

Attachment B

**Statement of Interest – Statewide Long -Term Care Reform**  
*Format for Response to Request for Information/Proposals*  
*Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services*

Organization Name (s) (List all public and private entities represented by this statement of interest.):

Bethesda Lutheran Homes and Services, Inc.

Contact Person and Contact Person’s Organization (List name, address, telephone number, email and fax number.):

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Brief Description of Organization (Legal entity status, purpose, scope of enterprise):

Bethesda Lutheran Homes and Services, Inc. (BLHS) is a non-profit organization serving people with developmental disabilities. BLHS started in 1904 in Watertown, WI. Our mission has changed little in those 100+ years. We are committed to being a leader in empowering people with developmental disabilities to live faithful, meaningful and independent lives.

Bethesda provides a full range of supports for people with developmental disabilities. These include individual in-home supports, adult family homes, group homes and an intermediate care facility. Currently 400 people are supported in residential settings in five counties in WI. Bethesda also provides services to 100 people through day activities, supported employment, and vocational supports. Nationally, Bethesda provides supports to 1000 people in 10 states.

Our community-based programs in WI have been accredited by The Council on Quality and Leadership (CQL). Bethesda chose the Council on Quality and Leadership as its accrediting organization because it offers the highest quality of measurement in our field, and because their values are very consistent with our own. The CQL also provides a means by which organizational success and growth needs can be identified and quality enhancement systems can be developed. Bethesda is committed to empowering people with developmental disabilities to live faithful, meaningful and independent lives in partnership with families and the communities in which they live.

Interest in Planning and Implementation of Long-Term Care Reform in Wisconsin:

The State of WI has had success with Family Care and The Wisconsin Partnership Program. The goals to improve quality of life while maintaining costs have seen some success. In working with several of the counties through Family Care, Bethesda has seen the benefits of these projects. This is a worthwhile effort that will take considerable planning and organization to keep moving forward.

Bethesda has the potential to play a variety of roles in the planning and implementation of this reform effort. The first role would be to provide services as we now do by obtaining contracts under each CMO. We would like to be listed as a provider in areas we currently provide services and we would look at expanding to other geographic locations if indicated.

In a slightly different role, Bethesda could work with a CMO to develop and secure a full array of services to meet needs and provide choices for people with developmental disabilities. Bethesda could assist a CMO in making contacts with providers of services and supports, in defining what types of supports are needed to provide services to people with developmental disabilities, and then obtaining contracts to ensure a full array of services.

In a more involved role, Bethesda would partner with a CMO to develop, secure and monitor services for people with developmental disabilities. We would ensure there were an adequate number of providers, obtain sub-contracts or provide contracted services as needed. Bethesda would be responsible to the CMO for ensuring that a full array of services was available. We would also provide program oversight to ensure desired outcomes are being achieved in the most cost effective manner.

We have met with iCare, a CMO who has been operating in WI since 1994, serving people with physical, developmental and emotional needs. Their focus has been on providing complete health care coordination for people with physical, developmental or emotional disabilities. They operate in Milwaukee County. Bethesda would work with iCare, Milwaukee and Kenosha Counties to develop systems to be able to provide services now covered by Medicaid waiver programs. Our goal would be to ensure a comprehensive program is developed for people with developmental disabilities. Bethesda and iCare would work together to ensure individuals have adequate choices that are cost effective. We would ensure systems are in place to provide a full array of services and that outcome oriented plans are driven by the consumer.

Bethesda would be willing to offer our assistance in any reform plan that is developed. We look forward to working with other organizations, public and private, in developing innovative, cost effective long term care reform plans. We have several staff that could assist in this process. We have good relationships with various counties as a provider of supports. We believe our experience in providing supports for people with developmental disabilities and, more recently, with The Council on Quality and Leadership, will be valuable in keeping the person served in the forefront.

Geographic Area of Interest (List counties within the potential planning and service area of the entity or consortium.):

Bethesda would continue to be a provider of supports in counties in which we currently provide services. These include Milwaukee, Jefferson, Dodge, Sauk, and Fond du Lac. In working with iCare on a Planning Proposal we would also be working with Kenosha County and Milwaukee County.

Bethesda has the capacity to expand its supports to additional communities and to serve as a resource to disability professionals throughout the state. Oneida and Sheboygan Counties are places where we see potential growth for our corporation in this state and we would consider working with CMO's in those areas as well.

Proposed Scope and Nature of the Program (including target groups to be served, benefit package to be offered, and rationale for this proposal in terms of fiscal soundness and program effectiveness)

Bethesda would continue to provide the supports and services that we do now. There is also a potential for expanding our range of services to provide additional services as needed.

Services we would consider providing are listed below:

- Personal Care
- Physical Therapy
- Occupational Therapy
- Speech Therapy
- ICF/MR
- Durable Medical Equipment
- Service coordination and care management
- Disposable medical supplies
- Supportive home care
- Residential and housing services
- Day activity services
- Vocational services
- Hospice
- Respite services
- Home delivered meals
- Home modifications
- Transportation
- Dental
- Nursing oversight
- Supported employment
- Behavioral health services including emergency crisis intervention at residence
- Pharmacy

Training for Certified Nursing Assistants and CBRF staff  
Quality Assurance and Quality Enhancement Services  
Spiritual Life Supports

A large resource pool would allow us to meet individual needs by providing quality services at a reasonable cost.

**Other Comments or Information:**

Bethesda would welcome the opportunity to participate with the Department of Health and Family Services, established CMO's, new CMO's, counties, and others in planning for an innovative, comprehensive long term care system.