



Senior and Disability Services

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Area Agency on Aging

DATE: October 24, 2016
TO: OCWCOG SSAC/DSAC
FROM: Dave Toler, SDS Director
RE: Director Update

Veterans Service Office

SDS has just recently gained approval from Oregon DHS to submit for Medicaid (match) funding for our Veterans Service Office serving Benton County. This will allow us to implement a holistic service model for these veterans. Each veteran that we serve will not only receive veteran benefits they are eligible for through the VA, but we will also be looking at other potential services include Medicaid Long Term Care to assist the family.

With the number of aging and disability veterans rapidly increasing, this will enable SDS to wrap services around the families to ensure they have the support they may need.

Medicare Provider

Traditionally, SDS has always primarily served our lower income families and households who qualify for Medicaid. In partnership with our statewide association (O4AD), OCWCOG has joined with some of our sister AAAs to pursue a Medicare provider number which will enable us to serve a much broader segment of our population across the region because Medicare covers the vast majority of people over 65.

Many of our programs would be very beneficial to Medicare recipients, however, we are unable to provide the services because we are unable to bill Medicare. For example, it would be a very positive move to be able to offer PEARLS- our program for people with depression- to Medicare recipients because depression is a growing phenomenon in our older population.

Hospital Transitions to the Community

Albany General Hospital has agreed to contract with OCWCOG to provide a case manager who will be dedicated to providing assistance to discharged patients to help them succeed in their transition back to home. The Care Transition Intervention (Hospital to Home) program is an evidence based program that has been proven to effectively reduce early re-admissions back into the hospital.

In addition, SDS has also gained approval from the state to submit for Medicaid (match) funding

to support an in-take case manager who will work with hospital discharge planners to ensure discharged patients are enrolled in Medicaid Long Term Care services in a timely manner. These staff will be housed at the hospitals. With approval for Medicaid match, SDS can now offer a very cost effective proposal to the hospitals because they will only have to pay 50% of the cost.

North Lincoln Hospital has agreed to contract with SDS for a half-time position and SDS will be talking with Pacific Communities Hospital in Newport to make this a full time position available to both hospitals in Lincoln County.