

## The ABC's of Long-Term Care

In the 2008-09 biennium budget (HB 119), the Legislature instructed the Governor to appoint a Unified Long-term Care Budget (ULTCB) work group to develop a comprehensive, flexible and transparent process for effective and efficient budgeting and service delivery.

The ULTCB work group is nearing completion of its effort with a report due to the Joint Legislative Committee on Medicaid Technology and Reform on June 1, 2008. Here are important points to make with your legislators about the ULTCB:

### A – ACCESS

- Having Area Agencies on Aging serve as the front door to services, as recommended by the ULTCB work group, will improve access to the long-term care system. Wherever consumers call, visit, or search the internet, they will receive consistent information about the range of options to serve their long-term care needs.
- Area Agencies on Aging will work with local partners to develop regional collaborations and provide technical expertise for the long-term care system.
- Area Agencies on Aging will have the professionals available to “walk” consumers through the long-term care system, helping them choose the most appropriate and least costly services.

### B – Budget control

- Why a Unified Long-Term Care Budget? Because Ohio's long-term care expenditures are out of balance. Ohio ranks 48<sup>th</sup> in the nation in the proportion of long-term care dollars spent on community based services vs. institutional care (35% community vs. 65% institutional). AAAs have demonstrated their success in managing costs and care for community based services and look forward to adding all long term care services to the continuum.
- Legislators and the Governor want the ULTCB to show clearly how Ohio's long-term care dollars are spent and to enable money to flow more easily to less expensive options.

### C – Choice

- People don't know all the options available to them in long-term care, particularly when they are facing a health crisis. The ULTCB will open up more choices to consumers by:
  - Breaking down barriers and closing gaps in the long-term care system so consumers have choice in where they receive care and don't end up in nursing facilities because that is their only choice (e.g., inconsistent eligibility requirements and housing options).
  - Providing care management in nursing facilities to reach more consumers who may prefer living in less costly community settings and reaching people at critical junctures such as at the time of discharge planning.