

Accessing

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Issues with nursing homes

Respectfully submitted by Jennifer Thomas

1. People are overmedicated, under medicated, or do not understand the reasons for taking the medications they are currently prescribed. There is supposed to be training provided (medication management), so individuals understand the reasons for taking their medications.
2. The residents are not seen by the nursing home doctor. Many residents complain that they have never seen the nursing home doctor or that if they do; it may be every 3 months. There needs to be more oversight.
3. Health food is limited. Residents would like options for their meals and not be forced to eat the same thing all of the time, or food products which are not their preference or choice. This is not a jail. At least it is not supposed to be.
4. Overcrowded. There are sometimes 3-4 individuals per room. They are not able to have any privacy.
5. Discharge planning is poor. There are some nursing homes, with some discharge planners who attempt to help individuals move out of the nursing home and back into the community. There are others whom do not. There needs to be more community-based options for people to move out of the nursing home. There needs to be more social programs available for individuals placed in nursing homes.
6. There needs to be more planning and options for individuals whom are homeless. Many individuals reside in nursing homes because there is nowhere else for them to go.

7. Fines need to be raised for nursing homes that have violated resident's rights. The fines are not high enough; therefore, problems are repeated.

8. There are many individuals diagnosed with serious psychiatric disabilities and lacking options for them to be reintegrated into the community. There needs to be more community mental health services available for individuals, so they may also move out of the nursing home.

9. Malnutrition, severe bedsores, overuse of prescription medications and abuse of nursing home residents are additional issues.

10. It is very difficult to speak with individuals at nursing homes, because the pay phones are broken, or there is only 1 pay phone available for the entire facility.

11. The individuals' income is taken from them and paid to the nursing home, after approximately 2 months. The person is then provided with \$30 monthly. The nursing home also bills the insurance company (Medicaid, Medicare, blue cross, etc). How is this fair? an individual then, can never move out of the nursing home, with \$30 monthly income. How would they be able to pay security deposit? First month's rent?

12. There is inadequate mental health treatment at most of the nursing homes. The day programming provided does not rehabilitate. Psychiatric services are limited and often non-existent. Residents should be reviewing their medications monthly with a psychiatrist. This is not happening.