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The HCC Works to Bring National Program to Help the Frail & Elderly Age in Place

NON-PROFIT ASKING COMMUNITY TO RALLY STATE LEGISLATORS TO INCLUDE A LINE ITEM IN THE 2010 MISSOURI STATE BUDGET FOR PROGRAM

October 26, Lexington, MO—The Health Care of Coalition of Lafayette County is working to create a line item in the 2010 Missouri state budget to enhance the quality of care for the frail and elderly in West Central Missouri. This initiative is called the Program of All-inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE), a national, Washington D.C.-based program designed to provide a comprehensive, coordinated health care delivery system to those who qualify for enrollment. PACE reduces the amount of funding required for clients, while providing comprehensive services allowing elders to stay at home.

The HCC Moves Into Action

Meetings with the National PACE Association have determined West Central Missouri as a viable region for the PACE program. The HCC has formed a workgroup to perform a variety of tasks including PACE Center visits, feasibility studies, and rallying State legislative officials to advocate for the program among other initiatives.

“The PACE program is a dynamic program that enables the frail and elderly—nursing home vulnerable individuals—a chance to live and thrive at home,” said Toniann Richard, the HCC’s executive director. “By working to bring this program to West Central Missouri, we will deliver high quality health care to those who need it most in a manner that’s coordinated, tailored, comprehensive and effectively monitored. For us, the bottom line is bringing about the best patient outcomes.”

Richard added that healthy seniors reduce dependence on government subsidized health programs, which equates to cost-savings for Missouri.

There is a need for area residents to support the HCC’s efforts by calling and writing their State Representatives, by January 15, 2010, to request a line item for the PACE program on the 2010 Missouri State Budget.

The goal of the PACE program is to maximize each participant’s potential and continued residence in their own home and community—while helping them live as independently as possible.

Services could include a full range of preventive, primary, acute and long-term care services 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. These services are provided in a PACE Center, in the enrollees’ home, or in a hospital.

Eligible individuals must be at least 55 years old, live in the designated service area, and be certified by the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services to have met nursing home level of care of 21 points or higher. Participants must also be recommended by the PACE staff as a candidate for the program.

PACE benefits could include:

- Participants receive all of their health, medical and social services within a community-based environment.
- Adult day care settings, home care, interdisciplinary teams (i.e. nurses, physicians, therapists, etc.), and transportation services are among program features.
- The primary care physician plays a key role in the PACE interdisciplinary team which allows for full coordination of Medicare primary and acute care with Medicaid long-term care services.
- PACE physicians are salaried employees and do not work on a fee-for-service basis.
- PACE combines payments from Medicare and Medicaid as well as private sources into one flat-rate (capitated) payment which covers the entire range of coordinated services for the participant.
- Participant care is coordinated, individualized and monitored on a daily basis.
- States participating in the program receive a cost effective community-based model for caring for older adults, while realizing positive participant outcomes

Anyone interested in helping with this campaign, or would like contact information for area State Representatives may call the HCC at 660.259.9019, send email to Toniann@hccnetwork.org or visit HCCNetwork.org.