

MICHIGAN LONG-TERM CARE SUPPORTS AND SERVICES COMMISSION **Workgroup on Workforce Development**

Charge to Workgroup:

- Review and monitor the implementation of recommendation # 8 of the Medicaid Long-Term Care Task Force.
- Engage their members, volunteers, and constituencies in advocacy for the successful implementation of the Task Force recommendations.
- Assist the Commission in being an effective and visible consumer advocate for improving the access to a quality long-term care and supports workforce.
- Present findings and recommendations regularly to the Commission for next steps and potential changes in policy that would encourage more effective and the high quality provision of long-term direct care, services and support.
- Ensure all recommendations:
 - Involve consumers and broad public participation in planning.
 - Promote an array of long-term care services and supports.
 - Promote the concept of money (funding) following the person to wherever that person chooses to live.
 - Assure evaluation is addressed.
 - Assure consistency with the overall commission process for statewide impact.

Background

Task Force Recommendation # 8: Michigan Should Build and Sustain Culturally Competent, Highly Valued, Competitively Compensated, and Knowledgeable LTC Workforce Teams that Provide High Quality Care within a Supportive Environment and are Responsive to Consumer Needs and Choices.

Strategies / Action Steps

1. Develop within the Michigan Works! Agencies (MWA) network, recruitment and screening protocols and campaigns that meet the needs of employers and job seekers.
2. Recast the state's Work First program to recruit, screen, train, and support individuals who demonstrate the desire, abilities, and commitment to work in LTC settings.
3. Develop recruitment campaigns to attract men, older workers, people of diverse cultural backgrounds, and people with disabilities to long-term care careers.
4. Mobilize state agencies' activities to include the research, exploration, explanation, and promotion of career opportunities in long-term care.
5. Improve and increase training opportunities for direct care workers to allow for enhanced skill development and employability.
6. Increase training opportunities for employers to improve supervision and create a positive work environment.
7. Reduce the rates of injury and exposure to hazardous materials to protect the current workforce and encourage new workers to join this workforce because of the sector's safety record.
8. Raise Medicaid reimbursement rates and other incentives so that the LTC workforce receives compensation necessary to receive quality care as defined by the consumer.

9. Expand the ability of all long-term care employers and their employees, particularly their part-time employees, to access affordable health care coverage for themselves and their families.
10. The Department of Human Services (DHS), Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH), Michigan Office of Services to the Aging (OSA), Department of Labor and Economic Growth (DLEG) and other state agencies should work collaboratively to identify standards and benchmarks ensuring that direct care workers are key partners and team members in providing quality care and supports.
11. Develop health professional curricula and reform current practice patterns to reflect the changing needs of the population. Recognize the unique needs of the elderly; people with chronic health problems; people approaching end-of-life; people of all ages with disabilities; and those in need of rehabilitative and restorative services across LTC and acute care settings.
12. LTC administration will track employment trends, including turnover rates.

Benchmarks

1. Measurable increase in LTC employer use of MWA services and in LTC employer hiring of Work First participants.
2. More qualified Work First participants are recruited and successfully employed in the LTC industry, while continuing their education for entry into licensed occupations.
3. Higher compensation packages and increased training opportunities.
4. Continuously and incrementally reduced turnover rates over the next decade.
5. All people working in LTC have access to affordable health care coverage.
6. Increased use of creative management and workplace practices.
7. Use of data and consumer satisfaction to inform a system of services, state policies, and employer practices that result in consumer-driven outcomes.
8. Increased opportunities and incentives for LTC employers and their supervisory personnel to improve supervisory and leadership skills to create positive workplace environments and relationships to reduce turnover.

For more information, go to www.michigan.gov/ltc and the section on the LTC Supports and Services Advisory Commission.

To join the LTCSS Advisory Commission's Workforce Development Workgroup or one of its issue committees (Data, Health Care, CNA training, Michigan Works Agencies, or LPN/RN training), contact Hollis Turnham of PHI at 517.327.0331 or HTurnham@PHInational.org