



# **House Committee on Human Services Single Point of Entry**

**June 30, 2010**

# Single Point of Entry

The committee substitute for House Bill 1398 was considered by the 81<sup>st</sup> Legislature. Had it passed, the bill would have required the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) to work with the Department of Aging and Disability Services (DADS) and the Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) to develop and implement a pilot project:

- **To establish a comprehensive single point of entry system for long-term services and supports**
  - Includes screenings, tentative eligibility determinations, and expedited service authorizations
- **Implemented in not more than three geographic areas of the state**
  - HHSC's Medicaid Eligibility for the Elderly and People with Disabilities (MEPD) staff, along with DADS and AAA staff, must be physically co-located in one pilot site
  - Other pilot sites must work collaboratively, but may do so by phone or other technology

**HHSC staff determine the financial eligibility for the following long-term services and supports (LTSS) programs:**

- **Nursing Facility Programs**
- **Community Attendant Services**
- **Community Based Alternatives**
- **Program for All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE)**

**Financial eligibility alone does not constitute access to programs or payment for providers. To be eligible for LTSS programs, both financial and functional eligibility criteria must be met. DADS staff determine the functional eligibility of individuals for LTSS programs.**

**CSHB 1398 would have required HHSC to ensure that specified tasks are performed at the pilot sites.**

- **The following tasks are not currently performed:**
  - Use of a standardized screening tool for functional and financial assessment that provides information to make a tentative determination.
    - Development of the standardized screening tool would be required prior to implementation of pilot.
    - Training for the standardized tool would be required for HHSC and DADS staff.
  - Processing service requests in person, via phone, or by Internet.
    - Once MEPD cases are fully converted into the new eligibility system, LTSS clients will be able to apply for services in person or via phone, fax, or Internet.
- **The following tasks are currently performed by DADS staff:**
  - Performing all tasks to promptly initiate services
  - Coordinating with hospital discharge planners, rehabilitation units, and nursing facilities
  - Prioritizing people in urgent needs for services
  - Informing people about community-based services

**For the fiscal estimate of CSHB 1398, HHSC assumed the following:**

- **Co-location of the pilot site would occur where HHSC staff are currently located.**
  - No veteran staff would have to be relocated.
- **Pilots will occur in regions where MEPD cases are fully converted into the new eligibility system.**
  - Any automation changes will only be required in one eligibility system.