

MONEY FOLLOWS THE PERSON (MFP) REBALANCING DEMONSTRATION

As you may know, the Money Follows the Person (MFP) Program is the largest demonstration ever offered by Medicaid. The MFP Program is providing States with \$1.75 billion in funding to promote community-based healthcare services as viable alternatives to institutional care and is designed to help States transition people from institutions back into the community, where they can preserve their independence, maintain ties to family and friends, and enjoy a better quality of life. The program has the following objectives:

1. **Rebalancing**—Increase the use of home and community-based, rather than institutional, long-term care services.
2. **Money Follows the Person**—Eliminate barriers or mechanisms, whether in the State law, the State Medicaid plan, the State budget, or otherwise, that prevent or restrict the flexible use of Medicaid funds to enable Medicaid-eligible individuals to receive support for appropriate and necessary long-term services in the settings of their choice.
3. **Continuity of Service**—Increase the ability of the State Medicaid program to assure continued provision of home and community-based long-term care services to eligible individuals who choose to transition from an institutional to a community setting.
4. **Quality assurance and Quality Improvement**—Ensure that procedures are in place (at least comparable to those required under the qualified HCB program) to provide quality assurance for eligible individuals receiving Medicaid home and community-based long-term care services and to provide for continuous quality improvement in such services.

The demonstration provides for enhanced Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) for 12 months for each person who meets a minimum duration of institutional living and is transitioned from the institution to the community during the demonstration period. Additional, the State must continue to provide community services after the 12 month period for as long as the person needs community services and is Medicaid eligible.

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has awarded \$16,897,391.00 to NC. With these funds NC proposes to transition 552 individuals out of institutional settings over the five year demonstration period.

To qualify for transition, individuals must be eligible for Medicaid and have resided in the facility for a minimum of six months. The target region for this population is the entire State.

For more information please contact Gina Rutherford at 919-855-4274 or www.ncmfp.com.

RESIDENT COUNCILS

A Resident Council is: An independent, organized group of residents living in a nursing home who meet on a regular basis to create change, address quality and dignity of care, plan resident activities, participate in legislation, and discuss other matters that are brought before council members.

Why have a Resident Council? Residents, as well as their family and friends, can plan an active role in the decisions made about a resident's new home life. A resident council is an effective tool which, under Federal and State laws, grants residents the opportunity to organize and recommend changes regarding facility policy.

The importance of Resident Councils is recognized by State and Federal law. By law:

- Residents have the right to organize, maintain, and participate in resident councils.
- The home must provide a private space for council meetings.
- The resident council has the right to recommend changes regarding facility policies.

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RESIDENT COUNCILS *(continued)*

- The resident council has the right to invite family, friends, guest speakers, or staff to meetings.
- The nursing home must designate a staff person to assist the council and respond to written requests.
- If the nursing home does not already have a resident council, it must try to establish one.

Contact the Ombudsman office for help establishing an effective Resident Council—828-485-4213.

NATIONAL NURSING HOME WEEK

The 2008 theme for National Nursing Home Week is *Love is Ageless*.

National Nursing Home Week begins on **Mother's Day, May 11 2008**, and continues through **May 17, 2008**. AHCA established the week-long celebration in 1967. Activities are designed to foster intergenerational relationships, collect and preserve patient's reminiscences, strengthen relationships with family members, celebrate quality, and recognize all staff members who demonstrate excellent care giving.

IDEAS FOR COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Facilitate Worship: Try to cultivate relationships that will foster regular contact between community members and those who live and work in your facility. Invite them to your scripture studies, bible or other holy book readings, hymnal sing-a-longs and other spiritual events.

Contact local schools: Start an intergenerational program with a local day care center. Try an "Adopt a Class" program that runs for the full school year to foster relationships among students and senior adults. Another great idea is to set-up "pen-pals" with young children and residents.

Offer your facility as a site for an adult education class to the people who live in the facility. Invite health classes to work rounds with your staff so that they can learn the caring that comes with nursing to teach the students that this is a career where they will be making more than a living; they will be making a real difference.

Offer the use of your facility for a lecture, and have one of your staff speak about their experiences.

Hospitals and Physicians: Visit social workers, discharge planners or case managers and invite them to visit your facility.

Volunteer to speak to a local physicians' organization. You may even want to encourage physicians to visit your facility for lunch and a tour – and make it meaningful.

Local businesses: Retail stores, cleaners, restaurants, florists, and insurance companies are part of your community. Schedule a luncheon and invite local business persons to tour the facility to become familiar with the residents, staff and services. This might also be an opportunity to invite several local artists, and suggest that your facility host a judging or sale at your residence.

Join a local civic organization or social club such as the Rotary and the Chamber of Commerce and be an active participant. This is a sure way to connect with key people in your community and to be seen as a valued community resource.