



Systems Transformation Grant

Newsletter Date
September 4, 2008

MISSION STATEMENT

"Transform the DHS system to improve the quality of life of all older Arkansans and people with disabilities by fostering independence, promoting better health, maximizing and simplifying access to services and programs, and utilizing data and other information to drive our decisions and actions."

OUR VISION

Older Arkansans and people with disabilities have choices in how and where they receive long term care.

CHOICES IN LIVING Resource Center

The **Choices in Living Resource Center** has been operational since January, 2008. More than 2500 Arkansans have received assistance and been connected to services and supports.

The majority of individuals seeking assistance have been adult children looking for help for their parents. Every day we assist individuals from out of state who are looking for care for aging parents. They often call when they are in a crisis and our trained staff offer their expertise as they listen and advise on available services and programs.

Many callers are unaware of the in-home services that are available such as assistance with personal care, homemaker services and home-delivered meals. These services can assist individuals who want to stay in their own home and remain as independent as possible.

We have recently begun to survey callers to determine their level of satisfaction with the Resource Center. We are hearing very positive feedback and are pleased with the results.

Call 1-866-801-3435 or

Email to: choicesinliving@arkansas.gov

WE WANT TO HELP



You have some good Choices in Living

Do you need help for aging parents?
Are you looking for alternatives to living in a nursing home?
Do you need to find assistance for yourself, a family member or friend?



The Choices in Living Resource Center is a valuable link to the many available options for long term living. We can provide information on:

- Options Counseling
- Medicaid
- Home Modifications
- Disability Resources
- Assistive Technology
- In-Home Services
- Support Groups
- Family Caregiver Assistance
- Prescription Drug Assistance
- How to Apply for Services

Call us any time from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday - Friday, and a trained specialist will assist you in receiving the help you need. There is never a fee, and anyone can call.

Call toll-free:
1-866-801-3435



Look for this ad in your local newspaper!

CHOICES IN LIVING Resource Center

STAFF UPDATE

Michelle Murphy joined the Resource Center staff in July. She has a Bachelor of Social Work and is working on completing her MSW. She is a new resident to Arkansas, from Newfoundland, Canada. Her experience as a social worker includes Children's Protective Services and Inclusion Programs for individuals with special needs. She has great skills in communicating with our consumers and works hard to find ways to assist in the most difficult situations.



INFORMATION PLEASE

We recently added the Application for Long Term Care Medicaid (DC0 777) to the Choices in Living website. The form can be downloaded, completed, printed and mailed to your local county office. Also on the website is the new *You Have Some Very Good Choices in Living* booklet released in June 2008. This publication provides information about the home and community based programs for Arkansans.

STAFF

Lori Raines is a native Arkansan who has a BA Degree in Social Work from Southern Arkansas University. She has most recently worked with the Department of Community Correction and the Project Success Program in DHS.

Lori has also worked with the Area Agency on Aging of Southwest Arkansas as a Case Manager in Calhoun, Ouachita, and Union Counties. She saw seniors in clinics and in their homes in very rural communities and assisted them with services that kept them living independently. Lori has been a great asset to the staff, we are fortunate to have her in the Resource Center!



ARGetCare is an online resource with hundreds of listings on services and supports that can meet personal needs and preferences. Visit it online at www.ARGetCare.org.

The Systems Transformation Grant is funded by the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services and administered by the

Division of Aging & Adult Services
Herb Sanderson, Director

NEED ANSWERS?

**Do you need help with your personal care?
Are you trying to find help to care
for aging parents?**

Call toll-free 1-866-801-3435



Contract Kris Baldwin for more information on the Systems Transformation Grant or the Choices in Living Resource Center:

501-682-8509