

# Medicaid Matters

*Helping seniors and their families make informed decisions about long term care.*

*September 2009*

## **Medicaid Planning Updates:**

**Effective 9/1/2009: Irrevocable Prepaid Funeral Plans funded by a Trust increased to \$5,376.00, plus the fair market value of burial space items such as casket, vault, headstone, etc. Basically this means that you can still convert \$7,500.00-12,000.00 of countable assets into an exempt (non-countable) irrevocable prepaid funeral plan.**

## **Upcoming Seminars:**

**Good News/Bad News** – overview of the components of a long term plan (Legal documents, Medicare, Long Term Care Insurance, Reverse Mortgage, Medicaid Planning, In-Home Care, Adult Day Service, etc.), followed by a story about Carol and Sam (a fictional married couple) and how they put together a plan that allows Carol to receive care in her home, and postpone the need for care in a nursing home. (9/8/09 – 10:00 a.m. @ CJE, 3003 W. Touhy Ave., Chicago; 10/14/09 – 10:30 a.m. @ Niles Library, 6960 W. Oakton St., Niles, IL)

**Case studies for Case Managers** – a return engagement to present to the UIC Case Management Unit case managers. Case studies will be presented to illustrate how the various Medicaid rules allow clients to qualify for Medicaid and in-home care and/or adult day services through the Illinois Department on Aging Community Care Program. (9/17/09)

## **Most Rewarding Case this season:**

Mr. B's wife is in a nursing home and Mr. B has been trying to get documentation for Medicaid. The first application was denied for lack of documentation. Mr. B was having difficulty gathering information on life insurance policies, and had 3 days to provide documentation to the Medicaid case worker on the second application when he called Medicaid Matters for assistance.

Medicaid Matters was able to contact the life insurance companies, and provide enough documentation to the case worker to justify an extension in order to receive the required documentation from the insurance companies. Most of the policies had been cashed in, but there was one policy with a face/death value of \$10,000.00 that had a cash value of \$4,500.00. Since Medicaid allows a Community Spouse up to \$109,560.00 in countable assets, Medicaid Matters amended the application to a "spousal" application. Medicaid was approved, and Mrs. B now has 90 days in which to transfer the life insurance to her husband. In addition, some of her income will be deferred to Mr. B for his support in the community (Medicaid also allows up to \$2,739.00 per month (income) as a Community Spouse Maintenance Needs Allowance).

## **Biggest Baddest Rumor this season:**

Social Service Agencies serving seniors were put on alert that if the Illinois Budget wasn't approved, that there would be a halt to programs like the Community Care Program for those not receiving Medicaid benefits, and cut the services by 50% for those who do receive Medicaid benefits. The Community Care Program (CCP) is a program that helps frail seniors age in place with support from in-home services and adult day services through the Illinois Department on Aging. Without CCP, more people would need to get services in a 24 hr. nursing facility, which ultimately would cost the State of Illinois Medicaid more money. The State then passed temporary measures, so CCP is still in place, for now.

Editorial: Seriously, can't our legislators do math?

*Medicaid Matters – partners with social workers and attorneys to help seniors and their families make informed decisions about long term care. Contact Wendy Thornton at (847) 757-8259 or e-mail: [medicaid.matters@att.net](mailto:medicaid.matters@att.net)*