

**SERVICES & PROGRAMS FOR OLDER ADULTS
AGE 60 AND OVER
M. Veil Griffith, D.Ed., Administrator
Nursing Home Transition Program**

The **Main Objective** of this program is to provide choices for those individuals in nursing home facilities who may be able to return to the community.

Program Goals:

- Provide long term living counseling by informing residents and their families about available options and promote informed choices.
- Transition Process Coordination: communication and involvement with consumers, family, social workers, additional community agencies and other Nursing Facility Staff to facilitate transition to the community
- Assist in promoting well-informed consumers about choices that are available to meet their care needs.

Who is eligible?

Anyone of any age who resides in a Cambria County Nursing Facility and is not scheduled for a normal discharge or if there is a barrier preventing or prolonging the discharge process. Even if the county of origin is not Cambria and the consumer is planning to return to his/her county of origin and they currently reside in a Cambria County Nursing Facility, the Cambria County AAA will provide transition services and make a referral to county of origin for Home and Community Based Services.

Is there a cost?

There is no fee for Nursing Home Transition Program Services and there are no income limits. Everyone who meets the criteria specified above is entitled to long term living counseling, referrals, and assistance with the transition process.

The Area Agency on Aging provides Long Term Living Counseling to all residents of all ages. All new admissions or referred residents age 59 and under are automatically referred to our collaborative partner CRI for follow up. If a 59 or under aged consumer makes an informed decision to transition, CRI will provide the transition services. All consumers ages 60 and above who meet the criteria will receive transition services from the **Nursing Home Transition Coordinator, Terri Davis. Terri can be reached at the Cambria County Area Agency on Aging at 539-5595 or TOLL FREE 800-992-4464.** Complete the Request for NHT Information Form and send to Terri Davis **who will contact you to schedule a meeting.**

[Request for NHT Information Form](#)

Transition coordination through the Nursing Home Transition Coordination may include:

- Referral and connection to Home and Community Based Services such as
 - Waiver
 - Family Care Giver Support Program
 - Senior LIFE
 - Care Management
 - Meals on Wheels
 - Personal Care
 - Home Maker

- Referral to other community based agencies and/or services such as:
 - Senior Center
 - Life Link
 - Center For Independent Living
 - Med Van

- Identifying housing needs and help with obtaining housing

- Assistance in relocation and household set-up

- Support for families that will give them an understanding about what services may be available in the community.

Long Term Living Options:

- Nursing Facility
- Personal Care Home/Assisted Living
- At home or in an apartment complex with services

The Olmstead decision interpreted Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act and its implementing regulations that oblige States to administer their services, programs and activities "in the most integrated setting appropriate to the needs of qualified individuals with disabilities." The Supreme Court stated directly "Unjustified isolation is properly regarded as discrimination based on disability." It observed that (a) institutional placement of persons who can handle and benefit from community based settings perpetuates unwarranted assumptions that persons so isolated are incapable or unworthy of participating in community life"; (b) "confinement In institutions severely diminishes the everyday life activities of individuals, including family relations, social contacts work options, economic independence, educational advancement and cultural enrichment."

Under the Court's decision, States are required to provide community based services for persons with disabilities who would otherwise be entitled to institutional services when (a) the treating professionals reasonably determine that such placement is appropriate, (b) the affected persons do not oppose such treatment, and (c) the placement can be reasonably accommodated, taking into account the resources available to the State and the needs of others who are receiving State supported services.