

The 2008 National Service  
Conference  
Atlanta, Georgia

*Corporation for*  
NATIONAL &  
COMMUNITY  
SERVICE 

THE URGENCY OF  
**now!**

2008 National Conference  
on Volunteering & Service

# Companionship and Elderly Waiver

Background

Perception

LONG TERM CARE = NURSING HOME

??????????

True or False

# Payment for Long Term Care

- Savings
- Social Security
- Pension
- When finances are depleted??
- Who pays the bill?
- State?, Federal? or “Welfare”
- Poor Farm ??

# The Medical Assistance Program

- It is Not Medicare
- To receive Medical Assistance:
  - Need to meet income guidelines (means tested)
  - Spend down assets to state guideline
  - Then Nursing Home costs will be covered by state medical assistance

# A New Idea Surfaces

In the Late 1970's to Early 1980's  
Medicare Home Care Act is passed

- Medicare funds are used to provide rehabilitation in an individual's home
- In 1981 Section 1915 c of the Social Security Act
- It approves in-home services to be paid for through Medical assistance dollars

# The Waiver Concept of Social Security ACT

Several Different Waiver Options are  
available

- Disabled
- Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI)
- Community Alternative for Disabled  
Individuals (CADI)
- Mental Health/ Mental Retardation (MH/MR)
- Elderly (EW)

# CNCS (ACTION) Launches a Parallel Track in Home Care

- 1985 Major Senior Companion Program Expansion
  - Doubled Appropriation \$12M to \$24M
  - Emphasis on in-home placements
  - SCP beginning to become a significant player in the Home and Community Based Services system.

# Elderly Waiver Eligibility Criteria

Same qualifications as Medical Assistance

- Age (65+)
- Means Tested
- Certified at risk of Nursing Home Placement
- Services provided must be cost neutral or less than the cost of Nursing Home care



# Examples of Service Options Under the Waiver

- Adult Day Care Home Health Aide
- Home Delivered Meal Home Maker
- Adaptive Equip. Personal Care Asst
- Skilled Nursing Care related supplies
- RESPITE CARE Assisted Living
- COMPANIONSHIP TRANSPORTATION

# Companionship

- Companion services consist of non-medical care, supervision and socialization provided to functionally impaired adult. A Companion may assist the client with such tasks as meal preparation, laundry and shopping, but does not perform these activities as discrete services. A Companion may also perform light house keeping tasks which are incidental to the care and supervision of the client and also may accompany the individual into the community.

# Transportation

- Transportation service is offered to enable the client to gain access to other community services, activities and resources as specified in their plan of care. Whenever possible, family, neighbors, friends, or community agencies who provide transportation without charge should be utilized.

# Respite Care

- Services provided to persons unable to care for themselves, furnished on a short-term basis because of the absence or need for relief of those unpaid family caregivers.
- **In-home Respite Care Providers:**
  - Must be registered or licensed practical nurses, home health aides, or personal care assistants specifically trained to provide care to the recipient.

# WHY DO THIS???

- Elderly Waiver reimburses providers of services at a set or negotiated rate
- Companionship = \$8 /hr to \$14 /hr
- Transportation = Per Trip \$14. or per mile.
- ***Expands*** your existing program and increases your Volunteer Service Years

# PROCESS To Get Started

- Number One Key is to be a Credible Vendor
- ??????????????????
- Can they count on you to provide the service??
- Can you deliver the service in a timely manner??

# Find out Who is the Medical Assistance Agency in your state

- What Waivers do they have?
- Do they have Companionship?
- Definition is compatible?
- Rates look good?
- You feel you can find the volunteers?
- You can develop a billing system?
- You can track the service?
- It looks exciting \$\$\$\$\$\$?
- Then Apply to become a vendor/provider

# Requirements?

- Different in each state
  - Criminal Background Checks
  - Training of volunteers
  - Screening of volunteers
  - If They approve you as a vendor then you get your Provider number
  - Yeah!!!!

# Billing for EW Clients

- Contract with State; Provider ID
- County Contracts
- Case Managers
- Electronic billing
- Billing Process; Provider Info, Client Info
- Managing client information and eligibility
- Processing timeline and payment dates

# If State does not have Companionship

If Not..... Market yourself

- Prove benefits /cost effectiveness
- Develop Relations with State Agency
- Provide Data, Evaluations both locally and nationally

# Process to provide Services

- Potential Clients

- Go through a screening process with a Public Health Nurse and a Social Worker
- They determine if client is eligible (age and income)
- Determine if they are at risk of Nursing Home placement
- If they meet the three criteria above, they are allotted a level of funding per month for services
- The client is assigned a case manager who authorizes a list of services and contacts providers to implement the case plan

# Top of the List

- You want to be on that provider list
- You want every case manager in your service area to see you as the best and most credible agency to provide the Companionship and/or transportation service.

# Why You ?

- Companionship reimbursement is low
- Good deal for the client
  - Ie. More hours of service for less money
  - Most home care agencies don't offer it because of the low reimbursement (less competitive)
  - Clients like having a “peer” visit them

# Watch the referrals come in

- Market...Market...Market...Market
- Its all about RELATIONSHIPS with the CASE MANAGERS
- COMING SOON:  
ELDERLY WAIVER MANUAL FROM CNCS  
TO ASSIST YOU

# New Waiver Manual

The National Senior Corps Association has assisted RTI (Research Triangle Institute) in developing an updated Medicaid Waiver Handbook that will be out this fall.

For more information on this contact NSCA by accessing the web page

[NSCAtogether.org](http://NSCAtogether.org)

# 13 States use SCP Programs for Companionship

1. Connecticut
2. Florida
3. Illinois
4. Iowa
5. Michigan
6. Minnesota
7. Nevada
8. Ohio
9. Pennsylvania
10. South Carolina
11. Utah
12. Vermont
13. Wisconsin

# Thank you for your interest

- For more information Contact
- John Pribyl: 651-310-9444

[john.pribyl@lssmn.org](mailto:john.pribyl@lssmn.org)

- Dwight Rasmussen: 801-468-2775

[drasmussen@slco.org](mailto:drasmussen@slco.org)

- Pat Melendez: 651-310-9442

[pat.melendez@lssmn.org](mailto:pat.melendez@lssmn.org)