

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.



Quartz Mountain Board Retreat

The Oklahoma Health Care Authority (OHCA) held its annual Board Retreat Aug. 13-16, 2007 at the Quartz Mountain Lodge. The agency staff uses this retreat as an opportunity to inform the Board and the general public about new initiatives, progress on existing initiatives and upcoming opportunities to provide new and or enhanced services. The OLL panel consisted of Raymond Haddock, who presented on waiver services; Cassell Lawson, who presented on Money Follows the Person, also known as Living Choice; and Ivoria Holt, who presented on the Focus on Excellence program.

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- What is OLL?
- Board Retreat
- Nursing Facility Survey Information
- PCA Training
- Focus on Excellence

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.

Nursing Facility Quality of Care Feedback From Nursing Facilities and Residents and Families

OHCA is conducting surveys about quality of care in nursing facilities. The initial survey was sent to 317 nursing facility providers, and more than 150 providers responded. Your feedback is appreciated. Within the next few months, surveys will be sent to approximately 2,000 nursing facility residents and families in Oklahoma. All survey information will be reported anonymously, in aggregate.

Personal Care Assistant (PCA) Training

The Oklahoma Health Care Authority in collaboration with the Oklahoma Department of Human Services Aging Division, Oklahoma State University-Oklahoma City, and provider representatives have developed training for personal care assistants.

The training addresses topics concerning mental health issues, time management, and boundary issues. It will be available for those who train personal care assistants as well as family members. The first quarterly training will be held in Oklahoma City on Sept. 25-26, 2007, and then in Tulsa on Dec. 4-5, 2007. In 2008, the current plan is to hold classes in Enid and McAlester. For more information you may contact Kelli Davidson at 405-522-2501, Tana Parrott at 405-522-7538, or Sharlene Latsey at 405-945-3373.

'Focus on Excellence' to base nursing home pay on performance

The Oklahoma Health Care Authority (OHCA) is moving toward the implementation of 'Focus on Excellence,' an incentive-based rate plan for nursing facilities as directed under the Oklahoma Medicaid Reform Act of 2006.

The initiative carries out a provision enacted by the Oklahoma Legislature last year as part of House Bill 2842, the Oklahoma Medicaid Reform Act of 2006. The act authorizes the OHCA to develop an incentive rate plan based on factors such as quality of life and care indicators, family, resident and employee satisfaction survey results, Department of Health survey results, CNA training and education requirements, patient acuity levels, direct care expenditures and other incentives. The program will be launched later this year.

The OHCA obtained input for the new program from a set of statewide organizations advocating for and serving the elderly, including an Interagency Task Force and both statewide associations of nursing facility operators. The agency will also use quarterly performance criteria to create a Web site that will feature a star rating system, similar to the state's day care rating system, which will enable consumers to compare nursing homes in their communities.

The OHCA will unveil details of the new program to nursing home administrators through meetings in Norman and Tulsa. The Feb. 27 meeting will be held from 9 a.m. to noon at the Moore Norman Technology Center, Franklin Road Campus, 4701 12th Ave NW, Norman. On Feb. 28, the meeting will also be held from 9 a.m. to noon at the Tulsa Community College, 3727 E. Apache (main academic building), in Tulsa.

The OHCA awarded a competitively bid contract to My InnerView, Inc., a national health care data management firm, to provide independent validation of each nursing home's performance under the program. The company specializes in collecting and analyzing performance data for nursing homes on the Internet to support quality improvement efforts. My InnerView is also the nation's largest provider of customer, family and employee satisfaction surveys in the long-term care sector.

"Focus on Excellence is designed to drive measurable improvements in the quality of life, care and services for the 22,000 Oklahomans who need nursing home care and must rely on SoonerCare for financial support," said OHCA CEO Mike Fogarty. He added that the program will also provide the necessary real-time data that will enable nursing homes to set and meet performance improvement targets and know how well they compare with facilities statewide and nationwide, including the "best in class."

Fogarty said the initiative will provide better assurance to state leaders and taxpayers that funds spent on nursing home care distinguish among facilities based on their performance, while providing consumers current information to help them when choosing a nursing home for themselves or a loved one.

The OHCA paid out more than \$438 million in state fiscal year 2006 for nursing home care on behalf of elderly and disabled Oklahomans. The agency pays for 70 percent of the total actual nursing facility occupied bed days in the state.

Anyone seeking additional information may contact the OHCA's Opportunities for Living Life Division at (405) 522-7078.

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