

Opportunities for Living Life (OLL) Newsletter

T H E O K L A H O M A H E A L T H C A R E A U T H O R I T Y

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.



THE NEXT OLL NEWSLETTER:

Also—sign up to receive the OLL Newsletter by e-mailing OLL@okhca.org or calling Dena @ 405-522-7343.

OLL Mission Statement

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

MONEY FOLLOWS THE PERSON

2009 will be an exciting year for the Living Choice Project. In the spring, we will begin transitioning eligible people out of institutions and back into the community. The total target populations are: 1,575 older people, 150 people with mental retardation from public ICF/MRs and 282 people with physical disabilities. Oklahoma is one of only nine states that proposes to transition more than 2,000 people!

To be eligible for the Living Choice project the individual must live in a nursing facility for at least six months, have SoonerCare (Oklahoma Medicaid) for at least one month prior to transition, be interested in moving to the community and be guaranteed home and community supports once he or she transitions.

The Living Choice project Web site (www.oklivingchoice.org) is now live. On our Web site you can find FAQs, information about resources, core values and beliefs and a complete list of our Living Choice advisory members.

The Living Choice Advisory Committee has four subcommittees: Public Policy, Quality Assurance, Work Force Development and Service Delivery. All of the Living Choice Advisory Committee (LCAC) meetings are open to the public. You can find a list of meeting times on our Web site, under “Living Choice Meetings.”

Living Choice will empower individuals to have choice and control of the services and supports necessary to live in and be part of the community. For more information, feel free to e-mail us at info@oklivingchoice.org.

National trend in rising costs makes long-term care policies attractive

The state of Oklahoma is one of about 25 states that have the long-term care partnership (LTCP) program in full force. The LTCP was developed to encourage individuals to purchase LTCP insurance who might otherwise turn to Medicaid for financing of their long-term care needs.

After about 18 months of design and planning, the state of Oklahoma launched its LTCP program in July 2008. Currently, 15 insurers are approved by the Oklahoma Insurance Department to market LTCP products in Oklahoma, and approximately 254 agents have taken the required eight hours of training to sell the OLTCP insurance products.

In recognition of our efforts to implement an effective consumer-oriented LTCP program in Oklahoma, and in recognition of the importance of planning for a person's long-term care needs, Gov. Brad Henry joined the nation in proclaiming November 1008 Long-Term Care Awareness Month.

The next phase of the OLTCP program in Oklahoma is to aggressively market the program to agent groups and consumers alike.

The OLTCP program offers:

- Medicaid asset protection
- Individuals a choice where their care is received
- Access to impartial assistance from care coordinators
- Oklahoma Insurance Department review and approval of insurers policies
- Agents who have eight hours of extra training, plus four additional hours bi-annual training.

When you are trying to choose an insurance company, some questions you may want to ask include:

Has the company ever raised rates? If yes, how many times? (Look for no or minimal rate increases)

How old is the company? (Look for 40 years plus)

How many assets does the company have? (Look for billion plus)

What letter grade does the company get from A. M. Best (www.ambest.com)? (Look for rating in the As.)

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