Increasing Opportunities for Choice and Control for Persons with Dementia

Today’s Conversation

- Introduction to Self Direction
  - The philosophy and practice of self direction
  - Importance of the role of a representative
  - Why self-direction is right for some

- Research Findings
- How is Self-Directing faring?
- Basic Assumptions of Self-Direction
- Other Interesting Tid-bits
- Questions
Defining Self Direction

- Those who provide supports and services are accountable to the individual and/or representative.
- The freedom for one to plan his/her own life.
- Flexibility based on personal preferences.

Representatives

- May be used if a person is apprehensive about self-directing
- May be used if a person lacks the cognition or ability to make decisions
- Must reflect a strong personal relationship with the person
- Must express knowledge about the person's needs, wishes, and personal goals and make decisions based on those preferences
- Must agree to accept responsibility for self-directing
- Agree to a face-to-face interview routinely
- May not be paid to be a representative
- May not be paid to be a hired worker for the person
- May not have a history of abuse, neglect or exploitation
- Must participate in the person-centered planning process
- About 40% of elderly have designated a representative
Why Self Direction is Right for Many

- Allows greater access to services in rural areas.
- Expands labor force by creating new opportunities for caregiver employment.
- Honors cultural uniqueness of individuals with workers.
- Allows participants to be served by individuals they know and trust. Continuity is critical particularly for those with dementia.
- Preferences may change over time.
- Cost is same or less than traditional personal care services.
- Facilitates easier access to services on nights and weekends.
- Flexible budgets allow for persons to have greater access to community activities.

Research Findings

- **Health and welfare**
  - Display better health outcomes
  - Very few incidents of reported abuse, neglect or exploitation

- **Service use**
  - Modest increase in obtaining personal care and equipment
  - Individuals more likely to obtain services they need
  - When needs are met, use of higher-cost services is reduced

- **Caregiver reaction**
  - More satisfied with care arrangement
  - Expressed less emotional strain
  - Most felt well-trained to perform duties
Research Findings

• Positive influence on the quality of life
  • Increased satisfaction
  • Enhanced feeling of safety
  • Continuity of care

• Improves access to services
  • Participants receive necessary services
  • Significantly reduces unmet needs

• Promotes life in the community
  • Shown to reduce nursing facility placements even more than traditional services

How is Self-Direction Going?

How Many People Self-Direct?
• Over one million are self-directing
• Medicaid is the largest funder of services
• Medicaid programs down to 253 due to consolidation
• Serves all ages, across all disability populations

Other Interesting Facts
• CA and MA have used self-direction since mid-1980s
• Significant take-up with Managed Care Health Plans
• Scotland and England have used self-direction with a focus on individuals with dementia for years
• Australia is implementing a nationwide system using self-direction

Challenges Reported
• Case management lack of interest in self-direction
• Enrollment labor-intensive
• Some apprehensive to be an employer
• Perception of fraud, abuse and misuse of program funds
• Fair Labor Standards Act compliance
Majority of States have 1000 – 5000 Participants

Assumptions of Self Direction

- Persons with cognitive limitations should have the option to self-direct
- Participants/Representatives are experts when it comes to their own lives
- Participants prefer to make their own decisions related to their needs and preferences
- Participants will exercise their choices and spend money wisely
- Supports must be available including counseling and assistance with payroll, employer/employee obligations, and managing a budget
- Some participants will choose to take a more active role in meeting their needs and preferences
- PD may save money. When people receive the basic services they need, there is less reliance on hospitalizations, ER visits, and admissions to nursing homes.

Data source: 2013 National Inventory
This May Surprise You

- Twenty-four percent of people of all ages who receive Medicaid and Medicare home health have moderate to severe cognitive impairments.*
- Budgets can be used to purchase items designed for safety.
  - For example, wonder devices, video monitoring systems, exit sensors, and bed occupancy notifications, reminding devices, medication management systems, GPS locators and tracking devices, and picture phones.
- Many Medicaid Waivers include special services for persons with dementia.
  - These include additional training for health care workers, dementia coaching, and crisis intervention.
- Many Medicaid programs permit payment for advanced training for caregivers, in-home and out-of-home respite, payment for conferences and workshops, and unique learning opportunities.

* http://www.KFF.org/Medicaid Issue-brief/medicaid's-role-for-people-with-dementia/

Closing Remarks

- Self-directing is growing in the Medicaid and Managed Care markets.
- There is attention to private pay and long-term health insurance companies to adopt self direction.
- The penetration rate for self-directed Medicaid programs remains low in most areas (between 5% and 20%).
- Training varies among programs from none to 40 hours of intensive training prior to hire.
- Cost studies have not been definitive.
- Financial Management Services has become more sophisticated (mobile applications for timesheet submissions, electronic service plans allowing for immediate changes, real-time view of budgets online, and electronic voice verification systems (a requirement in 2019) to verify worker/participant/location/tasks of service.

What kind of programs do you want available to you?
Questions

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The meeting was held on Friday, July 28, 2017, in Washington, DC. The Advisory Council spent the morning discussing information gaps across the three areas of research, clinical care, and long-term services and supports. There was also a presentation on the recently released National Academy of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (NASEM) report on preventing cognitive decline. Additional presentations included a presentation on planning and progress towards the October Care and Services Summit and federal workgroup updates. Material available from this meeting is listed below and is also available at https://aspe.hhs.gov/advisory-council-alzheimers-research-care-and-services-meetings#Jul2017.

Comments and questions, or alerts to broken links, should be sent to napa@hhs.gov.

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Videos

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Last Updated: 06/27/2018