

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Announcing the awarding of Civil Monetary Penalty (CMP) Funds

Peer Mentoring Program / 2-year project

Westminster-Canterbury of Lynchburg seeks to advance its Person Directed Living (PDL) culture integration by establishing a Peer Mentoring Program. These Peer Mentors will advance the training and integration of new and existing direct care partners (CNAs) into its household model of service delivery.

Through collaboration with PHI National, the Program Manager will research and develop the criteria needed to create the Peer Mentor Program and the Household Orientation Program. These curriculums will provide mentors the resources needed to train, guide, coach, and be a resource to CNAs within the household, utilizing person directed practices. Implementation of these programs consists of program management, an advisory committee, a planning phase, an implementation phase, and a final report.

Creation of the Peer Mentoring Program and Household Orientation training material will provide WCL with tested tools to engage existing and new care partners more directly with PDL principles, leading to a more skilled workforce and improved engagement with residents. The core aspects of the program can be modeled to other WCL departments and duplicated/ tailored as a model for other long-term care facilities.

Virginia Wound Care Excellence Program / 1-year project

The purpose of the project is to educate and certify 150 nurses in the critical area of wound care in order to close the knowledge gap in the care of chronic wounds and to help address the high prevalence and expense of chronic wounds in skilled nursing facilities.

Learning materials designed and written by experienced wound care physicians will be made available to 150 eligible scholarship recipients via a dedicated website established specifically for Virginia. The educational materials are comprised of eleven courses, downloadable study guides, a certifying final exam, and for those who complete, continuing education credits with the certification of completion. Nurses must complete the course within 60 days of registering or risk forfeiting the access to the course and certification.

The program will be communicated to facilities and nurses through online marketing and direct outreach to facilities and their respective corporate partners. The initial outreach is to collaborate closely with the facilities and the clinical leadership teams across the state.

Residents at facilities where nurses receive the Vohra Wound Care Certificate will receive better care both in treatment and prevention of pressure wounds and wound related conditions. An investment in the education of staff should result in better care as well as reduced turnover. A demonstrated commitment to specific, identified, and recognized medical staff should help not only with retention but also to promotion of key nurses. Turnover in nursing facility staff exceeds 50% across the United States. Maintaining some consistency and reducing turnover works together to create continuity of care and greater patient satisfaction.

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