

For Immediate Release
June 18, 2010



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**Rhode Island Nursing Homes among Leaders in
National Effort to Improve Quality**

***100% of State's Nursing Homes Participate in Campaign to Make
Nursing Homes Better Places to Live, Work and Visit***

PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND: Every one of the 86 Medicaid certified nursing homes in Rhode Island has made a significant commitment to improve quality of care by participating in a national campaign dedicated to making nursing homes better places to live, work and visit. Last week, Rhode Island became one of only four states – in addition to South Dakota, Arkansas and Georgia – to achieve 100 percent participation in the Advancing Excellence in America's Nursing Homes campaign.

Advancing Excellence is the largest voluntary group of its kind working in every state to help nursing homes improve the quality of care for residents and work environment for staff. Nursing homes that have participated in this initiative have made faster progress at improving in key goal areas such as reducing rates of pressure ulcers, improving management of pain, and significantly reducing use of physical restraints. Participating homes are also working to improve in areas such as staff retention and resident and family satisfaction.

"When you walk into a nursing home to visit your family member and the same staff greets you, they know your name, your family member is comfortable and enjoying all that the nursing home has to offer, you are seeing the goals of the campaign in action," said Nelía Silva Odom, RN, BSN, MBA, MHA, Senior Program Coordinator, Quality Partners of Rhode Island/Rhode Island Generations Coalition Member and Local Area Network of Excellence (LANE) convener.

"Efforts to achieve total patient and family satisfaction are embedded in our mission, our goals and our daily tasks," said RIAFSA Director James Nyberg, speaking on behalf of the 12 non-profit nursing homes that his organization represents. "We embrace this formal, concerted effort to improve the lives of our residents."

Nursing homes, consumers and staff that join Advancing Excellence receive free regular updates related to quality improvement such as fact sheets and tip sheets. More information is available at www.nhqualitycampaign.org

"Rhode Island nursing homes understand that quality means something different for every nursing home resident and family member. Participating in this Campaign gives them the tools they need to improve care and quality of life not only for nursing home residents but for staff and families of residents," said Mary Jane Koren, M.D., M.P.H., chair of Advancing Excellence in America's Nursing Homes and assistant vice president of The Commonwealth Fund in New York.

In addition to the 28 participating national organizations representing nursing homes, health care professionals and direct care workers, quality improvement experts, consumers and government agencies such as the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) and the Veterans Administration an established, infrastructure of Local Area Networks for Excellence (LANEs) provides support and information at the state level .

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