



Elderberry Institute eNews

Volume 6, Issue 11

November 30, 2007

Send Us Your Stories!! If your Program has a news update or story to share, please send an e-mail to LMuenchow@elderberry.org

2006-2007 Cost & Services Results:

Preliminary numbers are available from the FY 2006-07 Cost & Services Analysis. The Analysis is our best effort to estimate the amount of money that was saved to both the private and public sectors through the work of local Living at Home/Block Nurse Programs.

In FY 2006-07, 41 LAH/BNPs in MN and ND helped keep 1,139 people out of nursing homes for a total of 8,241 months. If these people had been in nursing homes, the care-related cost to the federal and state government, as well as health plans and private individuals would have been about \$22,070,891. The cost for providing service to these people through Living at Home/Block Nurse Programs was about \$1,735,232. This represents a savings of just over \$20 million.

Individual Program information as well as regional numbers will be distributed to local Living at Home/Block Nurse Programs in early December, and should be used by local Programs when communicating with their legislators. This information is also good for LAH/BNPs to use in their marketing materials. In addition, all reports will be posted at www.elderberry.org both in the Breaking News section and on the Member's Only side.

Success Story of the Month: Shirley Submitted By: SouthEast Seniors LAH/BNP

*New
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Section!*

Shirley, a lifelong Minneapolis resident, is 88 years old and has lived in a senior apartment since 1996. She plays the organ, loves to sing and still keeps in touch with friends she has known since the third grade. She is so happy that she can still clean her own apartment and do her own laundry.

Earlier this year, Shirley was hospitalized for a heart attack and a stroke. During her three months in rehabilitation, she said she just wanted to get back to her home. SouthEast Seniors was able to help Shirley return to her home where her friends and SouthEast Senior caregivers who knew her were able to attend to her needs. Due to her poor vision, their service coordinator helps Shirley with her paperwork. When the SouthEast Seniors home health aide comes in to assist her with personal hygiene, they love to share wonderful stories. Shirley also has a volunteer who she enjoys visiting with. On top of all that, Shirley receives Meals-on-Wheels services and uses a SouthEast Seniors nurse to assist her with her medications and answer questions about her health. Shirley feels she can't praise her nurse enough for all the care she receives. She calls this nurse "her angel".



Network News: What is the SPICE/Evercare Reimbursement Project?

The SPICE project is a systems change community service grant with several partners including hospitals, clinics, six LAH/BNPs, Elderberry Institute and Evercare. Evercare is a Care System that contracts with health plans, clinics and other service providers to optimize the health and well-being of elders, vulnerable adults and the chronically ill by focusing on the holistic needs of the person and the family. Evercare provides primary care and care management services to elders enrolled in MSHO and Medicare Advantage Plans through Medica or UCare. Evercare contracts with clinics and a variety of community agencies to help ensure optimal use of available health care and community resources for elders. Evercare has 100 staff members including 27 RNs and Social Workers that provide care management to elders throughout the state of Minnesota.

The SPICE project has several objectives, one of which is to find reimbursement

options for services provided by LAH/BNPs. In 2006 the SPICE Reimbursement Work Group made up of members from Evercare, the LAH/BNPs and EI, explored the feasibility of a partnership. After concluding that a partnership would add value to the care given to elders, the group worked on the nuts and bolts. It focused on care plans and how reimbursement would work. After reviewing the individual care plans used by Evercare and the LAH/BNPs, the group jointly developed a care plan that could be used by Evercare to contract out specific care management services to LAH/BNPs. These care management services include completion of Health Care Directives, MA recertifications, health advocacy, notification of changes in the health/well being of clients, formal and informal check-ins, help with immunizations through flu clinic awareness and other resources, help with housing choices, etc. Evercare chose to have Elderberry Institute act as their Fis-

cal agent for this process.

In 2006, Evercare, EI and three LAH/BNPs participated in a pilot reimbursement project to assess the feasibility of working together, and the effectiveness of the collaboration in providing care to elders. Although there were some glitches, Evercare expressed interest in expanding the number of LAH/BNPs to include both those programs that were and were not part of the SPICE project. Today there are 9 programs working with Evercare and Evercare has expressed interest in expanding to outstate LAH/BNPs. This has proven to be a great opportunity for Evercare Care Managers to have the assurance that their clients are receiving a variety of needed services at home, while LAH/BNPs are able to receive reimbursement for some of the services that they provide to elders.

If you are interested in learning more about this project, contact Arlene Pine at apine@elderberry.org or 651-248-9489.