



aging care connections

Your Source For Senior Care

The Medicare-Medicaid Initiative: Important Information Regarding Significant Changes in Health and Aging Services

by Louise Starmann, Director of Social Services

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The State of Illinois has embarked on a project to significantly realign the health care services provided to older adults and the disabled who receive Medicare and Medicaid. Aging Care Connections is doing our part to help those affected to understand the changes.

Known as the Innovations Project, the new plan separates older adults and adults with disabilities into two groups: The Integrated Care Population, or ICPs, and Duals. ICPs are older adults and adults with disabilities who have Medicaid only. Duals receive both Medicare and Medicaid. The goal of the project is to transfer Medicaid recipients into one of several Managed Care Organizations, or MCOs, for their healthcare and long term care support services.

ICPs now receive health care and community services through one of two MCOs, Aetna or Illini Care.

Individuals who receive in-home services supported by the State of



Illinois have been transferred to one of these MCOs.

Duals are now being transferred under the Medicare-Medicaid Alignment Initiative, MMAI. This is a joint initiative involving the State of Illinois and the federal government's Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

Individuals affected by this change have received letters from the Department of Healthcare and Family Services informing them that they

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Report Abuse

Some victims of elder abuse never report it because they are afraid of losing the relationship with their abuser, receiving further punishment or retaliation, feeling shame and embarrassment, or are worried the police or other service providers will not be able to help.

According to Detective Sergeant James Hennelly, Office of the Cook County Sheriff, abuse needs to be reported and investigated, even if no charges are filed. "After numerous meetings and establishing criteria, once law enforcement becomes involved and contact is made with elder care agencies such as Aging Care Connections, a complete safety net is provided for the older adult. If there is no criminal action, law enforcement will leave the case, but we are confident the victim will be taken care of because of agencies like Aging Care Connections, that will put programs and services in place for the older adult to ensure their well-being and care."

Enough is Enough!

Stop Abuse of Older Adults and Adults with Disabilities

Bedridden, blind and close to death, Mrs. H relied on her husband for her day-to-day care. But an investigation by Aging Care Connections revealed that Mr. H wasn't providing that care, and that he had little interest in his wife beyond collecting her pension and social security checks.

Responding to a Saturday morning call about suspected neglect, an Aging Care Connections Adult Protective Service's staff member visited the home of Mrs. H to find the 61-year-old lying on a cot with severe wounds caused by long hours spent in the same position. At 85 pounds, she was malnourished. And her end-stage dementia meant she was unable to ask for help.

neglect and is currently in prison.

The story of Mrs. H is an example of the complicated work that the Aging Care Connections Adult Protective Service staff conduct on behalf of those aged 60+, and disabled persons between 18 and 59, who are suspected victims of abuse or neglect. Unfortunately, this story is far from unique. Aging



Aging Care Connections intervened and had Mrs. H placed in an in-patient hospital setting, where she was allowed a peaceful and respectful death. With the help of the Cook County Sheriff's Office, Mr. H was soon in a new home of his own. He was convicted of the death of an individual due to abuse and ne-

Care Connections has received 295 reports of alleged abuse, neglect, and financial exploitation this fiscal year alone.

The work of Aging Care Connections has contributed to the expansion of the Elder Abuse and Neglect program to include working with the

disabled population. Effective July 2013, Public Act 98-0049 transfers this responsibility to the Illinois Department on Aging from the Department of Human Services (DHS) Office of Inspector General.

Aging Care Connections encourages anyone who suspects a case of abuse or neglect to make an Adult Protective Service's report by calling Aging Care Connections directly at 708-354-1323, or by calling the 24-hour Adult Protective Service's

Hotline at 866-800-1409.

Criteria for an Adult Protective Service's report are:

- the alleged victim is age 60 or over OR is disabled/suspected disabled between the ages of 18 and 59
- the alleged victim resides in the Aging Care Connections community
- there is an identified alleged abuser who has a relationship to the alleged victim

Initiative ...continued from page 1

will be enrolled in a managed care organization for their MCO and their community support services. This letter also informs older adults and adults with disabilities that they must choose their MCO. Those who do not will be auto-enrolled. It is important to note that seniors and adults with disabilities can opt out of the health care portion of the integration program. Seniors and adults with disabilities will be transitioned to an MCO for their State of Illinois in-home support services.

The change to an integrated program will take place 180 days following enrollment. Many other states have made these changes in an attempt to reduce costs, but the project also focuses on improved

health through medical and long-term care services that support healthy aging and independence.

All of these changes have left many affected individuals with many questions. Aging Care Connections has trained Senior Health Insurance Program, or SHIP, counselors available to help clients navigate their benefits, enroll in the plan of their choice and address questions and concerns. Appointments with SHIP counselors can be made by calling 708-354-1323.

More information is available on the Healthcare and Family services website, www.EnrollHFS.Illinois.gov. To speak with an enrollment broker, call 877-912-8880.

“With my background as a former prosecutor who specialized in domestic violence for a number of years, the Adult Protective Services program is in the forefront of my mind. Our social workers and staff are tirelessly dedicated to this program. We are at the forefront of offering services to those who are victims of this kind of abuse. In turn, this makes it easy for me as a Board member, to dedicate my time and talent in support of them and the agency as a whole.”

*Catherine McCrory,
Aging Care Connections
Board Member*



Community Celebrates Seniors with Week of Well-Attended Events

The community came together May 19-23 to celebrate its seniors with a series of events aimed at making their lives happier and healthier.

Linda Hussey, Aging Well Program Coordinator at Aging Care Connections, said more than 300 older adults attended at least one of the 11 programs designed specifically for Celebrating Seniors Week.

to schedule appointments to complete their own documents. Seniors learned to live healthier with exercise presentations, a healthy eating expo, a health fair, and a presentation about joint health and joint replacement.

Jim Matthews of La Grange said he enjoyed Balancing Act, an event led by physical therapists at Adventist La Grange Memorial Hospital to

Velaine Carnall of Countryside gave high marks to the Safety in Style program, held at Countryside City Hall. The event, aimed at helping seniors to recognize utility workers, municipal workers, and others coming to their door, included a fashion show. "I was very impressed with the Safety in Style Program. Officer Bisignani made it educational, infor-



"The week was a great success, with events that ranged from fun to informative," she said. Aging Care Connections partnered with Community Memorial Foundation and many other local supporters to make Celebrating Seniors Week happen.

Included in the weeklong celebration was a presentation by vaudeville performer George Zima, lunch served to the sounds of live accordion music, as well as opportunities to learn about estate planning, veterans' benefits and the importance of powers of attorney and living wills. Seniors were invited



teach seniors how to improve balance and prevent falls. "As a retired teacher, I gave an 'A' to the person who led the Balancing Act class at the hospital," Matthews said.

"We left the room confident in our physical abilities to navigate whatever walking challenges we might encounter."

matic, creative, and fun!" she said.

Celebrating Seniors Week would not have been possible without the generous support of its many local sponsors. "We thank all of our supporters for helping our seniors, and for showing them that they are a valuable part of our community," Linda Hussey said.

To become a regular subscriber to the Aging Care Connections Newsletter, please contact Niki Chibucos, Director of Development and Public Relations, via e-mail at nchibucos@agingcareconnections.org, or by phone, 708-354-1323, extension 226. Thank you for your interest!



Introducing Our Board Member Bob Difino

It is a pleasure to introduce Bob Difino, a member of the Aging Care Connections Board of Directors since November, 2012. Bob has worked for UPS for almost 24 years and is now Area Human Resources Manager at the Hodgkins facility which employs 6,000 people working four different shifts in a 1.5 million square foot sorting facility, the largest in the country. His position involves leadership development, performance management, project planning, recruitment, and employee relations in the transportation industry. Bob is a project manager for the Chicagoland Regional College Program, a cooperative program with several area colleges allowing individuals to work at UPS and to receive full tuition reimbursement.

In addition to our Board, Bob is a member of the DuPage County Workforce Board and the Advisory Board at DeVry University.

Previously, he has served on the Village of Lombard Safety and Transportation Committee, the Boards of the West Suburban Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the West Suburban Chamber of Commerce. His free time rounds out with being on the Glenbard East High School Athletic Boosters Committee and coaching softball and basketball for the Lombard Park District Youth Athletics.

Bob is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin having majored in Communications. Bob and his wife are the proud parents of six children and live in Lombard.



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Aging Care Connections Hits a Home Run with the Sports Ball Benefit Gala

Aging Care Connections hit a home run with its thirteenth annual Sports Ball Benefit Gala held Friday, May 16 at Pinstripes, Oak Brook. The fund-raising event raised close to \$80,000 to support our social service programs assisting the adult disabled and those 60 years of age and older in suburban Cook County.

Comedian Pat McGann headlined an evening of tailgate cocktails, skybox dining, auctions, bocce, and bowling. Lou Canellis of Fox 32 News emceed the event that hosted celebrity athletes Emery Lehman, 2014 Winter Olympics speed skater; John Lattner, 1953 Heisman Trophy winner; Bob Love, former Chicago Bull; and Ken Geiger, former Bears scout.



More than 200 guests bid on auction items showcasing the chance to ride the Blackhawks' Zamboni; trips to Coronado Island, Scottsdale, and Napa Valley; the Heisman football signed by all winners present at the December 2013 ceremony; a Notre Dame package including a football autographed by alumnus and Heisman Trophy winner John Lattner, and the opportunity to "borrow" John Lattner's Heisman trophy for two weeks.

We would like to thank the Planning Committee members, sponsors, donors, volunteers, and guests who made this event possible. Next year, Sports Ball will be moving to September. Please be watching for the save the date announcement.

Support Group Calendar

Alzheimer's and Related Dementia Caregivers Support Group

A support group for those who care for someone who has been diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease or dementia meeting the first Tuesday of the month from 1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. at Aging Care Connections.

For information, please contact Ruth Folkening, 708-354-1323, extension 228.

Caregiver Support Group

The needs and demands of someone with dementia can be tiring and time-consuming. Caring for yourself is just as important. Led by aging care experts, caregivers share stories, exchange ideas and learn more about living with the disease and the resources available. The group meets the third Tuesday of every month from 2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. in the Professional Office Building, Lower Level, Rooms E, Gottlieb Memorial Hospital, 701 W. North Ave., Melrose Park.

For information, please call Ruth Folkening at Aging Care Connections, 708-354-1323, extension 228.

Caregiver Support Group

A support group for those who care for a loved one meeting the first and third Wednesdays of each month from 2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. at CNN Proviso Township Wellness Center, Sharp Community Center, 1609 N. 36th Avenue, Melrose Park.

For information, please call Mattie Stevenson, 708-354-1323, extension 231.

Friday Morning Regulars

Support group for men related to aging issues.

For information, please contact Linda Tomko, 708-354-1323, extension 215.

Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Support Group (North)

Group the 3rd Thursday of each month from 5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. at CNN Proviso Township Wellness Center, Sharp Community Center, 1609 N. 36th Avenue, Melrose Park.

For information, please call Mattie Stevenson, 708-354-1323, extension 231.

Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Support Group (South)

Group meets at the Summit Public Library, 6233 S. Archer Road, Summit, the last Thursday of the month from 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

For information, please contact Ruth Folkening, 708-354-1323, extension 228.

Other Opportunities

Health Clinic Dr. Nyaeme, a geriatric physician with Adventist Midwest Geriatric Specialists, sees patients on selected Thursday mornings by appointment.

For appointment, please call Adventist Midwest Geriatric Specialists at 708-245-4073.

Will and Estate Planning

Attorney Michael-Anne Peck is available the third Thursday of the month for consultation on matters pertaining to estate planning. There is no fee for the consultation.

For appointment, please call Linda Tomko, 708-354-1323, extension 215.

Serving Communities in
Leyden, Lyons, Norwood Park, Proviso
and Riverside Townships

Aging Care Connections' Mission

.....to enrich the quality of life of older adults
and their families through a range of programs
and services that enhance
their well-being and independence

 **Find us on Facebook**

You're invited...

Aging Care Connections' 43rd Annual Luncheon will be held on Thursday, October 16 at 11:30 a.m. at Ruth Lake Country Club, Hinsdale. Please join us for a wonderful afternoon including the presentation of the annual Community Service Award and a keynote presentation by Merri Dee, philanthropist and former broadcast journalist who currently serves as the President of the Illinois chapter of the AARP.

Merri Dee is a celebrated motivational and inspirational speaker, a highly popular panelist, moderator and master of ceremonies, a life-changing career coach, a successful fundraising strategist, and a fierce advocate for violence prevention. In her recent memoir, *Life Lessons on Faith, Forgiveness & Grace*, she inspires individuals to rise above challenges and seize control of their destinies.

Luncheon tickets are available for \$45 and may be reserved by contacting Niki Chibucos, Director of Development and Public Relations, at 708-354-1323, extension 226 or via email at nchibucos@agingcareconnections.org.



Statement of Non-Discrimination

Aging Care Connections does not discriminate in admission to programs or treatment or employment in programs or activities in compliance with the Illinois Human Rights Act; the Age Discrimination in Employment Act; and the U.S. and Illinois Constitutions. If you feel you have been discriminated against, you have the right to file a complaint with the Illinois Department on Aging. For information, call Aging Care Connections at 708-354-1323.