

**Social Work Conference Call
Meeting Summary
January 6, 2010**

Facilitators: Paige Hector, LMSW with CARES; Jill Preston, Elder Care Services Administrator with JacksonWhite Law; Joe Bestic, NHA, BA with HSAG

Conference calls are regularly scheduled meetings on the first Wednesday of each month at 12:30 PM. Call 1-888-482-3813 and enter the pass code of 3813 to join in!

Topics Discussed:

- Resident with a long-term care facility has \$20,000 in assets. The Miller's Trust is only for income, not assets. Since the resident is a single person, she would have to spend down the assets on acceptable expenses such as paying the facility, buying a burial plan or any number of items for herself. A referral could also be made to JacksonWhite to assist her in the application process and ensure that the spend-down does not disqualify her for the ALTCS program.
- A hospice patient would benefit from an electric scooter but since she is on hospice, Medicare will not cover this item. Recommendations: 1) contact the larger hospice agencies to see if their foundation might help with the cost, 2) call the larger DME companies to see if they might cover the cost or reduce it, 3) explore options for loan chests, Knights of Columbus, Mason's, etc
- Jill Preston from JacksonWhite reported that there will be no federal cost of living increase for 2010. Further, ALTCS and VA eligibility requirements will remain the same.
- JacksonWhite has developed a new service called My ALTCS. The program assists families with the ALTCS application process including problem identification in terms of enrollment. The goal is to reduce the denial rate. Go to www.MyALTCS.com to check out the program. If you would like a free password to navigate around the program and see how it works, contact Jill Preston at 602-418-5454.
- Briefly discussed the implementation of the QIS Process. To download all the QIS forms and worksheets, go to www.nursinghomequality.com and click on the QIS Resources on the left side. The QIS Process will start this year in Arizona. Recommendation: Become familiar with all aspects of the new survey process and be an advocate in your facility for their implementation, especially in the Quality Assurance process.

This information is not intended to constitute legal advice and should not be relied upon in lieu of consultation with appropriate legal advisors. The information is for informative or educational purposes only.