

MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE
OFFICE OF HEALTH CARE QUALITY - ASSISTED LIVING FORUM
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2004 – 9:30 AM TO 11:30 AM
SPRING GROVE HOSPITAL CENTER
DIX BUILDING – BASEMENT CONFERENCE ROOM
CATONSVILLE, MARYLAND

MEETING NOTES

Individuals in Attendance

1. Karen Acton, Sunrise Senior Living
2. Denise Adams, Department of Aging
3. Dorinda Adams, DHR
4. Loretta Ayd-Simpson, UMBC
5. Paul Ballard, Office of the Attorney General
6. Mike Banscher, Anne Arundel County
7. Fran Blacker, Golden Age Retirement
8. Dina Barclay, Charles County
9. Donna Breckenridge, Baltimore County
10. Lauren Brown, Riderwood
11. Lester Bury, DHR
12. Lakisha Daniel, MHCC
13. Linda Day Butler, Baltimore City
14. Debra Campbell, Montgomery County
15. Linda Cole, MHCC
16. Lynne Condon, OHCQ
17. Sabrina Cooley, Lorien Health Systems
18. Rebecca Dennis, Baltimore County
19. Yvette Dixon, OHCQ
20. William Dorrill, OHCQ
21. Michele Douglas, Alzheimer's Association
22. Sister Irene Dunn, Victory Housing
23. Rosemary Desmond, Assisted Living Centers
24. Mary Ann Friis, Prince Georges County
25. Helene Gardel, Baltimore County
26. Silva K.M. Gerety, Five Star Quality Care
27. Macy Gouge, CARE
28. Wayne Griffin, ALNCS
29. Yvette Griffin, ALNCS
30. Bonnie Hampton, Charles County
31. Mayer Handelman, Board of Pharmacy
32. Christina Harvin, Board of Pharmacy
33. Francene Hill, Montgomery County
34. Shirl Hirshauer, Cache House
35. Marie Ickrath, BMHS
36. Karin Lakin, Senior Network
37. Stephanie Lyon, Alzheimer's Association
38. Sheila Mackertich, HFAM
39. Katherine Mansberger, Baltimore County
40. Cinda Martin, Neighbor Care
41. Susan Masters, Autumn Meadows
42. Kim Mayer, OHCQ
43. Maye Mulcare, Mental Hygiene Administration
44. Tom Maxwell, Anne Arundel
45. Ted Meyerson, AARP
46. Robert Molder, Anne Arundel
47. Barbara Newman, Board of Nursing
48. Cheryl Pratt
49. Leanne Purvis
50. Susan Quast, Montgomery County
51. Kathy Sarnecki, DHR/Adult Services
52. Joann Sarver, Asbury Assisted Living
53. Stephanie Smith, Smith & Crane Nurses Educ.
54. Jill Spector, Medicaid
55. JoAnne Stough, Project Home
56. Susan Subin, Legal Aid Bureau
57. Betty Totaro, Howard County
58. Janice Torres, Baltimore City
59. Meta Townsend, SALA
60. Donna Wagner, Towson University

I. Call to Order

Ms. Carol Benner, Director of the Office of Health Care Quality (OHCQ), called the Assisted Living Forum to order at approximately 9:40 AM. Ms. Benner thanked everyone present for their interest in Maryland's Assisted Living Program.

II. Updates

A. Assisted Living Manager Core Curriculum – Ms. Benner reported that House Bill 1190 of the past General Assembly Session requires that all program managers for assisted living programs licensed for 17 or more beds must complete an 80-hour manager training course that is approved by the Department and that includes an examination. Managers will also have to complete 20-hours of continuing education every two-years. The bill did provide that current managers who have been employed for one-year prior to the January 1, 2006, effective date may be grandfathered for the course requirement. The Department has completed the development of the draft assisted living manager training core topics, with input from various stakeholders. The Department presented by the core curriculum in July to the Assisted Living Forum. It also posted the core curriculum on the Forum's website and there is still time to comment on the proposed curriculum (<http://www.dhmf.state.md.us/ohcq/alforum/almtcctdraft.pdf>) The Department is now in the process of determining whether or not regulations will be necessary.

B. Assessment Tool – Lynne Condon, Education and Training Specialist with the OHCQ, provided an update on the revision of the Assessment Tool. Testing of the revised tool occurred during July and August. A number of providers participated in the testing. It was requested that facilities use the Tool on at least 20-percent of their resident population, including new admissions and to stratify their sample over the current level two and three residents. The data is in the process of being collected and will be evaluated by the Department during September.

C. Medication Management – The Board of Nursing is in the process of finalizing curriculum changes for case manager delegating nurses and certified medication technicians. The requirement for certification of medication technicians begins in October. All assisted living programs are encouraged to remind aides to notify the Board of changes in their contact information.

III. Discussion: Emergency Preparedness Capability of Assisted Living Facilities

Ms. Frances Phillips, Health Officer from the Anne Arundel County Health Department presented broad public health concerns regarding the capacity of assisted living facilities of all sizes to properly respond to emergencies, most particularly the loss of electrical power.

The Anne Arundel County Health Department conducted a telephone survey of all assisted living facilities (86) in its county on September 2 and 3, 2004. Forty-four percent (38) facilities indicated there was some sort of electrical generator on premises.¹ There was discussion as to

¹ There were 11 facilities that did not respond to the survey and 3 facilities that were no longer operating.

the desired capacity (length of operation) of these generators, what essential needs should be supported and various fuel types.

She also reported that while the survey results may signal some improvement since Tropical Storm Isabel in 2003 there continues to be a large number of facilities, including some with nearly 100 residents, which have not made provision for this basic safety need.

IV. Discussion: Quality Standards

Ms. Benner reviewed and discussed the proposed regulatory framework for Assisted Living Programs with the Forum to determine areas of consensus.

The Assisted Living Forum discussed the proposed quality requirements for 8 to 11 bed assisted living programs licensed to serve level of care two residents. There was overwhelming consensus that awake-overnight staff, manager training and on-site nursing that is sufficient to meet the needs of the residents should be required for these programs. The use of an electronic monitoring system by programs to substitute for awake-night staff in these programs was rejected by the majority of stakeholders.

There was consensus that on-site nursing that is sufficient to meet the needs of the residents and training for the manager should also be required of 8 to 11 bed programs that are licensed to serve level of care one residents. However, there was no agreement with regards to requiring awake-overnight staff. That issue will need to be revisited at the next Forum meeting.

IV. Next Steps

The Department will hold the next Assisted Living Forum meeting on September 22, 2004, at 8:30 AM in the Basement Conference Room of the Dix Building located on the campus of Spring Grove Hospital Center in Catonsville, Maryland.

New assisted living regulation booklets are available and may be ordered by the Office of Health Care Quality. Individuals may contact OHCQ at 410-402-8015 or toll-free at 1-877-402-8218 for more information or an order form can be downloaded by the Office's website at <http://www.dhmf.state.md.us/ohcq/html/reg.htm>.

V. Adjourn

There being no further business before the Assisted Living Forum, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:30 AM.