



GOVERNOR'S OFFICE of HEALTH CARE REFORM
Commonwealth Long-Term Living Project

Overview of Nursing Home Transition in Pennsylvania

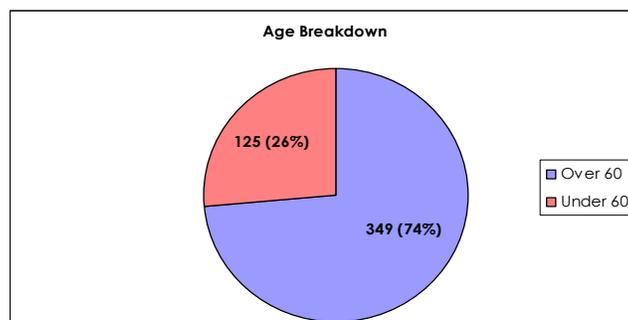
In 2000, Pennsylvania was awarded one of the original nursing home transition grants from CMS, a one year grant in the amount of \$500,000. A pilot project was conducted under the auspices of this grant, known as Pennsylvania Transition to Home (PATH). The one year grant was parlayed into a three year demonstration via no-cost extensions and a minimal infusion of state funding to secure staff for the project. The project, established in 4 of Pennsylvania's 67 counties, focused on two general goals: 1) assisting people to transition from nursing homes into the community; and 2) learning about perceived or real barriers that nursing home residents face when considering community-based alternatives. The original PATH was a small project, with 2 transition coordinators and a project director. They targeted only people living in the nursing facility for more than six months, and transitioned 51 of the 119 consumers referred for relocation assistance.

The project identified significant barriers. For example, consumers with multiple disabilities, including dual diagnosis or a disability that is not addressed by a waiver program, were especially likely to experience delays in obtaining services. Delays in obtaining specialized equipment also caused consumers' transitions to be prolonged. The overall lack of affordable and accessible housing was the foremost problem faced by consumers leaving nursing homes.

The state responded to the pilot outcomes and expanded the program statewide. In 2005, amendments were secured to six waivers administered by the Departments of Public Welfare and Aging, to add transition services as a covered waiver service. Community Transition Services are defined as one-time expenses, not to exceed \$4,000 per consumer. These are "set-up expenses" for individuals who make the transition from an institution to their own home, apartment or family/friend/foster care living arrangement. To continue the coordination activity and to expand the project statewide, the departments allocated \$1.4 million approved by the legislature to support transition coordinators. Funds were awarded to organizations in local communities that submitted a collaborative plan. Thirty collaborative plans were approved to conduct nursing home transition activities statewide.

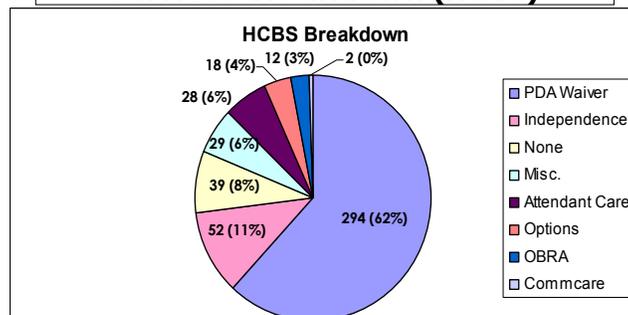
Nursing home transition was expanded during 2005 and 2006. From January 2005 to June 2006 there were 474 transitions in 54 of the Commonwealth's 67 counties. Nearly three-quarters of these transitions occurred in SFY 2005-2006 as the pace of transitions increased during this time period. In July 2006 the nursing home transition program was strengthened with enhanced new policies, stepped up collaborative efforts, providing additional training and more centralized data collection reporting. In addition, AAAs are now being charged with providing extensive counseling on long term living options & community based services to newly admitted nursing home residents. AAAs receive new admission reports, generated from MDS, twice a month, and are expected to make Long Term Living counseling visits in a timely manner, to prevent loss of community supports, housing, etc. The goal of this effort is to significantly increase the number of successful nursing home transition this fiscal year.

Age Breakdown of Reported Transitions



GOHCR
WORKING TO ACHIEVE ACCESSIBLE, AFFORDABLE QUALITY HEALTH AND LONG TERM LIVING SERVICES FOR ALL PENNSYLVANIANS

Home and Community Based Services Breakdown (HCBS)



GOHCR
WORKING TO ACHIEVE ACCESSIBLE, AFFORDABLE QUALITY HEALTH AND LONG TERM LIVING SERVICES FOR ALL PENNSYLVANIANS