

California Department of Health Care Services
Real Choice Systems Change Grant for Community Living:
“California Pathways”

Update: November 2006

Title: California Pathways

Goal: To develop and field test a model for an assessment and transition protocol that would enable nursing facility residents to exercise informed choice of home and community-based services and to provide case encounter and cost data that provide the basis for policy recommendations for Money Follows the Person initiatives in California.

Budget: \$750,000 federal funding over three years. The Department is in Year four of the 4-year grant period. A no-cost extension has been approved.

Lead Organization and Partners:

University of California, Los Angeles
Dan Osterweil, MD, CMD, principal contact

The Department is also partnering with the California Department of Rehabilitation, the California Department of Aging, the Department of Social Services and the University of Southern California (USC). The project team will identify nursing facilities in the Southern California area for the pilot project.

Preference Assessment:

The project team has drafted and field tested a preference assessment as stage 1 of a 2 stage assessment protocol. The preference survey is a brief screening interview that can be used to identify nursing facility residents who want to pursue a transition to community living. An article will be published in the *Journal of American Gerontological Society* describing the methodology and findings of using the assessment tool.

Transition Services:

The project team has identified existing Medi-Cal home and community-based waivers and existing Medi-Cal programs and

services that will support those who will transition from nursing facilities under the project; for example, Multipurpose Senior Services Program (MSSP), In-Home Supportive Services, Independent Living Centers and others. The current 12 months will focus on a Transition Coordination protocol.

Stakeholder Input:

The Department has required the project have input from program experts, potential consumers, advocacy group representatives and other stakeholders. The project team circulates documents to a wide range of email contacts and provides regular updates to the CHHSA Olmstead Advisory Committee.

Expected Outcomes:

UCLA and the project team has/will produce the following outcomes by the end of the three-year grant period:

- Analysis of 13 assessment tools.
- Testing and validation of a Preference Assessment tool.
- A small pilot project that focuses on nursing facility transitions to existing home and community-based services and programs.
- Cost and encounter data that could form the basis for one or more financing model(s) that demonstrates that the money follows the person.
- Cost and other information regarding ongoing or one-time services needed by nursing facility residents in order to transition to community living.
- A final report and recommendations to the State.

Next Steps: The Department plans to:

- Utilize the Olmstead Advisory Committee as an additional vehicle to obtain stakeholder input.
- Report progress of the project regularly to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), as required by the Real Choice Systems Change federal grant program. A no-cost extension has been granted.

- Coordinate with other State agencies and long-term care programs statewide that can benefit from the pilot project formative learning and outcomes.
- Conduct analysis on the Money Follows the Person mechanisms used by other states to see which have relevancy in California.
- Monitor the nursing facility transition pilot project conducted by the UCLA grant team and the MSSP, ILC and IHSS program contacts.
- Work with the grant team on a final project report that will identify the successes of the pilot project; including transitional care-planning, service types and costs, and a description of the team's experiences with transitioning individuals from nursing facilities to community living.