

BRIEFING BOOK

News and views from the Louisiana Capitol
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Jindal budget tilts toward nursing home care

Gov. Bobby Jindal's budget proposal would help reverse years of progress in how Louisiana finances long-term care for the elderly by boosting money for nursing homes while reducing spending on home- and community-based services. That's the conclusion of former Health and Hospitals Secretary David Hood in a research paper for the Public Affairs Research Council. Spending on nursing homes would grow by \$16 million in the 2010-11 fiscal year under Jindal's proposal, while the budget for elderly home-care services would shrink by \$61 million. According to Hood, that's a step in the wrong direction for a state that already allocates 70 percent of its spending on elderly long-term care to nursing homes, even though the waiting list for home-care services has 18,000 names. "Louisiana has been moving in the right direction in recent years, but the proposed budget raises concern that progress could be reversed," Hood wrote. As an alternative, he said the Legislature should invest the \$62 million that will be saved by putting a cap on some home-care services into helping more get off the waiting list.