



Center for Clinical Standards and Quality/Survey & Certification Group

Ref: S&C: 15-34-NH

DATE: April 3, 2015

TO: State Survey Agency Directors

FROM: Director
Survey and Certification Group

SUBJECT: Grant Award: Reinvestment of Federal Civil Money Penalty (CMP) Funds to Benefit Nursing Home Residents

Memorandum Summary

- **Funding Opportunity CMS-1K1-14-001:** The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) invited proposals for a grant opportunity to utilize Federal CMP Funds for the support and further expansion of the National Partnership to Improve Dementia Care in Nursing Homes.
- **Grant Award:** The Eden Alternative, Inc. was deemed to be the most eligible applicant and has been awarded a grant, in the amount of \$293,129.00 for their project entitled, “*Creating a Culture of Person-Directed Dementia Care.*”
- **National Partnership to Improve Dementia Care in Nursing Homes:**
<http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Provider-Enrollment-and-Certification/SurveyCertificationGenInfo/National-Partnership-to-Improve-Dementia-Care-in-Nursing-Homes.html>

Background

Sections 1819(h)(2)(B)(ii)(IV)(ff) and 1919(h)(3)(C)(ii)(IV)(ff) of the Social Security Act (the Act) incorporate specific provisions of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, (the Affordable Care Act) (Pub. L. 111-148) pertaining to the collection and uses of CMPs imposed by CMS when nursing homes do not meet requirements for Long Term Care Facilities. The Act provides that collected CMP funds may be used to support activities that benefit residents, including facility improvement initiatives approved by the Secretary (including joint training of facility staff and surveyors, technical assistance for facilities implementing quality assurance programs, the appointment of temporary management firms, and other activities approved by the Secretary).

The CMS invited proposals for consideration to use Federal CMP funds for a grant opportunity to support and further expand the National Partnership to Improve Dementia Care in Nursing Homes. See Survey & Cert letter 14-30: <http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Provider-Enrollment-and-Certification/SurveyCertificationGenInfo/Downloads/Survey-and-Cert-Letter-14-30.pdf>.

Proposed projects were expected to directly benefit nursing home residents, build on the existing work of the National Partnership, and provide innovative and unique strategies for the safe reduction of antipsychotic medications for individuals with dementia.

Grant Award

The Eden Alternative, Inc. was deemed to be the most eligible applicant and has been awarded a grant, in the amount of \$293,129.00 for their project entitled, “*Creating a Culture of Person-Directed Dementia Care.*” Their project consists of a multi-state, interdisciplinary initiative combining in-person and online group education, self-directed learning and application, implementation resources, and the opportunity to engage with other US nursing homes in the pursuit of best practices. “*Creating a Culture of Person-Directed Dementia Care*” has a project goal to support the continued reduction of antipsychotic medications through person-directed care practices that redefine perceptions of and approaches to dementia care.

In collaboration with LeadingAge State affiliates and healthcare associations, The Eden Alternative plans to engage direct care staff from nursing homes across five states (Georgia, South Carolina, Kansas, Illinois, and Texas) in “Dementia Beyond Drugs” training. Following this, employees and family members from a subset of those nursing homes attending the training, will participate in one of three online, interactive, dementia-specific Care Partner Workshops.

Nursing home residents are expected to directly benefit from this project through care strategies that help reduce the inappropriate use of antipsychotic medications, and improve overall well-being and quality of life. The effectiveness of fund utilization will be assessed through changes in perceptions of dementia care and stakeholder engagement, use of new tools and strategies, as well as changes in the rates of antipsychotic usage across all nursing homes in each of the five involved states.

Contact: For information pertaining to Federal grant opportunities, visit <http://www.grants.gov/>. For questions related to the National Partnership to Improve Dementia Care in Nursing Homes, contact Michele Laughman at dnh_behavioralhealth@cms.hhs.gov.

Effective Date: Immediately. The information contained in this memorandum should be communicated with all survey and certification staff, their managers and the State/Regional Office training coordinators within 30 days of this memorandum.

/s/

Thomas E. Hamilton

cc: Survey and Certification Regional Office Management