

## Family Care Impact on Transportation

The Wisconsin Department of Health Services is scheduled to implement Family Care, serving the elderly and adults with disabilities, throughout the state by early 2018. The implementation of Family Care in Dane County may have significant impact on transportation provided through Metro Transit's paratransit service.

- Metro Transit operates federally mandated paratransit service in accordance with provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990. The service is provided as a safety net for persons with disabilities who cannot use fixed route bus service.
- Metro Transit and Dane County have forged a nearly 20-year relationship in which millions of dollars annually are provided by Dane County to partially fund paratransit service for common clients. The source of this funding is the current MA Waiver program funds that are the subject of Family Care implementation in Dane County.
- Family Care has been in place in Wisconsin for nearly 20 years. This program is aimed at addressing the long-term care needs of frail elders and adults with disabilities within their homes or community settings rather than costlier nursing homes. Information on Family Care is available at the Department of Health Services' website, can be found at <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/familycare/whatisfc.htm>.
- Over time, Family Care has expanded to more counties throughout Wisconsin and the enrollment cap that limited the number of participants served has been lifted. Dane County, however, is one of the few remaining counties without Family Care.
- The earliest anticipated date for implementation of Family Care in Dane County is January 2018.
- The implementation of Family Care in Dane County would shift responsibility for administering health care funds from Dane County Human Services to non-profit agencies serving as Managed Care Organizations (MCO). More significantly from a transportation perspective, however, **Dane County would lose the ability to enter into an intergovernmental agreement with Madison for cost sharing regarding paratransit service for common clients.**
- A worst case scenario under Family Care implementation would eliminate this cost-sharing arrangement yet maintain, or even increase, the volume of paratransit service demand. The challenge to Metro may be in sustaining the current level of service or determining a sustainable level of service while satisfying ADA requirements.

- The cost containment model of Family Care establishes a capitated rate under which all necessary services are provided for the individual. If transportation can be met for the individual by simply covering the Metro paratransit fare, the MCOs may satisfy their obligations by directing their clientele to use Metro paratransit.
- The obligations of Metro for providing ADA paratransit service requires rides for eligible individuals to be satisfied regardless of whether a cost sharing arrangement can be established with Family Care MCOs.
- The potential impact of Family Care implementation on Metro Transit paratransit service, an estimated potential loss of over \$3.7 million, can be equated to the elimination of all fixed route transit service on Saturdays, Sundays, and Holidays for an entire year.