



Quality of Life, Accountability, Workforce, Resources

New Coalition Releases Initial Priorities for Improving Nursing Home Resident Care and Transforming U.S. Nursing Homes

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December 2, 2022 Washington, DC -- In its first steps to dramatically improve the quality of life for a growing number of people who need nursing home care, Moving Forward – a coalition of nursing home residents, family members or care partners, health care providers, policy leaders and advocates -- has developed a set of priority recommendations to begin transforming nursing home quality during the next two years and beyond.

In order to deliver quality, person-centered care with each resident, the committees focused on four overarching and inter-related priorities: strengthening nursing home capacity (including technology and staffing); improving nursing home accountability; improving care provider compensation and retention; and ensuring that person-centered, quality care delivery and oversight is fully and properly financed. The priority recommendations will serve as the first step in a process to seek input and build action plans to bring the recommendations to fruition.

The Coalition's priorities were selected by seven committees of national experts and stakeholders from a report issued this April by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering & Medicine (NASEM). That report found nursing home care to be fragmented, unsustainable and urgently in need of fundamental change.

"Nearly 1.3 million people live in our nation's 15,000+ nursing homes, and another 1.5 million work in them," said Alice Bonner, the coalition's chair. "Today marks step one in what matters most to improving the lives of residents – transforming the quality, capacity and financing of U.S. nursing homes. All nursing homes should be quality homes."

Priority Moving Forward Coalition Recommendations

After an intensive review of the NASEM report and the challenges facing nursing home residents, workers and nursing homes, the seven committees selected thirteen recommendations from the report – and will be preparing action plans in the coming months to move them forward.

Each committee selected a short-term recommendation to improve residents' quality of life, and many committees have also identified a longer-term project requiring longer lead times.



Committee #1: Person-Centered Care

- First, **creating a more collaborative, better-aligned care planning process for each resident** in nursing homes (working in collaboration with the Coalition's Committee on Health Information Technology, since technology may be important to reaching this goal.)
- Second, advancing an equitable approach to the construction of **new small-house or related nursing home models**.

Committee #2: Workforce will work on an evidence-backed approach to **improving the benefits and compensation of nursing home staff** with a particular focus on certified nursing assistants, direct care workers who spend the greatest number of hours with residents each day.

Committee #3: Transparency & Accountability will work to **improve the collection, auditing, and sharing of nursing home-level ownership, financing, and operations data**. The committee will pay special attention to the accessibility of data, the ease of data reporting, and alignment with other efforts, such as those enacted or being developed by the Biden administration.

Committee 4: Nursing Home Finance Reform will work on developing and piloting an **alternative payment model** to reduce barriers to care and increase compensation for nursing home staff. They will also work on more comprehensive legislation to incentivize small-home construction, related care delivery processes and staff compensation.

Committee #5: Quality Assurance will work to better **integrate quality assurance and oversight efforts** by developing a pilot program including a learning collaborative. This effort will build on Affordable Care Act provisions and subsequent Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) rules to mobilize quality assurance methods in nursing homes. The committee may also address the sustainability of the national Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program.

Committee #6: Quality Measurement & Improvement will **develop and test two nursing home quality measures**. The first will capture resident experience, including engagement with family members or care partners and resident councils. The second will assess health equity and disparities in nursing homes.

Committee #7: Health Information Technology (HIT)

- In the short term, the committee will work on **HIT-enabled methods to improve person-centered care by collecting resident goals, preferences and priorities**, and measuring the alignment of care with those goals.
- In the longer term, the committee will **envision a pathway for national HIT adoption** with key nursing home milestones and processes.



Seeking Input as the Action Plans are Developed

The next steps involve seeking input from nursing home residents, family members, care partners, government agencies and policymakers – then mapping out the action steps that will turn these top priorities into the real and urgent transformation that is needed.

The Coalition is soliciting public feedback on these chosen priorities as they begin the process of laying out detailed action plans (December 2022 – April 2023). They are asking for input throughout the month of December, input that will set the stage for the Coalition's work over the next two years.

"The Moving Forward Coalition is already mobilizing stakeholders and advancing the agenda so desperately needed for our country's nursing homes," said Dr. Terry Fulmer, President of The John A. Hartford Foundation, the Coalition's founding organization. "Getting member input, and drawing on the members' exceptional expertise and continuous engagement of residents and families will ensure that these priorities are the right ones to act on now."

Added Bonner: "This work is about taking ideas -- not just from experts, but from people with lived experience -- and turning them into real action. It will require collaboration, and a commitment to acting on What Matters to older adults with tools and resources that promote positive change. We want input and engagement now, and as committees create plans to test and promote short term actions, we will set up conversations on how to meaningfully improve quality of life now."

In addition to Coalition members' direct outreach to their own broad networks, Bonner outlined a variety of ways that she hopes nursing home residents, families, care partners, staff and policymakers will engage.

Ways to provide input and feedback engage:

1. Feedback sessions - Register to attend one of the two feedback sessions on [December 8](#) or [December 13](#).
2. Provide [written feedback](#) throughout the month of December.
3. [Follow the Coalition](#) to learn about future opportunities when you can participate.

The Moving Forward Coalition's website, movingforwardcoalition.org, provides more information on the committees, their co-chairs and members -- along with a wealth of resources about the challenges facing America's nursing homes and information on how to join or support the Coalition.

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