

Wisconsin Association of Homes and Services for the Aging, Inc.

204 South Hamilton Street • Madison, WI 53703 • 608-255-7060 • FAX 608-255-7064 • www.wahsa.org

December 21, 2005

To: WAHSA Nursing Facilities
From: John Sauer, Executive Director

Subject: Person-Directed Care/Almost Home DVD

As the Quality First movement continues to flourish throughout our State and across the nation, it is imperative that you seize every opportunity available to promote the quality initiatives you champion and the person-directed care you advance. With that in mind, I am happy to report that efforts are underway to assist your organization in meeting the needs of your residents and staff, and to build community support for what you do. Please take a moment to review the attached material and plan to use these resources to promote the positive aspects of senior care and services.

As noted by the attached announcements, WAHSA is a founding member of the Wisconsin Coalition for Person-Directed Care. The Bureau of Quality Assurance is an active and supportive member of this Coalition, along with several provider, advocacy, and labor organizations. Imagine what we can accomplish if we're all "on the same page" and *collectively* strive "to create an environment that affirms the dignity and value of each individual who lives and works in nursing homes."

WAHSA and the Wisconsin Coalition for Person-Directed Care are excited about an upcoming event that will bring much needed positive attention to the long term care provider community. On January 31, 2006, public television stations across the nation will air *Almost Home*, a PBS documentary on the candid and honest efforts by Saint John's on the Lake in Milwaukee to foster "culture change" within its organization.

A complimentary advanced copy of the *Almost Home* DVD is enclosed. We encourage you to be creative in your use of this video; share it with your staff, residents, Board of Directors, local media, and other members of your community. Discuss how well your organization has embraced culture change/person-directed care. And, remember to celebrate and promote your organization's success in creating an environment that affirms the dignity and value of each individual who lives and works in nursing homes.

Thank you for providing the leadership and creativity required to change the world of long term care and senior housing.



**Wisconsin
Coalition for
Person-Centered
Care: Founding
Organizations**

American Federation of
State, County and
Municipal Employees

MetaStar, Inc.

Service Employees
International Union

Wisconsin Board on
Aging and Long Term
Care

Wisconsin Bureau of
Quality Assurance

Wisconsin Alzheimer's
Association Chapter
Network

Wisconsin Association
of Homes and Services
for the Aging

Wisconsin Association
of Medical Directors

Wisconsin Health Care
Association

Wisconsin Nursing
Home Social Workers
Association

Wisconsin
Representatives of
Activity Professionals

December 19, 2005

To: All Nursing Home Providers

From: Wisconsin Coalition for Person-Directed Care

Subject: **ALMOST HOME** Premiere

The Wisconsin Coalition for Person-Directed Care would like to invite all nursing home providers to participate in an opportunity to bring much needed attention to the concept of "culture change" and how this is impacting the care and services you provide.

On Tuesday, January 31, 2006, **ALMOST HOME**, a PBS documentary chronicling a year in the life of a retirement community implementing "culture change", will be aired on public television stations nation-wide. In addition, many communities and local public television stations have organized community events to educate the public on the influence "culture change" has on the quality of care and the quality of life for residents in long-term care facilities. Please check with your local public television station for air times.

ALMOST HOME is the gripping, real life journey of Saint John's on the Lake in Milwaukee as it reinvents its 135-year old medical model of care into a social one. It gives an inside and personal look into the lives of many of the residents, their families, and those who care for them.

The Wisconsin Coalition for Person-Directed Care encourages all facilities to use this premiere as an opportunity to make people aware of "culture change" and the ways it is being implemented in your community. If your area does not have an event already scheduled, consider sponsoring one yourself. If your community has an event planned, support it and get involved.

The Almost Home website, www.almosthomedoc.org has information on the public television stations organizing community events and other information you may find helpful as you consider ways to promote the idea of "culture change" in your community.

This is a tremendous opportunity to raise public awareness and begin important conversations about ways to improve the work that we do.

If you have additional questions about this documentary or the work of the Wisconsin Coalition for Person-Directed Care, please call Dee Heller at 608-845-1288.

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Mission Statement: The Wisconsin Coalition for Person-Directed Care works toward fostering a culture that creates home and affirms the dignity and value of each individual.

Vision Statement: Wisconsin long term care stakeholders will value and continually strive to create an environment that affirms the dignity and value of each individual who lives and works in nursing homes.



Jim Doyle
Governor

Helene Nelson
Secretary

State of Wisconsin

Department of Health and Family Services

Telephone: 608-266-8481
FAX: 608-267-0352
TTY: 608-266-7376
dhfs.wisconsin.gov

Date: December 9, 2005 DDES-BQA 05-014
To: Nursing Homes NH 09
From: Otis Wood, Bureau of Quality Assurance - Director

Wisconsin Coalition for Person-Directed Care

The purpose of this memo is to announce that the Bureau of Quality Assurance (BQA) supports the Wisconsin Coalition for Person-Directed Care. Information will be forthcoming identifying details on the Coalition's initiatives. This will include, a definition of person-directed care, those involved in the Coalition and BQA contacts for those considering implementing innovative person-directed care programs.

Background Information: On June 8-9, 2005, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) and the Rhode Island Quality Improvement Organization's project on culture change sponsored a conference called the St. Louis Accord. Representatives of CMS, state survey agencies, state Quality Improvement Organizations (QIOs), ombudsman and provider, and consumer groups from almost all fifty states, including Wisconsin, attended the Accord.

The purpose of the conference was to nationally promote the implementation and wide-spread adoption of the person-directed care culture in nursing homes. During the conference, national experts and representatives of CMS articulated their support of this initiative. CMS presented each state Quality Improvement Organization (QIO) and BQA with a CMS-produced video that endorsed the person-directed care culture in nursing homes. This video may be viewed at: http://dhfs.wisconsin.gov/rl_DSL/NHs/NHfedInfo.htm.

Additional information and handouts from the conference are available on the QIO Quality Partners of Rhode Island web site at www.riqualitypartners.org/st_louis_accord/index.php.

Participant's time was devoted to discussing strategies and methods for implementing person-directed care in nursing homes. Each team of stakeholders was encouraged to develop their own action plan that included strategies to aid in the creation of a statewide person-directed culture change collaborative, responsible for the continued education and promotion of person-directed care within their respective state.

On June 9, 2005, the team of Wisconsin stakeholders, who attended this conference, unanimously agreed to form the Wisconsin Coalition for Person-Directed Care. Representatives from the Bureau of Quality Assurance attended this conference and support this group's efforts to promote person-directed care.

In July 2005, as a follow up to the Accord, the Wisconsin Coalition for Person Directed Care was formed to spearhead the advancement of person directed care concepts and innovations in Wisconsin nursing homes. Membership in the coalition includes representatives from the following organizations or professions:

- Board on Aging and Long Term Care
- Bureau of Quality Assurance
- Directors of Nursing
- Metastar (Wisconsin's Quality Improvement Organization (QIO))
- Nursing Home Administrators
- Service Employees International Union (SEIU)
- Wisconsin Nursing Home Social Workers Association
- Wisconsin Alzheimer's Association, Chapter Network
- Wisconsin Association of Homes and Services for the Aging
- Wisconsin Association of Medical Directors
- Wisconsin Health Care Association
- Wisconsin Representatives of Activity Professionals

In the upcoming months, more information will be provided to facilitate the expansion of person-directed care programs in Wisconsin nursing homes.

Please direct questions regarding this memo to Vicky Griffin, Nursing Consultant at (414) 227-4705.

cc: Wisconsin Person-Directed Care Coalition