

Commission on Aging-Summer Study Proposal (DRAFT)
Health & Wellness Committee: Co-chairs: Noelle Ronald and Arva Jackson

Topic:

Nursing Home Quality and Care Transitions

Introduction:

End-of-life care has significant implications for all Montgomery County residents. However, since older adults are the highest consumers of health care and represent 85% of calls to Montgomery County Emergency Medical Services (EMS), Commission on Aging (CoA) members as well as health care practitioners and the public should be knowledgeable about resources, benefits and barriers related to care during emergencies and at the end of life.

Anticipated Outcomes:

1. Educate Commission members on issues related to nursing home care and quality in Montgomery County including:
 - Review of Medicare Quality Compare Ratings
 - Reimbursement Structure
 - Care Transitions
2. Collaborate with other Montgomery County Commissions and groups including the Commission on Health and the Montgomery County Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program as well as local nursing home experts and leaders to better understand the challenges associated with nursing home care and quality.
3. Possible recommendation of bills related to nursing home care and quality that the CoA might want to promote and support during the 2016 Session of the Maryland General Assembly (e.g. education requirements for staff).
4. Identify best practices and make recommendations related to nursing home quality.
5. Raise awareness about this important issue.

Work to be done:

1. In advance of the first meeting, provide relevant literature and information for review.
2. First meeting-Introductions, invite subject matter experts to discuss nursing home quality.
3. Second Meeting-
Part 1-Continuation of presentations by subject matter experts.
Part 2-Open discussion about information gained from experts.
4. Third Meeting-- Discuss potential action items the group might want to address such as examination of relevant past and future legislation and other strategies to educate health care practitioners and the public about end-of-life care issues.
5. Fourth Meeting- Optional