

HB 1785 -- STRUCTURED FAMILY CAREGIVING

SPONSOR: Bahr

This bill adds structured family caregiving to the MO HealthNet Program to ensure the availability of comprehensive and cost-effective choices for a MO HealthNet recipient to live at home in the community of his or her choice and to receive support from a caregiver of his or her choice. Home- and community-based care services must include an option for structured family caregiving as a covered service, subject to federal approval of any amendments to the home- and community-based waiver which are necessary to implement these provisions.

The bill defines "structured family caregiving" as home- and community-based care services for a waiver-eligible MO HealthNet recipient who is at risk for long-term care facility placement or stays and who needs comprehensive services in the community as diversionary services, or for an individual who is currently in a long-term care facility and needs home- and community-based care services to transition back into the community.

The bill specifies that structured family caregiving must include:

- (1) A choice for the participant of qualified, credentialed, and trained caregivers, including family caregivers. All caregivers, including family caregivers, must complete all required training and meet all applicable credentialing criteria;
- (2) A choice for the participant of community settings in which he or she receives structured family caregiving. A caregiver may provide structured family caregiving services in the caregiver's home or the participant's home;
- (3) A requirement that all organizations serving as structured family caregiving agencies meet all applicable requirements of a home- and community-based care provider, and are accountable for quality, including qualification and requalification of caregivers and homes, professional staff support for eligible seniors, professional training of caregivers, and deployment of electronic community care records, whenever possible; and
- (4) A daily payment rate for services that is adequate to pay stipends to caregivers and pay provider agencies for the cost of providing professional staff support as required under this section.

Within 30 days of the effective date of these provisions, the MO HealthNet Division must, if necessary to implement the provisions

of this section, apply to the United States Secretary of Health and Human Services for an amendment of the home- and community-based waiver for the purpose of including structured family care giving as a covered service for eligible home- and community-based waiver recipients. The division must request an effective date of not later than July 1, 2015, and must take all administrative actions necessary to ensure time and equitable availability of structured family care giving services for any home- and community-based care recipient.