



HEALTH CARE QUALITY ACCOUNT 2006 ANNUAL REPORT

Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
Office of Health Care Quality

Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr., Governor
Michael S. Steele, Lt. Governor
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Wendy A. Kronmiller, 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 of Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). During the 2006 General Assembly Session, a Health Care Quality Account was established for assisted living programs.

All of these 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 and assisted living programs.

The nursing home Health Care Quality Account also funds the OHCQ Technical Assistance Unit (TAU),



which conducts, as required by Chapter 218 of the Acts 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 homes.

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

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 system through the regulatory process.

A Message from Wendy A. Kronmiller, Director

One of the most rewarding aspects of being the director of the Office of Health Care Quality is seeing first hand how the Health Care Quality Account monies, resulting from fines and penalties, can be used to benefit the lives of vulnerable individuals who reside in nursing homes. By supporting diverse studies, trainings, or other projects, the OHCQ is committed to carefully selecting worthy proposals for funding. Recipients range from advocates to government agencies to providers of care. I am pleased that, drawing upon the success of the nursing home account, this year the Maryland General Assembly established a similar account for assisted living programs. The OHCQ is looking forward to receiving proposals and funding projects that will enhance the quality of care for the maximum number of nursing home and assisted living program residents.

Grants Awards Process

Applications for grants from the Health Care Quality Accounts are accepted from September to May, selected in June, and are awarded on a fiscal year basis. Grant amounts vary and depend upon the number of successful applications received and availability of funds. Grants from the nursing home account average between \$5,000 and \$10,000. Grants from the assisted living account will average between \$1,000 and \$2,000. For Fiscal Year 2008 grants, applications must be received by May 30, 2007.

Note: Nursing home account awards must clearly benefit nursing home residents; assisted living account awards must clearly benefit residents of assisted living programs.

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 application must include, and is 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 or assisted living program residents. Programs must clearly identify whether applying for funding from the nursing home account or assisted living account.
- 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 the entire project.
- Project cost, including specific breakdown of expenses.
- Quarterly reporting to 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 may be shared with trade associations, advocates, and other stakeholders.

Fiscal Year 2007 Grants Award Cycle

Voices for Quality Care (LTC), Inc.: Proposed a project "Improving the Quality of Long-Term Care in Maryland Through Cultural Change Conferences." By hosting seven public conferences throughout the State, the project will bring the concept of culture change to the attention of the general public, as well as including family members and family councils an integral and equal part of the process. Awarded: \$7,000.

St. Mary's Nursing Center, Inc.: Proposed to partially support implementation of the "Five Meals a Day Resident Choice Meal Plan" in

all five nursing units of the facility. The project enhances meal delivery to residents and allows the freedom of choice. The program lets residents experience meal preparation in their unit and the aroma of foods being cooked, which will aid in stimulating appetites. The plan will also increase the effectiveness of having meals prepared and served at the required hot and cold temperatures. Awarded: \$10,000.

The Beacon Institute: Proposed an infection control educational program entitled "A Basic Infection Control Course for Non-Acute Care Settings,"

which included two seminars hosted by the Beacon Institute, the Health Facilities Association of Maryland, and the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, in partnership with the Office of Health Care Quality. Awarded: \$4,825.

Since additional funds for Fiscal Year 2007 were available from the Health Care Quality Account, the OHCQ opened a second grant cycle. Proposals were due by October 15, and grants will be awarded in December.

Fund Balance and Collections

As of October 2006, the nursing home State fund balance was \$778,589, and the federal fund balance was \$400,746. Collections for FY 2006, which include civil money penalties assessed and interest earned on the accounts, totaled \$15,382 for the federal fund and \$50,600 for the State fund. The assisted living program State fund balance was \$11,500.

Prior Year Awards*

Fiscal Year	Federal or State CMP Grant	Grantee	Award	Purpose
2006	State	Baltimore City Commission on Aging and Retirement Education	\$9,500	"Changes in Attitude—Changes in Behavior" pilot training program for nursing home staff
	State	Palliative Medicine Consultants	\$7,980	Development of a palliative care screening tool for nursing homes
	State	National Citizen's Coalition for Nursing Home Reform (NCCNHR)	\$5,000	Family councils and consumer education project
	State	Health Facilities Association of Maryland	\$6,350	Pilot program to enhance training and status of quality improvement coordinators
	State	Technical Assistance Unit	\$403,253	Technical Assistance, CQI Consultative Survey
	Federal	Washington County Ombudsman; Mid-Maryland Medical Transport	\$511	Related to Clearview Nursing Home Closure
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 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 for Wellspring Program
	Federal	NCCNHR	\$99,719	Family councils and consumer education project
	Federal	Hospice Network of Maryland	\$3,420	Development of a 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 in 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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