

## **Funding Model for Aging and Disability Resource Center**

*The citizens of Northwest Wisconsin request:*

- **That Department of Human Services modifies the ADRC funding model to accommodate for the unique needs of Northwestern Wisconsin.**

Since the initial allocations were introduced in 2007, representatives from Northwest Wisconsin have maintained that the methodology used to calculate allocations for Aging and Disability Resource Centers (ADRC) were flawed. Estimating and allocating funding based on 1% of the statewide population of adults 18 and over put our region at a significant disadvantage, since Northwest Wisconsin is more sparsely populated and it has a higher concentration of adults with disabilities than many other areas of the state. In addition we felt, and the State has recently acknowledged, that tasks were allotted insufficient time when the funding model was developed. The result has been a number of changes to the contract that reduce the expectations and, consequently, the amount of resources needed to provide ADRC services. Unfortunately, more must be done to allow for regional Aging and Disability Resource Centers in our region to continue to provide exemplary ADRC services to the residents of Northwest Wisconsin.

### **The problems:**

1. Allocations do not adequately represent the time necessary to allow for tasks to be completed.
2. Basing the allocation on 1% of the population does not provide adequate funding for: the elderly and disabled populations in the region; the extensive travel required to provide services in Northwest Wisconsin; or enough funding for the necessary Disability Benefit Specialist positions needed for the region.
3. Funding has not been designated to allow for computer access for the Tribal Aging and Disability Resource Specialist positions.
4. In spite of the State's focus on regionalization of services, the State's contract with Synergy/Harmony does not support a regional approach to sharing data and we continue to struggle with capacity and response issues with "encounter" reporting done through the Beacon System.
5. Although some changes have been made that will allow greater flexibility in providing some services due to the lack of sufficient funding, this approach is in direct conflict with the franchise model that the state strongly supports.

### **The proposed solutions:**

1. Provide additional funding.
2. Revise the allocation methodology to reflect the state's elderly and disabled population, rather than the state's population over 18 and use modifiers for services that will cost more to provide in difficult to serve areas such as ours.
3. Provide funding directly to the tribes to allow Tribal Aging and Disability Resource so that they have independent access to Beacon, SAMS and the Aging Network.
4. Review the state contracts with vendors such as Synergy/Harmony to address any barriers to regionalization and make the appropriate changes.
5. Require that systems issues with Beacon are addressed so that Aging and Disability Resource Centers across the state can gain efficiency and reduce duplication of effort and cost because the data cannot be entered in real time.
6. Consider revisions to the state contract so that one standard set of expectations can be used for all of the ADRCs statewide. This may mean a reduction in service.

For more information contact:

Elizabeth Skulan, Bayfield County DHS Director

Telephone: (715) 373-6144

Email: [eskulan@bayfieldcounty.org](mailto:eskulan@bayfieldcounty.org)