



Governor's Office of Health Transformation

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February 23, 2011

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Aging and Medicaid Directors Participate in Event on Coordinated Care

COLUMBUS – Ohio Department of Aging Director Bonnie Kantor-Burman and Ohio Medicaid Director John McCarthy provided introductory remarks and welcomed the keynote speaker, Charles Milligan, JD, MPH, executive director of The Hilltop Institute, at a forum this morning about coordinating health care for Ohioans who are “dual-eligible,” or eligible for coverage through both Medicare and Medicaid. The event, “Innovations in Integrated Care: New Opportunities to Better Serve Dual Eligibles,” was sponsored by the Ohio Association of Health Plans and the Ohio Association of Area Agencies on Aging.

Milligan discussed opportunities to integrate services and help these patients transition from nursing facilities to a home health care setting. Home health care often results in better health outcomes and higher quality of life for the patient at a lower overall cost. Milligan presented research showing that proper care coordination can reduce the number and length of hospital and nursing facility visits.

“I am thrilled that this topic is being discussed,” said Director Kantor-Burman. “Working to coordinate care between Medicare and Medicaid results in common-sense health care that best serves the patient, not the institution. By working through the Office of Health Transformation to better integrate services, Ohio can improve the health of older adults.”

“This is about organizing care around the individual, so that Medicaid customers no longer need to navigate a complicated web of state agencies and provider groups,” added Director McCarthy.

“Coordinating care for individuals with dual-eligibility presents an opportunity to make significant changes to Ohio’s Medicaid program, changes that will benefit patients and taxpayers.”

Ohio has applied for a planning grant from the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation (CMMI) that would fund the first step toward creating a statewide waiver program to make it easier for customers with dual-eligibility to receive home-based health care. Ohio's proposed demonstration model is based on the common-sense idea that care coordination should serve the individual, not the system in which the individual is served, creating one person, one point of care coordination, regardless of payer, service or setting. CMS will award grants of as much as \$1 million to up to 15 states to begin studying the issue.

For a copy of Chuck Milligan’s presentation, see <http://healthtransformation.ohio.gov/Events.aspx>.

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