



Eric Holcomb, Governor
State of Indiana

DIVISION OF AGING
MS 21, 402W. WASHINGTON STREET, P.O. BOX 7083
INDIANAPOLIS, IN 46207-7083
TOLL FREE: 1-888-673-0002
FAX: 317-232-7867

Indiana Long Term Care Ombudsman Program

July 17, 2017

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Indiana's Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) Modernization Plan.

I serve as the state's Long Term Care Ombudsman and our twenty part and full time Ombudsmen advocate for residents in nursing homes, group homes and assisted living settings licensed by the Indiana State Department of Health.

I wish to commend the State's Family and Social Services Administration's Division of Aging on their forward vision for Indiana's aging and disabled population as evidenced by their multi-faceted efforts to modernize their HCBS program.

As long-term care advocates Ombudsmen see populations with wide ranges of needs, capacities and disabilities. In one setting, assisted living, we see a population that is benefitting from the expansion of the Medicaid Waiver program with varied and person-centered options. The expansion of the waiver assisted living program offers a protected and safe environment for residents to enhance their personal choices for social, recreational and community engagement.

As we advocate for residents in long-term care settings we see those individuals that are receiving rehabilitation services and who often could benefit from home and community based services when their return to their homes. We meet with long-term residents who have previously benefited from home and community-based services; those services have allowed many of these residents to delay their admission to a long-term care setting.

These are all pieces on a continuum of care that offers options and opportunities to meet needs in the least restrictive of environments as our population ages. Options from a purely social model that attempts to avoid isolation; through home delivered meals and home-delivered health care; to assistance in activities of daily living with hands-on care in a congregate setting are all essential and valuable to our growing elder population in Indiana.

Karen G. Gilliland, Director
State Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program

