

## **MEDICAID**

Community-based Long Term Services and Supports (LTSS) are required to ensure the growing population of seniors remains healthy and can choose community care over institutionalization.

### **Need: Lack of essential medical services increases risk to seniors**

- A. Nevada Medicaid covers emergency dental services, but not routine dental examinations or preventative care. The lack of proper oral care can lead to health issues, including oral cancer and heart disease. Preventative care would improve the health and quality of life of seniors, while being cost neutral by avoiding emergency care, unnecessary hospitalization and premature institutionalization.
- B. Similarly, Medicaid funded medication management and care management would prevent unnecessary hospitalization and premature institutionalization. According to medical literature, an estimated 3 million older adults are admitted to nursing homes due to drug-related problems, annually costing more than \$14 billion. Approximately 30% of hospital admissions of older adults are drug related; more than 11% from medication non-adherence and 10–17% from adverse drug reactions.
- C. And, when seniors are hospitalized from a group home, apartment or a long-term care facility, and their “bed” is not held for them, they are often unable to return after hospitalization. Federal Medicaid regulations allow payment for “bed-holds”, which would preserve the seniors’ home. Given the high occupancy in Nevada’s long-term care facilities, the number of out-of-state placements Medicaid pays because beds cannot be found in Nevada, and the potential disastrous results of moving an older person from their home, this would be the right thing to do in Nevada.

### **Potential Models:**

Authorize the Nevada Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Health Care Financing and Policy to expand Medicaid Long Term Services and Supports to include bed-holds at long-term care facilities, dental care, and medication management and care management.

### **Benefits:**

Preventive dental care keeps people healthier. If long-term care facilities hold beds for hospital patients, the cost of keeping them in the hospital decreases. Also, being able to keep Nevada residents in-state is better for the elder, and keeps Nevada Medicaid dollars in Nevada to shore up infrastructure for treatment of the increased numbers of older people in the near future. Additionally, this could result in bringing more federal matching funds into Nevada.

### **Implementation:**

Authorize Medicaid State Plan Amendments to include medication management, dental examinations and preventive care, and case management services.