

**AGING AND DISABILITY RESOURCE CENTER
REGIONAL APPLICATION FOR FUNDING**

Historical Analysis

With the advent of managed long term care, Aging and Disability Resource Centers (ADRC)'s are being utilized as the central entry point for information, assistance and managed care enrollment. Managed long term care in Wisconsin has proven to be a cost-effective way to provide community-based long term care services to people who are elderly, frail or have disabilities. Managed long term care eliminates waiting lists for services which have contributed to these people's loss of independence and ability to remain in their homes or other non-institutional settings as desired.

Since the pilot's began in 2001, the Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services (DHFS) has been working to develop regional centers across the state. Sauk County has been planning to apply as part of a regional ADRC planning consortium to establish a Regional ADRC serving the residents of Crawford, Juneau, Richland and Sauk Counties with satellite offices located in each county. The implementation of this Regional ADRC and managed long term care is anticipated to begin in Sauk County in mid-2008.

The Department is providing funding to groups of counties which plan to provide ADRC services according to a regional model. This funding is allocated via an annual contract between the Department and the Regional Lead Agency. For this region Richland County will fulfill the duties of the Regional ADRC and enter into contracts with each partner county to provide the local ADRC core functions and services.

Scope

In the past, the core functions of an ADRC have been provided by a variety of departments in varying degrees. Consumers were given the counsel available to them based upon the focus of the department from which they sought assistance and the knowledge base and referral abilities of that department. Those who did reach the point of applying for long term care benefits were frequently placed on a waiting list for services because the benefits were not considered an entitlement and instead were dependent on the funding structure for the services. This funding structure was not a managed care system. Once funding was exhausted, all others who were eligible and chose to apply were required to wait until funding was available.

The ADRC model centralizes all these services and function to avoid duplication of efforts and to provide the consumer with one location through which all the information and assistance they seek may be gained. The over-arching vision of the ADRC model is that with early intervention, options counseling and prevention activities provided by the ADRC, the number of people who ultimately become dependent upon the managed long term care system will be reduced because enrollment will be delayed or avoided entirely. This preemptive approach and grouping together of staff and functions from across existing departments and agencies into a one-stop shopping model is a significant change in the delivery of services.

The Southwest Wisconsin Care Management Coalition has completed approximately two years of consortia planning activities to implement the managed long term care system. The Regional ADRC Workgroup is ready to make application for funding. Similarly, the eight county Human Service Department partners are planning for a county-based managed care organization to better deliver long term care benefits and services. The Board of Supervisors has received frequent updates on the Coalition's planning efforts.

Issue / Policy Statement

The resolution anticipates that based on the preliminary planning and groundwork established by the Coalition, the Commission on Aging and the Continuum of Care Planning Committees, it is the will of the Board of Supervisors to apply for funding and participate in the Regional ADRC serving Crawford, Juneau, Richland and Sauk Counties in collaboration with the Regional ADRC serving Grant, Green, Iowa and Lafayette Counties.

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Financial Analysis

This regional approach has been shown to be more cost efficient than single county ADRCs by leveraging the economies of scale for expenses relating to functions such as staff training, administration, marketing and resource database management. The State has budgeted for funding to support the ongoing implementation of regional ADRCs with evidence that the savings from the managed care system will sustain the cost of ADRC services and long term care benefits.

No local tax levy is required to match this funding. The services will be provided as the contractual funding is made available.

Policy Alternatives

There are only two options available to the Board. If Sauk County desires to be a Family Care County it must provide for the “intake” of persons into the care network. Access to information and the network occurs through the Aging and Disability Resource Center.

Authorizing Sauk County to apply as a regional partner with the Southwest Wisconsin Regional Aging and Disability Resource Center will allow for centralized ADRC services including: information, assistance and options counseling.

Policy Recommendation

The Continuum of Care Planning Committee recommends applying for funding for the ADRC as part of the Southwest Regional Aging and Disability Resource Center.