

Exploring Missouri's Level of Care (LOC) Eligibility Criteria

June 25, 2018

Activity: Identify Challenges

- QUESTION – When thinking about the current LOC criteria and process, what are the three to five most significant challenges or issues experienced by the populations you serve?
- Write one idea per notecard
 - No less than 3 cards
 - No more than 5 cards
 - Please write legibly



Missouri's Need for Technical Assistance

- Medicaid under the LTSS program pays 63% of all institutional care for the state of Missouri
- MO spends around 58% towards HCBS
- 50% increase in elderly needs in approximately the next 15 years
- Host of other concerns like from notecards

Begin with the End in Mind

Overarching Goal : Create a new Level of Care (LOC) model that:

1. Ensure **access** to care for **most in need** of HCBS providing **least restrictive** community setting as long as **safely possible**
2. Use **limited state resources** on those most in need of HCBS compared to more costly facility placement.
3. Ensure individuals able **to live in the community** are not inappropriately placed in a more restrictive setting.

Technical Assistance (TA) Report

1. National landscape scan
 - Deeper dives into specific states of interest
2. Stakeholder engagement
3. Co-create the new model
4. Summarize key learnings and best practices

LOC Refresher

- Centers for Medicaid and Medicare (CMS) is single largest payer of health care in the U.S.
- LOC mandated by CMS, but states have latitude what specific eligibility criteria should be
 - Covers both institutional care and HCBS

National Landscape Findings

- Conduct a national scan of existing LOC research
- Evaluate methodology, tools, and processes in all the states
 - LOC eligibility criteria
 - Functional assessment types used
 - Assessors/Determinators of services and supports
 - Scoring systems
- Research strategy
 - Phone calls, review of statutes/regulations, published reports and findings, website scan
- Provided a 50-state library of LOC eligibility criteria

Overall Discoveries

- Length and depth of findings varied significantly among states
- No common nomenclature
- Everyone is “unique”
- Apprehensive of judgment or oversight
- Lack of evidence-based practice or research
- Eligibility criteria had shared “buckets” with a great degree of variability

What Tools Are Leveraged?

- Initial, Specialized and Cross-Cutting tools
- Tools include homegrown tools (LOCET), national assessments (interRAI), or customized tool (ArPath)
- Length and complexity of tool used varied significantly
- Paper, electronic/online form, web-based software

What are the Criteria Buckets?

- Six Shared Buckets
 - ADLs
 - IADLs
 - Clinical
 - Medical
 - Safety
 - Cognition

Activities of Daily Living Indicators

- Transfers
- Locomotion
- Bed mobility
- Upper dressing
- Lower dressing
- Eating
- Toileting
- Personal care
- Bathing

Instrumental Activities of Daily Living Indicators

- Grocery shopping
- Laundry
- Light housework
- Meal preparation
- Medication management
- Money management
- Personal hygiene
- Transportation
- Using phone to accomplish tasks
- Bill paying
- Scheduling medical appointments
- Other shopping tasks

Medical Indicators

- Medical history
- Mental health history
- Vital signs
- Medications
- Medical conditions
- Diagnoses
- Special treatments or diet

Clinical Indicators

- Assistive devices
- Treatments and procedures
- Rehabilitative services
 - Tube feeding
 - Wound care
 - Occupational therapy
 - Ventilator care

Safety Indicators

- Environmental factors/problems
- Living conditions
- Risk evidence

Cognition Indicators

- Memory
- Behavior
- Communication
- Sensory orientation
- Assessment of social situation
- Expression

Who Assesses and Who Determines?

Assessors include:

- Area Agencies on Aging (AAA)
- Aging and Disability Resource Centers (ADRCs)
- Managed Care Organizations (MCOs)
- Nursing facility/hospital case managers
- State employees
- Independent contractors
- Certified assessors

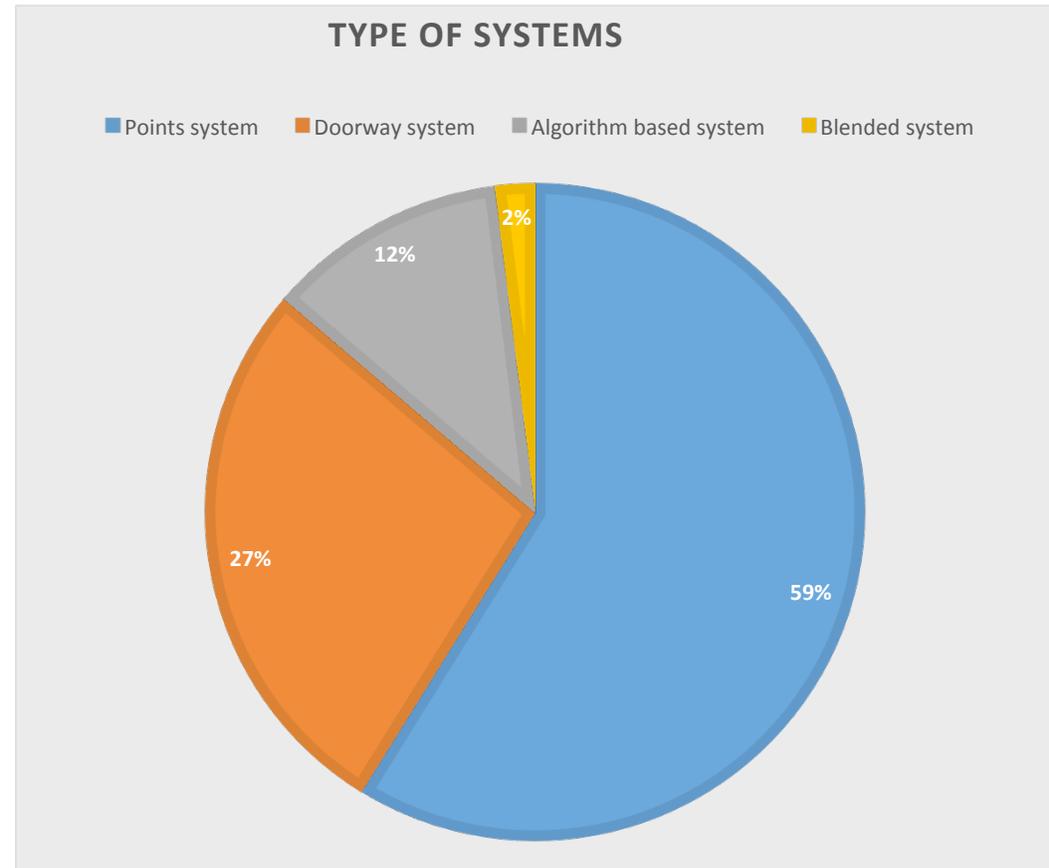
Determiners include:

- Physicians
- Registered nurses
- Certified assessors

How Does Someone Meet Eligibility?

Four Typical Scoring Systems

- Points
- Doorway
- Algorithm-based
- Blended



Questions on National Scan?



Activity: The Future State



If you could wiggle your nose and make it magically happen, what changes would you like to see implemented in the LOC process in Missouri?

Report Out



Wrap-Up & Next Steps

- Identified five states for “deep dives”
 - Arkansas, Indiana, Louisiana, North Carolina, Wisconsin
 - “Trusted discovery”
- Continue stakeholder engagement
 - Summer meetings to explore new LOC models
- Project complete by November 2018

An After-Thought

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