

Draft Questions for Hearing:

- 1) Through the Money Follows the Person program over 88,332 individuals have transitioned from nursing homes and other institutions back to their own homes. What have we learned through the MFP program about how the quality of life improves for individuals when they transition back to their homes and communities?
- 2) According to the Report to Congress submitted by CMS, during the first year of transition from institution to community average Medicaid and Medicare expenditures for participants decreased by 23% to 30%. The CMS report states the program saved \$978 million in Medicaid and Medicare through 2013 alone. Wisconsin has been a leader in “rebalancing” from institutional to home and community-based services. Could you talk about cost savings associated with the Money Follows the Person program and rebalancing?
- 3) Of the 44 states that have recently participated in the Money Follows the Person program, at least 10 states have exhausted their funds and stopped transitioning new participants to the community. By the end of the year, all the remaining states will stop transitioning new participants through the program. Without an extension of this program, will we lose progress? Will more seniors and people with disabilities be forced into costly institutional placements when could remain at home and in the community? Has the recent uncertainty hurt transition efforts?
- 4) You’ve spoken about the importance of supporting people with disabilities to transition from institutional settings to the community. What has Wisconsin done to promote these transitions, both using MFP dollars and making use of Medicaid as a whole? What else can Congress do to support these efforts?
- 5) Money Follows the Person was created through bipartisan efforts in the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005. The program has been operating for more than a decade and the legislation we’re considering would reauthorize the program for another five years. Why is long term re-authorization a priority for you? How does this kind of long-term re-authorization support institutional transition efforts?
- 6) What challenges do states face in supporting transition from institutions to the community? How does MFP help address those challenges?
- 7) We know that hundreds of thousands of people with disabilities continue to wait on waiting lists for Home and Community Based Services. How does MFP help address this problem for the population of people in institutional settings? How would loss of the program exacerbate it?