiums under MA and to include MA funding in the community consortium account.

Subd. 5. State waivers. Requires the commissioner of health to waive applicable state laws and rules on a time-limited basis, if the commissioner determines that a consortium requires a waiver in order to achieve project goals.

Subd. 6. Quality measures. (a) Requires consortiums to report information to the commissioner necessary to evaluate the demonstration project. Requires the information collected to include both process and outcome measures, including but not limited to measures related to enrollee satisfaction, service delivery, service coordination, service access, use of technology, individual outcomes, and costs.

(b) Requires consortiums to identify state policies that limit the extent to which project goals can be achieved and recommend necessary changes to the appropriate state agencies.

Subd. 7. Community consortium account; financing. (a) Requires the commissioner of finance to establish a community consortium account for the purpose of collecting funds for distribution to the selected community consortiums. Requires funds to be collected from the following existing grant programs, and transferred as follows to the community consortium account prior to awarding of the demonstration grants:

(1) 10 percent of any funds appropriated for the biennium ending June 30, 2011 , for the nursing home moratorium exceptions process;

(2) 10 percent of the funds appropriated for the biennium ending June 30, 2011, for community service and community services development grants; and

(3) 10 percent of the funds appropriated for the biennium ending June 30, 2011 , for nursing facility performance grants.

(b) Allows money in the community consortium account to be used by the commissioner of human services to provide grants to participating community consortiums.

(c) Allows funds available from closure of nursing facility beds within a demonstration site to be used to fund consortium-related activities, if the closed beds have not been claimed as a planned closure rate adjustment.

(d) Allows the commissioner of human services, in consultation with the

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commissioner of health, to approve moratorium exception projects that are part of applications submitted by demonstration sites. Specifies criteria for this funding.

Subd. 8. Evaluation and report. Requires the commissioner of human services, in cooperation with the commissioners of health and housing finance, to evaluate the demonstration project, and report findings and recommendations to the legislature by November 15, 2011 , on whether the project should be continued and whether the number of sites increased. Specifies report criteria. Allows the commissioner to use up to \$50,000 of the funding provided to each participating consortium to fund the evaluation and report.