

TO: n4a Members

FROM: Sandy Markwood, CEO

RE: Care Transitions Program Announced as Part of HHS Partnership for Patients Initiative

DATE: April 12, 2011

Today as part of the launch of the Partnership for Patients at the National Press Club, Health and Human Services Secretary Sebelius and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services Administrator Berwick announced the availability of funding for the new Community-based Care Transitions Program. The Care Transitions initiative is critical to addressing the second of the two goals of the Partnership for Patients:

Keep hospital patients from getting injured or sicker. By the end of 2013, reduce preventable hospital-acquired conditions by 40 percent compared to 2010.

Help patients heal without complications. By the end of 2013, preventable complications during a transition from one care setting to another would be decreased so that all hospital readmissions would be reduced by 20 percent compared to 2010.

The new Community-based Care Transitions Program, administered through the CMS Innovation Center, will provide \$500 million in funding to community-based organizations that partner with eligible hospitals for care transition services that include timely, culturally, linguistically-competent post-discharge education, medication review and management, and patient-centered self-management support within 24 hours of discharge. Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis. To view the solicitation, go to www.cms.gov/DemoProjectsEvalRpts/MD/itemdetail.asp?itemID=CMS1239313.

Given the scope of services that Area Agencies on Aging offer, your agency is in a prime position to be involved as the lead or a key partner in a care transitions initiative.

In anticipation of the release of the Care Transitions solicitation, n4a held a special session on this topic on Monday immediately preceding the n4a Aging Policy Briefing. The session highlighted two AAAs with care transitions programs already in place, the Central Texas AAA and the Atlanta Regional Commission AAA. The presentations provided insight into what it really takes for a AAA to be involved in a care transitions effort. View the presentations: [Atlanta Care Transition](#), [Central TX Care Transition](#).

Learn more about the Partnership for Patients and join the partnership by visiting www.healthcare.gov/center/programs/partnership.