

Social Work Conference Call
Meeting Summary
January 7, 2009

Facilities Represented: Phoenix Mountain, Gila River Indian Care Center, Infinia at Cottonwood, Sun View Care Center in Youngtown, Santa Rosa in Tucson, River Garden in Bullhead City, La Canada Care Center in Tucson

Facilitators: Paige Hector, LMSW with CARES; Jill Preston, BSW with JacksonWhite; Kristin Burns, BSW with JacksonWhite

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 transferred to Arizona from another state where she was on Medicaid but was subsequently denied ALTCS in Arizona - RECOMMENDATION: Both the eligibility worker and the resident (most likely the authorized representative), in conjunction with the facility social service staff, should be responsible for proper notification that the resident has relocated and is applying for a Medicaid program in another state. Cases like these need to go directly to the appeals process.
- Arizona enforces a statute that a surrogate decision-maker CANNOT make the decision to discontinue artificial food and fluids (refer to ARS, Chapter 32 titled Living Wills and Health Care Directives, §36-3203, letter E): *“A surrogate who is not the patient’s agent or guardian shall not make decisions to withdraw the artificial administration of food or fluid.”*
- Complications of enforcing a smoke-free policy in a facility and how residents’ rights should be upheld. RECOMMENDATIONS: Ideas presented by several call participants included notifying new residents of the smoke-free policy prior to admission; designating a smoking area for current residents and ensuring that it meets the Fire Marshall requirements for distance from the facility, approx 20-25’; establishing a smoking policy with designated smoking times in which residents are accompanied by a staff member; having residents sign smoking contracts which outline the facility rules/policy as well as consequences of non-compliance; conducting a smoking assessment; BE SURE TO CARE PLAN AND DOCUMENT ALL INTERACTIONS!
- Resident applied for ALTCS but was unable to obtain a copy of the title to her vehicle and was subsequently denied. RECOMMENDATION: Insist that the Eligibility worker at ALTCS make an attempt to obtain the document from the Department of Motor Vehicles if all other attempts by family, etc have failed. If denied, appeal the decision.
- Citizenship laws for ALTCS – if resident already has Medicare, he/she should not have to produce the birth certificate a second time as citizenship was established in order to receive the federal benefit of Medicare. In certain instances a baptismal certificate can suffice. The form #DD214 from the VA also proves citizenship and can be useful for veterans.
- The Arizona Advance Directives Registry is overseen by the AZ Secretary of State. Medical POA, living wills, mental health care POA and any other health care directives can be stored in the database free of charge (not code status however). Go to the website is www.azsos.gov/adv_dir to obtain details for filing, etc.
- Copies of all advance directives can be found at two easy locations: www.arizonaseniorlaw.com for JacksonWhite Law and http://www.azag.gov/life_care/index.html which is the Attorney General’s site for Life Care Planning. Also, consider using the document Your Life, Your Choices which provides the resident/patient the opportunity to explain in detail the type of care they want in specific situations. This can be used in lieu of the living will document as it goes into much greater detail. Go to http://www.rihlp.org/pubs/Your_life_your_choices.pdf.