



HEALTH CARE QUALITY ACCOUNT 2005 ANNUAL REPORT

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & MENTAL HYGIENE
OFFICE OF HEALTH CARE QUALITY

Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr., Governor
Michael S. Steele, Lt. Governor
S. Anthony McCann, Secretary
Wendy A. Kronmiller, Acting Director

Overview

Maryland's Health Care Quality Account was established in 2000 by the General Assembly and mirrors the account established by federal regulation to be used to improve the quality of care in nursing homes. The state and federal accounts are funded through civil money penalties assessed to nursing homes for violations of standards. The state fund account represents penalties assessed by the Office of Health Care Quality (OHCQ) when a deficiency exists or there is an ongoing pattern of deficiencies in a nursing home. The federal fund account represents penalties assessed by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). Both of the accounts are non-lapsing, special funds to be used for training, grant awards, demonstration projects, or other purposes designed to improve the quality of care in Maryland's nursing homes.

The account also funds the OHCQ Technical



Assistance Unit (TAU), which conducts, as required by Senate Bill 690 of the 2000 General Assembly, an annual quality improvement survey of all nursing homes in Maryland. The quality improvement survey is consultative in nature and is intended to foster the continued refinement of quality assurance programs in nursing homes.

The TAU identifies trends and focuses on issues or problems occurring in real time in Maryland's nursing homes. It outlines broad goals for the facilities through an annual review of the individual facilities. Based on the findings and issues identified, the team educates facility staff and offers suggestions for tracking and trending facility performance on problematic issues. This is an alternate way to protect the vulnerable nursing home resident from substandard care and improve quality of life.

A Message from Wendy A. Kronmiller, Acting Director

One of my goals as the acting director of the Office of Health Care Quality is to continue to improve the policy, procedure, and process for awarding grants from Maryland's Health Care Quality Account. In 2005, we established a grant cycle, posted instructions on our Web site, and distributed information to stakeholders for inclusion in their newsletters and trade publications. This resulted in a more diverse pool of applicants. I am pleased that the grants awarded for this fiscal year cover a broad range of timely issues facing the long-term care industry, from accessing end-of-life care needs to enhancing the efficacy and communications of family advocates.

Grants Awards Process

Applications for grants from the Health Care Quality Account are accepted from September to April, selected in May, and are awarded on a fiscal year basis. Grant amounts vary and depend upon the number of successful applications received and availability of funds. In 2005, awards ranged between \$5,000 and \$10,000. For FY 07 consideration, applications must be received by April 30, 2006.

OHCQ's Mission

The Office of Health Care Quality's mission is to protect the health and safety of Maryland's citizens and to ensure that there is public confidence in the health care and community service delivery systems through regulatory, enforcement, and educational activities.

The applications must include, and are evaluated on, the following criteria:

- Background information concerning the person(s) or organization requesting the grant.
- Description of the scope of the project and explanation of how the grant would improve the quality of care of nursing home residents.
- Description of measures that will be used to quantitatively analyze the impact of the project.
- Timeline and dates by which each phase of the project will be completed and the projected completion date for entire project.
- Project cost, including a specific breakdown of expenses.
- Quarterly reporting to the OHCQ on the status of the project and the date by which a final report will be submitted.

At the end of the project, a final report is submitted to the OHCQ outlining the project's accomplishments and findings. Project findings are shared with the long-term care trade associations, advocates, and other stakeholders.

(see www.dhmdh.md.gov/ohcq for more information)

Fiscal Year 2006 Grants Award Cycle

Palliative Medicine Consultants – Rockville, Maryland: Proposed a project to assist long-term care facilities in better identifying the palliative care needs of residents as they are ready for hospice. The project will result in the development of a screening tool that will help nursing homes identify residents who are at the end of life so that they may be referred for palliative care in a timely way. Awarded \$7,980.

Baltimore City Commission on Aging and Retirement Education: Proposed a pilot program for the Ombudsman Program designed to

demonstrate the changing of nursing home staff attitudes by providing training on the special needs of residents with behavior problems. Nursing home staff will attend 10 training sessions on issues such as cultural diversity, sexuality, the unique needs of young residents, etc. The training program consists of a pre- and post-test. Awarded \$9,500.



National Citizen's Coalition for Nursing Home Reform (NCCHR): Requested funding to continue conference calls, conferences, and annual meetings to educate family members and consumers. Awarded \$5,000.

Health Facilities Association of Maryland: Proposed a project to improve the quality of care in nursing homes by enhancing training and status of quality improvement coordinators. Awarded \$6,350.

Fund Balance and Collections



As of September, the state fund balance was \$1,072,753 and the federal fund balance was \$308,752. Collections for FY 2005, which include civil money penalties assessed and interest earned on the accounts, were \$121,575 for the federal fund and \$180,401 for the state fund.

OHCQ's Vision

The Office of Health Care Quality's vision is to achieve excellence in the quality of services provided by the health care and community service delivery systems through the regulatory process.

Prior Years Awards*

Fiscal Year	Federal or State CMP Grant	Grantee	Award	Purpose
2005	Federal	Technical Assistance Unit	\$340,784	Technical assistance, CQI consultative survey.
2004	Federal	DHMH Epidemiology and Disease Control Program	\$6,175	Additional funding for development of an infection control course for infection control professionals.
	Federal	Beacon Institute	\$85,000	Additional funding for Wellspring program.
	Federal	NCCNHR	\$99,944	Family councils and consumer education project
	Federal	Pets on Wheels	\$8,100	Volunteer initiatives (newsletter, Web site, educational event).
	Federal	Technical Assistance Unit	\$308,131	Technical assistance, CQI consultative survey.
2003	Federal	Beacon Institute	\$225,000	Initial funding of the Wellspring program.
	Federal	NCCNHR	\$99,719	Family councils and consumer education project.
	Federal	Hospice Network of Maryland	\$3,420	Development of the Handbook for Hospice in Maryland Nursing Homes.
	Federal	DHMH Epidemiology and Disease Control Program	\$6,175	Development of an infection control course for infection control professionals.
2002	State	University of Maryland Baltimore Foundation	\$7,500	Conference on medication errors.
	Federal	NCCNHR	\$131,834	Study on the development of Family Councils.
2001	Federal	Pets on Wheels	\$51,650	Study on the positive effects of pet visitation on residents of long-term care facilities.
2000	Federal	Delmarva Foundation	\$70,254	Study on trauma effects of transferring residents when a facility closes.
	Federal	NCCNHR	\$68,871	Study on the development of Family Councils.

*Does not include general expenses such as printing for nursing home alerts.



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