

Older Workers Conference – October 1, 2009
Workshop Notes
Workplace Policies & Legislative Initiatives

Respite Care

- We need a better plan for social service providers
- Workers were laid off and families currently lack support

If the govt. is having budget crises and has very limited ability to fund programs, what do you do?

- Keep the federal human services matching funds in the human service budget.
 - Illinois gets funds, but they go in the general revenue fund
- Illinois doesn't have citizen initiative items like other states
 - Citizens must lobby their elected representatives
- Get involved in projects that are fundable – that can compete for scarce federal funds.
- Voluntary Associations – religious, neighborhood groups, etc.
 - But studies call into question how able they are to replace lost govt. programs.
- Address the social determinants for health: race, economic & income, education, where people live, etc.

Healthcare professionals often aren't on the same page and fully informed. Electronic records or virtual solutions may help.

- A “business associate” contract
- The state collects a lot of data but it isn't used well
 - Partner with IDPH and other agencies.
 - State Health Dept. data is highly guarded
- Create an initiative or policy to better use data
 - What are we trying to accomplish? – Well articulated goals are important for funding
- Data about healthcare workers is very vague – how many are there? What do we know about them as a group?

How do we keep healthcare workers satisfied and working?

- Teach proper body mechanics
- Organize seminars on nutrition
- Generate better “best practices
- Move money from public institutions to homecare
 - Worker satisfaction may be higher in situations where consumers play a role in their care
- Peer education programs

Federal, state, local, and private sectors need to work together. Someone in the group proposed a central ‘czar’ or ‘administrator’ to evaluate programs and budget concerns.

We need to have very clear metrics to analyze programs – right now it is “who’s the loudest group”