

Letter to the Editor

Every four years, the Family and Social Services Administration, Division of Aging, develops a State Aging Plan to structure the division's priorities and agenda for the State of Indiana. This process is outlined in the federal Older Americans Act legislation and our State plan is submitted to the U.S. Administration for Community Living.

On March 18th, the State held a public hearing at the Allen County Public Library and presented their initial plan. They also solicited comments from the public on the goals they have set for the years 2015-2018.

Currently, the State Division on Aging has incorporated five goals in their proposed plan:

- Goal 1 – Enhance the capacity of the provider network to provide quality care programming while ensuring responsible stewardship of public monies.
- Goal 2—Strengthen the rights of Hoosiers to self-determination in their long-term services and supports, regardless of their position on the financial spectrum.
- Goal 3 – Create a statewide focus on the needs of family caregivers.
- Goal 4 – Assess and facilitate statewide community readiness for a growing older population.
- Goal 5 – Strengthen statewide systems for advocacy and protection for older adults.

Connie Benton Wolfe, Aging & In-Home Services of Northeast Indiana CEO, testified at this hearing as did several other entities and individuals. The State Director of the Division on Aging, Yonda Snyder, noted that the State was “eager to receive additional comments from interested citizens” and indicated that comments could be either mailed or e-mailed to them through mid-April for consideration and incorporation into the State planning process.

As Board Chair of Aging & In-Home Services, I would like to state that I believe it is well worth the time and effort to review the State of Indiana Draft Plan for 2015-2018, which is available online at <http://www.in.gov/fssa/da/4606.htm>. This document will be the primary guide for aging services in the years ahead and with Indiana's growing population of older adults and family caregivers, we want to be sure that it prioritizes resources for home and community based care in the most effective way possible.

Comments can be sent by e-mail to Lynn.Clough@fssa.in.gov or can be mailed to:

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Yours truly,

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