



STATE OF MARYLAND

DHMH

Office of Health Services
Medical Care ProgramsMaryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
201 W. Preston Street • Baltimore, Maryland 21201

Martin O'Malley, Governor – Anthony G. Brown, Lt. Governor – John M. Colmers, Secretary

MARYLAND MEDICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**Nursing Home Transmittal No. 221****July 21, 2009**

TO: Nursing Home Administrators

FROM: 
Susan J. Tucker, Executive Director
Office of Health ServicesNOTE: Please ensure that appropriate staff members in your organization are informed of the contents of this transmittal.RE: **Peer Outreach to Medicaid-eligible Nursing Home Residents**

The State of Maryland was chosen by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to participate in the Money Follows the Person (MFP) Rebalancing Demonstration, which was authorized by the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 as an opportunity for states to rebalance long-term care systems. Maryland has the opportunity to improve long-term care by improving the availability and quality of community-based services while providing people in institutions information about the option to be served in the community.

The Maryland Medical Assistance Program has secured a contract with the Southern Maryland Center for Independent Living (SMCIL) to perform peer outreach to nursing facility residents in the Southern Maryland region including Calvert, Charles, Montgomery, Prince George's, and St. Mary's counties. SMCIL and its partner, Independence Now, will begin outreach in nursing facilities in the Southern Maryland region by July 20, 2009. The Department is in the process of procuring contractors in other areas of the State and expects this initiative to begin statewide in November 2009.

The purpose of this effort is to offer nursing facility residents information about the option to receive services in the community and to refer those who are interested in exploring community-based options to resources for information and transition assistance. The peer outreach contractors will receive information about individuals who receive Medicaid funding for their nursing facility care from the Department. They will then contact the facility at least 48 hours in advance to arrange for peers to make personal visits to nursing facilities in an attempt to contact each of the residents identified by the Department. Peers will meet with nursing facility residents to provide information about community options and share their own experiences. The peer will

ask nursing facility residents if they are interested in pursuing community-based care options and document details of the contact. Individuals who express interested in community living will be reported to the Department and referred for further assistance. Peers will wear identification badges and make efforts to coordinate visits with facility social workers and other staff. Facilities are expected to provide reasonable access to Medicaid-eligible residents and to work collaboratively with the peer contractors as representatives of the Department.

Questions regarding this transmittal should be directed to Money Follows the Person Demonstration staff at (410) 767-6770.