



Area Agency on Aging - Region 9, Inc.
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*Serving Ohio's Belmont, Carroll, Coshocton, Guernsey, Harrison, Holmes,
Jefferson, Muskingum, and Tuscarawas counties for over 30 years*

AAA9 PASSPORT & Assisted Living Providers,

I'm sure that by now you have heard that the Governor, in his budget proposal, has mandated that all Non-DD waivers, including PASSPORT and Assisted Living, be moved to Managed Care on July 1, 2018. The specific language excerpt and a link to the budget pages are below:

“Beginning July 1, 2018, the new populations enrolled in Ohio’s Medicaid managed care program will include individuals receiving community and facility based long term services and supports, participants in the Medicaid Buy-in Program for workers with disabilities, individuals dually eligible for Medicaid and Medicare who are not participating in the My Care Ohio program, and eligible individuals receiving refugee medical assistance. Ohio Medicaid will implement a new Managed Medicaid Long-Term Services and Supports (MLTSS) program through a competitive procurement. The goal is to select at least three plans to participate.”

<http://www.healthtransformation.ohio.gov/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=jzS3YBvEFIw%3d&tabid=254>

AAA9 and Area Agencies on Aging across the State are opposed to this proposal. The effectiveness of the PASSPORT Program is well-established. This proposal would end PASSPORT as we know it today and replace it with a Managed Care Model. AAA9 has significant concerns about this concept, beyond the obvious impact to our largest and most successful program.

Historically, managed care models have not been effective in a rural environment like ours. We are also very concerned about the potential impact such a move would have on small providers and communities. We will be speaking to our legislators about this issue and we invite you to join us in our advocacy efforts. If you are so inclined, I would ask you to please call, write, and email your elected representatives throughout the process. I am attaching a recent press release from the Ohio Association of Area Agencies on Aging that expresses our views as well as some talking points. I will try to keep you abreast of our advocacy efforts through timely advocacy alerts. I would ask that you please respond.

If you have the opportunity to speak with legislators, please discuss this issue with them and explain how it might impact your business and ability to serve consumers. If you have any questions or any specific concerns please let me know. I would also welcome any letters from you that I could share with our legislators. My email address is jendly@aaa9.org Thank you.

Sincerely,

James A. Endly
Executive Director
Area Agency on Aging Region 9, Inc.

