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Opportunities for Living Life (OLL) Newsletter

THE OKLAHOMA HEALTH CARE AUTHORITY

What is OLL?

Opportunities for Living Life (OLL) is charged with developing, operating and administering new program initiatives for SoonerCare. Additionally, OLL is charged with developing collaboration among state and private agencies, community organizations, and stakeholders in creating a system of health care, long-term care support and home- and community-based services support that meets the needs of every Oklahoma citizen.

From all of us at OHCA and Opportunities for Living Life, we wish you a happy holiday season and a prosperous and healthy new year.

Sign up to receive the OLL Newsletter by e-mailing OLL@okhca.org or calling Ashley @ 405-522-7902.

OLL Mission Statement

To enhance quality of life for target citizenry by delivering effective programs and facilitating a partnership with the community.

Policy Report Establishes Place for Long-Term Care Reform in Health Care Reform Debate

The Health Policy Institute at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C., issued a report in July 2009 entitled, "Long-Term Care in Health Care Reform: Policy Options to Improve Both." In that report, the researchers made a case for including long-term care reform in the current debate on health care reform. The report lists four options to improve long-term care and expand accessibility.

1. Expand Medicaid support for home and community-based services.
2. Improve coordination of medical and long-term care for Medicare-Medicaid "dual eligibles."
3. Improve coordination of medical and long-term care for Medicare enrollees with chronic conditions.
4. Establish public insurance protection for long-term care for the broad population.

"Health care reform offers an opportunity to enact any or all of these initiatives — to improve the adequacy and quality of health and long-term care services for people who need both." The authors express the hope that this opportunity will not be missed.

Read the entire report at http://www.thescanfoundation.org/documents/reports/SCAN%20Policy%20Brief%20July%202009%20FINAL.pdf.

Focus On Excellence

The Focus on Excellence Program continues to grow and be an intricate part in continuous quality improvement in Oklahoma LTC facilities. Our goal is to not only continue program improvement but have the best quality nursing homes in the LTC industry.

The Pacific Health Care Group conducted a program audit this year. As a result we are currently working on several recommendations. These recommendations are a great resource and tool to achieve not only an already good program, but a current and future great program.

FOE has developed a team of stakeholders, family members, state agencies, and community advocates to lead a task force focused on continuous quality improvement within the FOE program. The task force will meet on a quarterly basis to strategize on program development, quality measures, program processes, program purposes and/or any other aspects of the program.

FOE has based the facility reimbursement on a Bell curve since its onset. As of Jan. 1, 2010, the program will go to fixed targets. Nine out of the 10 quality measures will be based on a set target. The targets were set based off of the data collected the first two years of the program. Each measure has its own fixed target. This will allow facilities the opportunity to look at themselves each quarter and set higher expectations for their facility.

The Web site is a wonderful tool for the community to access information about each Oklahoma nursing facility as well as the FOE program goals and objectives. The site will go through an overhaul in the next year. We will expand the information that is available to the community, increase details in program descriptors and make it easier to scroll from one page to another.

We will continue to put forth the best quality program and serve the community.

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