

Getting The Elephant in The Room....

2008 Senior Nutrition Task Force
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Or Do We Have A Herd



The *Elephant In The Room*

- An English saying for an obvious truth that is being ignored or goes unaddressed.
- Based on the idea that an elephant in a room would be impossible to overlook.
- A way to describe that a group might be concerning themselves with relatively small matters, and missing the looming big one.

Trust

- **Letting others know your feelings, emotions and reactions**

- **Having the confidence in them to respect you and to not take advantage of you**
- **Opening yourself up to let others in on your background, problems, concerns, and mistakes with the assurance that they will not ostracize you because of these things**
- **The act of placing yourself in the vulnerable position of relying on others to treat you in a fair, open, and honest way**

"For it is mutual trust, even more than mutual interest that holds human associations together.." --H. L. Mencken

Coming to Consensus

What Has Been Discussed

- Transfers are a part of the program, currently following the regulations
- Priority setting and ways to do achieve
- What is happening in other states
- How other providers are delivering meals and other services

What Still Needs To Be Discussed

- Roles
- Transfers
- Priority Setting

Process

1. Identify issues
2. Discuss issues
3. Resolution options
4. Consensus

Expectations

- Everyone will contribute
- No one will dominate
- Minority opinions will be respected
- Regulations will be followed
- No side conversations
- The older Minnesotans needs will stay top of mind

Agreement

- Open to change
- Explore new options
- Define what is an agreement...consensus?
Majority
- The group will respect the outcome
- The group will be committed to the success of the outcome

Roles Defined

- What is everyone doing? --maybe we should just even ask – what are the roles?
- What should they be?
- Who defines roles?
- Is there overlap or duplication?
- Is there conflict of interest?

Resolution Options

- Improve communication to reach common understanding between all nutrition providers, AAAs and state
 - Implement feedback loop on requests, requirements
 - Annual meeting with year review
 - Extranet, etc.
- AAA participation in other AAAs' review process

Transfers And Effect On Unmet Nutrition Needs Of Older Adults

- Whose money is it really?
- Who approves the decision?
- Is the appeal process realistic?
- Ideas for changes

Resolution Options

- [will be discussed at Dec. 15 mtg]

Priority Setting- Who Gets Priority With Limited Resources

- How are priorities determined?
- Who has input?
- Can we continue to try to serve as many people as possible?

Resolution Options

- Identify unmet need – waiting list, other
- Pilot nutrition risk targeting
- Pilot private pay
- Use CMS income data by zip code to target
- Investigate contribution levels
- Develop criteria for services – phase in migration to higher risk/need

Contracting Versus Grants

- Could the state fund providers directly?
- What is not working now?
- How should the process work?
- Can a task force be successful?

Resolution Options
