

Ohio Association of Area Agencies on Aging 2008-09 State Budget Platform

April 2007

AAAs Support the concept of a Unified Budget for long-term care that:

Provides the opportunity to eliminate funding silos, allowing consumers greater choice when long-term care needs arise.

Becomes the next natural progression to the planning and system development that Ohio's aging network has been moving towards for years through the expansion of the PASSPORT system, the addition of an Assisted Living waiver, the use of Home First, Money Follows the Person projects and other cost-saving initiatives.

Supports the care management system operated by the AAAs and aging network.

Continues to strengthen and support the capacity of access points so individuals and families are informed when they need information and assistance.

Addresses home and community-based provider rate issues.

Studies the existing Resident State Supplement program and re-designs it to fit the supportive needs of eligible individuals and to make it a more viable option within the long-term system of care.

Contains Medicaid costs while preparing for an increasing older population.

AAAs Support PASSPORT funding levels that:

Provide PASSPORT home care when eligible consumers and families need it - a key element of re-balancing Ohio's LTC system.

Include the Home First concept of funding so that funds supporting an individual in a nursing facility may be utilized to support their in-home care services.

Adequately reimburse providers with incentives that continue to maintain quality services and accommodate needs of a growing aging population.

(OVER)

AAAs Support continued development of the Assisted Living Medicaid waiver that:

Recognizes Assisted Living as a critical component of Ohio's Medicaid LTC system.

Changes the current eligibility (limited to individuals on Medicaid and in a nursing facility or on a community-based waiver such as PASSPORT) so that individuals who have paid privately will not have to leave an Assisted Living facility and enter a Nursing Home when they would rather remain in the lower cost setting.

Develops incentives to secure more waiver providers across Ohio.

AAAs Support expansion of Senior Community Services targeted to non-Medicaid individuals so that:

Basic care such as meals, homemaker, medical transportation, adult day health and others is available - often the key to allowing a person to stay in the community and to avoid entering the Medicaid system.

Services grow in proportion to the population needing such service.

The 28% drop in funds since 2000 is reversed.

AAAs Support a system of elder rights and protection to those most vulnerable including:

Statewide access to an adequately funded system of Adult Protective Services.

Adequate funding for the expanding role of the Long-Term Care Ombudsman.

AAAs Support Homestead Exemption expansion that:

Eases the property tax burden for older homeowners.

Supports individuals remaining in their own homes and communities.
