



A campaign to improve quality of life for residents & staff

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For immediate release

### **CMS Spotlights Advancing Excellence in Program for State Surveyors**

Washington, DC – CMS spotlighted "Advancing Excellence" as part of a series of programs on culture change titled "From Institutional to Individualized Care." Go to [www.cms.internetstreaming.com](http://www.cms.internetstreaming.com); register with the system and then click on "archived courses"; scroll down to the program on March 25, 2007.

"As we watch the advancements being made by nursing homes around the country to transform their nursing homes through the culture change movement," commented Thomas Hamilton, CMS' director of the Center for Medicaid and State Operations/Survey and Certification Group, in a letter introducing the program, "we desire that both providers and survey agency staff become aware of these beneficial changes to policies and practices to enhance quality of life for residents as well as quality of work life for staff."

Notes to Viewers:

Total run time of the Advancing Excellence program is about 90 minutes, preceded by a four-minute CMS introduction that highlights each of three topics in the Web cast. The primary audience for the culture change series is state survey agencies, especially surveyors.

- The Web cast includes three topics: Advancing Excellence; the STRIVE program; and the Minimum Data Set (MDS).
- Registration is required, but it is a fairly simple process.
- At the time the program was taped, the total number of nursing homes participating in Advancing Excellence was about 2,000. Today it is much higher.
- CMS speakers include Dr. Barry Straub, Chief Medical Officer, Paul McGann, MD, Quality Improvement Group; Thomas Hamilton; Cynthia L. Graunke, Director, Survey and Certification Group.
- Advancing Excellence speakers include: Larry Minnix, Sc.D., AAHSA; Charlotte Eliopoulos, NADONA LTC; Chris Condeelis, AHCA (discusses LANEs starting at 42 min., and includes two LANE participants in Georgia, Ms. Kluge & Ms. Rogers); Alice Hedt, NCCNHR; Stefan Gravenstein, MD, Quality Partners of Rhode Island; and Steve Levenson, MD, AMDA.
- The Advancing Excellence program also includes a presentation by Newt Gingrich, former Speaker of the House and current Co-Chair of the National Commission on Quality Long-Term Care.

This program will be available for up to 12 months, starting March 25, 2007.