Money Follows the Person: Progress, Challenges, and Future Prospects

Speaker: Debra Lipson, Mathematica Policy Research

Initially authorized by the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005, the Money Follows the Person (MFP) program is one of the largest Medicaid demonstrations ever conducted. Designed to help states rebalance their long-term care systems, it provides states with funds to help Medicaid beneficiaries living in institutions transition to home and community settings. Last year, the Affordable Care Act increased authorized federal funding for the program to $4 billion, and extended it by five years to 2016. By the end of 2010, 30 states that received grants helped nearly 12,000 individuals transition to the community through MFP. Ms. Lipson’s presentation will feature a review of MFP’s progress to date, a profile of MFP participants, and an early look at changes in participants’ quality of life after a year of community living. She also will discuss different ways to evaluate the impact of the program so far, and how it may change in the years ahead.

Debra J. Lipson is a Senior Researcher at Mathematica Policy Research, a non-partisan research firm that aims to improve public well-being by bringing the highest standards of quality, objectivity, and excellence to bear in providing information and analysis to its clients. For the past five years, she has led evaluations and research on health and long-term care programs, and is currently a senior investigator on the national evaluation of the Money Follows the Person Demonstration, which Mathematica is conducting for the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. Previously, she was Deputy Director of Better Jobs Better Care, a research and demonstration program to strengthen the direct care workforce, based at the Institute for the Future of Aging Services (now the LeadingAge Center for Applied Research). Before that, Ms. Lipson conducted research, policy analysis, and technical assistance for several health policy organizations in Washington DC, specializing in Medicaid and state programs for vulnerable populations. She also worked for five years at the World Health Organization analyzing global health policies. She has a Masters in Health Services Administration from the University of Michigan School of Public Health, and has published numerous articles in health policy journals.

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