

NCCAP



NEWS

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL CERTIFICATION COUNCIL FOR ACTIVITY PROFESSIONALS

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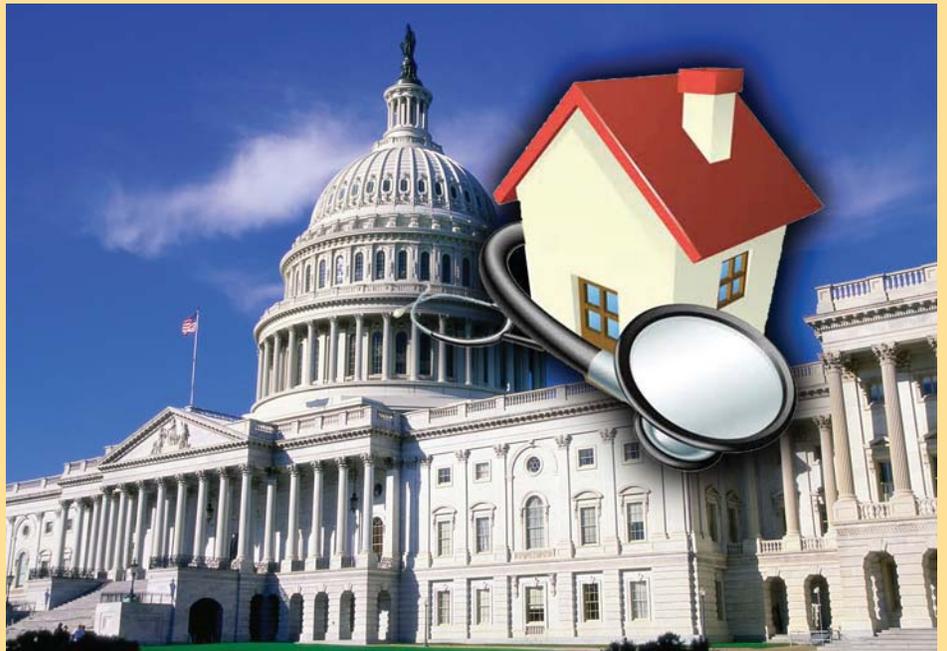
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Impact on Home Care under Affordable Care Act...The Community First Choice Option

By Dawn Worsley, ADC/MC, NCCAP Treasurer

The Federal Ruling Part 1 Overview

As NCCAP is committed to keeping the profession abreast of changing health care reform we will be bringing you a series of articles related to the changes in our health care industry with a heavy emphasize on home based services and aging in place. As the industry is exploding with Home care companies and Government funding all aimed at promoting aging in place for our senior population the needs for standardization is even more important than it was 5 years ago.

NCCAP has made available a level of certification specific to those working in the Home Care Industry as a caregiver to elderly in their



Networking like You Mean It (or Wallflower No More)

Keynote Speaker

Denise Ryan
MBA, CSP



For Retired Men,
a Program to Reconnect to Old and
New Identities

Michael McCann, MS



RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA
JUNE 4-6, 2015

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nccapexec111@aol.com

Debbie Hommel, ACC
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debbiehommel@comcast.net

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Vice President
bryanrife@yahoo.com

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BeckSims40@gmail.com

Dawn Appler Worsley, ADC
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dawn@dawnonthehorizon.com

Melanie Evans, ADC
Nominations Chair
msindy@hotmail.com

Linda Redhead, ACC
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activityadviser@verizon.net

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homes/in home care. NCCAP believes this will help to facilitate the following: - Set standards for minimum criteria for this growing field - Be a professionalism stepping stone to becoming an AAC - Recruit interest in the activity profession

Requirements for HCC:

1. High School diploma/GED
(send a copy of this)
2. Completion of the Activities 101 (8) hour training course
(send a copy of the certificate of completion)
3. Six (6) months {1000 hours} of Home Care experience
(send a letter(s) to verify the experience on letter head from the company(s) that employed you).
4.20 hours of continuing education.
– (send copies of the certificates of attendance, or sheet from HR showing that you have the continuing education hours).

For more information visit
www.nccap.org

Impact on Home Care under Affordable Care Act ...The Community First Choice Option

The Federal Ruling Part 1 Overview

<http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2011-02-25/pdf/2011-3946.pdf>

One of the goals of the affordable Care Act is to find the most cost effective way to care for our aging population. In 2011 a new program was announced that allows institutional based clients who have a desire to return home and age in place with supporting services as assistance that is paid through the medical Assistance program. With this program it

mandates that each state develop The “Community First Choice Option”, which lets States provide home and community-based attendant services to Medicaid enrollees with disabilities under their State Plan.

The following are excerpts from The Federal registry

“...Section 2401 of the Affordable Care Act, entitled “Community First Choice Option,” adds a new section 1915(k) of the Social Security Act (the Act) that allows States, at their option, to provide home and community-based attendant services and supports under their State plan.

Under section 1915(k)(1) of the Act, States can provide home and community-based attendant services and supports for individuals who are eligible for medical assistance under the State plan whose income does not exceed 150 percent of the Federal Poverty Level or, if greater, the income level applicable for an individual who has been determined to require an institutional level of care to be eligible for nursing facility services under the State plan and with respect to whom there has been a determination that, but for the provision of such services, the individuals would require the level of care provided in a hospital, a nursing facility, an intermediate care facility for the mentally retarded, or an institution for mental diseases, the cost of which could be reimbursed under the State plan. The individual must choose to receive such home and community

Send NCCAP your activity photos with captions and details to info@nccap.org. Photos must be for public release.





based attendant services and supports, and the State must meet certain requirements. The Act requires States electing this option to make available home and community-based attendant services and supports to eligible individuals, under a person-centered service plan agreed to in writing by the individual, or his or her representative, that is based on a functional need assessment. This assessment will determine if the individual requires assistance with activities of daily living. The services and supports must be provided by a qualified provider in a home or community setting under an agency-provider model, or through other methods for the provision of consumer controlled services and supports. The Act requires that States make available additional services and supports including the acquisition, maintenance, and enhancement of skills necessary for the individual to accomplish ADLs, IADLs, and health-related tasks, back-up systems or mechanisms to ensure continuity of services and supports and voluntary training on how to select manage and dismiss

attendants. States must develop and have in place a process to implement an amendment in collaboration with a Development and Implementation Council established by the State that includes a majority of members with disabilities, elderly individuals, and their representatives. States must also provide consumer controlled home and community-based attendant services and supports to individuals on a statewide basis, in a manner that provides such services and supports in the most integrated setting appropriate to the individual's needs, without regard to the individual's age, type or nature of disability, severity of disability, or the form of home and community-based attendant services and supports the individual requires in order to lead an independent life. The Community First Choice Option continues to move Medicaid toward expanding options to States and individuals for the provision of community-based long-term care services. This option will support States in their mission to develop or enhance a comprehensive system of long-term care services and supports

in the community that provide beneficiary choice and direction in the most integrated setting.

C. Required Services (§ 441.520)

The Act provides detailed requirements for the services and supports included in the Community First Choice Option. "Therefore at § 441.520, we propose the following services must be available under the Community First Choice option:

- Assistance with ADLs, IADLs, and health related tasks through hands-on assistance, supervision or cueing.
- The acquisition, maintenance and enhancement of skills necessary for the individual to accomplish ADLs, IADLs, and health-related tasks.
- Back-up systems or mechanisms to ensure continuity of services and supports.
- Voluntary training on how to select, manage, and dismiss attendants. With regard to back up systems or mechanisms to ensure continuity of services and supports, we propose at § 441.505 that such devices may include personal emergency response systems, pagers, or any other appropriate mobile electronic device that may be used to ensure continuity of services and supports."

The Community First Choice Option requires the utilization of a person centered planning process. A key component of the Community First Choice option is to allow individuals to self-direct the provision of services and supports. Individuals must have the authority to hire, fire, and train attendants

to provide services tailored to the individuals' needs. Under the Plan family members can be trained to be "attendants: Therefore, the States are required to develop and provide a training program for individuals (or representative) on how to select, manage and dismiss attendants. Consistent with the philosophy of self-direction, this training must be voluntary, and may not be a mandatory requirement for the individual to receive services under this option."

So why is this important for NCCAP certified professional to know? Currently many states are in the development phase of their programs which included developing training programs for the care attendants as well developing a person centered service plans.

Upcoming Article: Impact on Home Care under Affordable Care Act ...The Community First Choice Option Part 2 Assessment of needs and Person Centered service Plans.

The NCCAP Symposium "Buzz"

This Symposium has been designed for those activity professionals who want to learn state of the art techniques for providing activities services.

Participants can earn up to 19 clock hours of continuing education, by participating in all of the sessions.

The NCCAP Business Meeting is open to all participants as well as NCCAP Certified Individuals who are interested in the organization.

GET INVOLVED

Be a volunteer and reap the rewards

Time is running short to throw your hat into the ring!

By Melanie Evans, ADC

I want to start this off by saying "Thank You" for allowing me to serve as the Nomination Chair on the NCCAP Board. This is truly an amazing group and I am enjoying getting to know my role on the Board!

We have all been honored by being able to enjoy the bounties of the many individuals who have stepped up and dedicated their time and their talents. They have helped to ensure our profession continues to grow, not only in numbers, but in recognition of its importance and impact on the lives of the individuals that we work with. This can only be done if we continue to make sure we have truly qualified professionals who continue to learn and be able to adapt with the many changes that we face daily.

Time is running short to throw your hat into the ring! Many exciting things are taking place in healthcare these days, and you may be just the one with what it takes to ensure that activity professionals around the globe have a voice. I encourage those that are interested, to throw caution to the wind and dare to make a difference! Whether you have ran for a Board position in the past or are willing to come on for the first time, we welcome your nomination.

Before filling out the application, please make sure the nominee meets the following requirements:

*NCCAP Certified as an AAC, ADC, or ACC.

*Minimum of two (2) years activity experience working with the senior population.

*Able to attend one (1) – two (2) Board meetings a year.

*Active in State and/or National Association.



If you meet these qualifications, or if you know someone who would be an asset to our board who does, please download and complete the nomination application found at www.nccap.org. Once you are on the home page, click on "Download Forms Request" at the top of the page and then click on "NCCAP Candidate Board profile." You can then print a hard copy of the application.

**Now is the time to give back
to the Association
that has given
so much to
our profession!**

If I can be of any service to you, please feel free to contact me.

The official deadline for receiving your application is January 31, 2015 so get yours in today!

Mail Applications to:

Melanie Evans, ADC
103 Rabbit Patch Lane
Stanfield, NC 28163
Email: msindy@hotmail.com
Phone: 704-438-0515

NCP1410

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<https://www.facebook.com/groups/officialnccap>

lives. Texting, “liking”, “friending” and using their cell phone for just about everything is a part of everyday life. Look around you when sitting in a public place and you will find many people on their phones. Whether you agree with the changing times or not, it is the future of communication.

The down side is that social media marketing is time consuming. It is for this reason, the NCCAP board has decided to align with a Social Media Consulting company. This company will assist NCCAP in developing and strengthening our social media community. NCCAP has developed a strong presence on Facebook with our Official NCCAP Facebook page. It is a popular group amongst certified and non-certified individuals, to share information, network resources and brainstorm various challenges the profession encounters. The social media consulting company will expand our presence on to Linked In, Twitter and You Tube. Facebook has over 1.2 billion users; Twitter has over 271 million users and Linked in has over 300 million users. The so-

cial media consultants will be guiding NCCAP in establishing our message and growing worldwide interest in NCCAP certification. The good news is our progress can be measured. The Social Media company will be collecting data, watching trends and assisting NCCAP in providing the information that our profession is seeking on a daily basis. We will be able to see tangible results from our efforts within a few months.

The social media company will also be working on the NCCAP web site. Revising the site has been on our “to do” list for some time and we have sought information from membership as to how to improve the site and make it “user friendly”. We are moving forward with this project and we hope to unveil the new and improved web site during National Activity Professionals Week in January.

Stay tuned for updated information. You are invited to join our Facebook page as that is our first line of quick communication. If you are not a member of Facebook, watch the NC-

CAP site toward the end of January as that will provide information about new NCCAP accounts on Linked In or Twitter. Cindy Bradshaw, NCCAP Executive Director, will be writing a blog on the new website which will chronical her travels and efforts to share information about NCCAP certification.

The NCCAP Board is excited about our future. We believe NCCAP certification is the #1 standard to strive for and we are hopeful our expansion into the social media realm will enable our message to be shared with the world. As Mark Zuckerberg, CEO and Founder of Facebook said **“When you give everyone a voice and give people power, the system usually ends up in a really good place.”**

We look forward to hearing your voice and our continued relationship with you and many more. Feel free to contact Debbie Hommel, NCCAP Board President, if you have any suggestions regarding our plan. You can find Debbie on Facebook or e-mail debbiehommel@comcast.net



National Certification Council
for Activity Professionals (NCCAP)
P.O. Box 62589
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Please visit our Web site at www.nccap.org

Have NO fear, help is here!

By Becki Sims, ADC

At the NCCAP Symposium 2015, I will be presenting a session that will help you increase the use of technology in your facility. Retirement doesn't have to be boring. Your seniors can stay sharp and be active longer. This program will cover MANY applications that will be useful in daily programming for your seniors. Most of these applications are FREE and easy to use. Are your residents looking for something to do while you're not available? These applications will be broken down into various categories from entertainment to health. With access to the World Wide Web, there is a lot to do with technology and access for everyone is as easy as pushing a button. There are mobile applications to help with finances, health checks, intellectual stimulation, and increase of cognitive skills, and much, much, more. The processes you learn will go a long way both personally and professionally. This session and many more will be available at the upcoming 2015 NCCAP Symposium.

