



**Georgia Department
of Human Services**
Division of Aging Services



Nursing Home Transitions

DHS Division of Aging Services

Cheryl Harris, Section Manager, Access to Services



stronger families

FOR A STRONGER GEORGIA



Division Vision and Mission

Vision

Living longer, Living safely, Living well

Mission

The Georgia Department of Human Services (DHS) Division of Aging Services (DAS) supports the larger goals of DHS by assisting older individuals, at-risk adults, persons with disabilities and their families and caregivers to achieve safe, healthy, independent and self-reliant lives.



Overview

1. Brief History of Transitions Services
2. Nursing Home Transitions Year One (SFY 2017)
3. Nursing Home Transitions Year Two (SFY 2018)
4. Success Stories
5. Questions



History

- Division of Aging Services (DAS) has contracted with Department of Community Health (DCH) since 2011 to provide Money Follows the Person (MFP) program transitions and options counseling services.
- The MFP grant is intended to move individuals who wish to participate, from nursing homes back to community settings.
- DCH received the MFP grant in 2008 from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services and will continue transitions through September 2020.



History

- Grant funding for DHS DAS has averaged an estimated \$ 3,800,000 per year since 2011.
- Each year, DAS and contract agencies have surpassed the DCH goal for Money Follows the Person of 125 transitions (average = 190).
- The **average savings to Medicaid** for individuals in Georgia is \$1770 per month or over \$21,000 annually.
- Many individuals identified as wanting to transition did not meet the MFP eligibility criteria.



Nursing Home Transitions Year One

- In State Fiscal Year 2017 DHS DAS received \$1,000,000 through a legislative appropriation for “non-MFP” transitions.
- DAS contracted with Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs) and Centers for Independent Living (CILs) to provide transition services.



Nursing Home Transitions Year One

- Goal of 167 individuals set by Legislature
- Eligibility Criteria developed for Nursing Home Transition (NHT) program:
 - Minimum 30-day stay in facility
 - Income
 - Risk Assessment Tool score
 - Age 55 or older
 - Proof of citizenship or legal status



Nursing Home Transitions Year One

- Number with NHT: 166
- Number after working with a Transitions Coordinator: 14
- Average cost per transition is \$1200.00
- Most common use of NHT funds that remove barriers:
 - Wheelchair ramps making home accessible
 - Grab bars for bathrooms and showers
 - Medical equipment



Nursing Home Transitions Year Two

- Lessons learned in Year One led to policy revisions for Year Two
- Monitored quality of Year One transitions in AAAs
- Number transitioned as of 2/28/2018: 124



Success Stories

Mrs. O

Mr. M



Questions?

Cheryl Harris

Access to Services Section Manager

Cheryl.Harris@dhs.ga.gov

404.657.5325

