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# MDS Section Q Compliance: Questions, Answers, and Referrals

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Money Follows the Person Demonstration

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# Agenda

- Background
  - Money Follows the Person (MFP)
  - New York Association for Independent Living (NYAIL) *Open Doors*
- MDS Section Q Compliance Data
- *Open Doors*/LCA Referral and Transition Data
- Nursing Home Outreach and Education
- Q&A



# Money Follows the Person

- MFP is a federal demonstration established under the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 and extended through the Affordable Care Act.
- MFP involves:
  - Transitioning eligible individuals from facilities to the community
  - Using enhanced funding for rebalancing activities
- MFP funds *Open Doors*, a transition assistance program administered through NYAIL to facilitate successful transitions to participants' community of choice.
- *Open Doors* is the **Local Contact Agency (LCA)** for MDS Section Q.



# Open Doors



## Transition Centers:

- Regionally based Transition Specialists meet with the individual, family, or guardian in the facility to provide objective information on community services and supports
- Work with Discharge Planners, Service Coordinators, and Care Managers to develop a transition plan that meets the resident's needs
- Provide Community Preparedness Education
- Resolve individual barriers to transition, e.g., housing, security deposits, essential household items, and links to Assistive Technology through TRAIID Centers

## Peer Outreach and Referral Program:

- Provides outreach to participants in nursing facilities and one-on-one peer support to individuals and families interested in transitioning to community living

# The MDS and Section Q

- The MDS is administered to all nursing facility residents upon admission, annually, quarterly and whenever there is a significant change in condition
- Section Q of the MDS is designed to explore the resident's interest in returning to a community setting
  - “Q0500 is designed to ensure that all individuals have the opportunity to learn about home and community-based services and receive services in the most integrated setting.... In New York State, the New York Association on Independent Living's (NYAIL) *Open Doors* program is the designated Local Contact Agency for all Section Q referrals....The nursing home **must** make a referral to NYAIL/*Open Doors* whenever a resident answers "yes" to Q0500, regardless of whether or not staff believe a resident has the potential to return to the community.”  
[https://www.health.ny.gov/professionals/nursing\\_home\\_administrator/dal\\_nh\\_16-10\\_mds\\_version\\_3\\_section\\_q.htm](https://www.health.ny.gov/professionals/nursing_home_administrator/dal_nh_16-10_mds_version_3_section_q.htm)
- LCA contact information must now be included in patient's rights notice

# The MDS and Section Q

In May 2016 US Department of Health and Human Services, Office for Civil Rights issued guidance on Section Q

<http://www.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/mds-guidance-2016.pdf>

- Q0400: “An **active** discharge plan means a plan that is being currently implemented. In other words, the resident’s care plan has current goals to make specific arrangements for discharge, staff are taking active steps to accomplish discharge, and there is a target discharge date for the near future.”
- Q0500: “Nursing home staff should convey to residents that this question is intended to “provide the opportunity for the resident to get information and explore the possibility of different settings for receiving ongoing care.”
- Q0600: “The only reason a facility may refrain from making a referral to the Local Contact Agency when requested by the resident is when the resident has an *active* discharge plan.”

# Section Q Responses 2015-2017

	2015		2016		2017*	
<b>Q0400A</b>						
Active Discharge Plan	-	-	-	-	66,373	<b>48.07%</b>
No Active Discharge Plan	-	-	-	-	71,062	<b>51.47%</b>
<b>Q0500B</b>						
Yes to Community Question	18,854	<b>6.79%</b>	17,756	<b>6.49%</b>	9,101	<b>6.59%</b>
No to Community Question	118,757	<b>42.76%</b>	116,996	<b>42.75%</b>	57,944	<b>41.97%</b>
Unknown or uncertain about the Community Question (bad data)	7,160	<b>2.58%</b>	6,522	<b>2.38%</b>	3,230	<b>2.34%</b>
Nothing Recorded for Community Question	132,975	<b>47.88%</b>	132,371	<b>48.37%</b>	67,790	<b>49.10%</b>
<b>Q0600</b>						
Referral Made	8,901	<b>3.20%</b>	8,180	<b>2.99%</b>	4,514	<b>3.27%</b>
Referral Not Made	19,883	<b>7.16%</b>	16,866	<b>6.16%</b>	8,232	<b>5.96%</b>
Referral Not Required	248,158	<b>89.35%</b>	247,742	<b>90.53%</b>	124,719	<b>90.33%</b>
Nothing Recorded for Referral Question	804	<b>0.29%</b>	857	<b>0.31%</b>	600	<b>0.43%</b>

\*Only first two quarters of data for 2017 are included



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# Lessons Learned - Section Q Responses

- Nearly half of residents were identified as having an active discharge plan, indicating that this is clearly an area of confusion
- Only half the residents that answered yes to Q0500 (indicating interest in exploring community options) were actually identified as being referred.



# Referrals From Nursing Homes: 1/15 – 2/18

Total Referrals	Total Transitions		# still in active transition process		# died prior to transition		# declined to participate		# guardian declined to participate		# no current plan for transition*	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
3730	885	24%	958	26%	189	5%	527	14%	79	2%	1092	29%

\*could not find housing, needs could not be met in the community, moved to another state, not mfp eligible (MC prior to 7/1/15 approval), discharged prior to TS visit



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# Time to Transition

- Transitions can require a long period of planning

# months from assessment to transition	2015	2016	2017	TOTAL 2015-17
< 2 mo	68%	54%	34%	50%
2-6 mo	28%	23%	31%	28%
6-12 mo	4%	16%	19%	14%
12-18 mo	0%	5%	8%	5%
18-24 mo	0%	1%	5%	2%
> 24 mo	0%	0%	2%	1%
<b>TOTAL</b>	100%	100%	100%	100%

# Lessons Learned – Referrals from NHs

- Nursing facilities make the most successful referrals – Participants referred directly by facilities are more likely to transition than those who were identified and referred by DOH mining of MDS data.
- Outreach and education works - Increase in the number of referrals in 2017 compared to 2015 is significant and maintained over time.
- Barriers to transition can sometimes be resolved.

# Public Health Live on MFP

View the webcast to learn:

- The purpose of the *Money Follows the Person* demonstration
- Principles of the Olmstead decision
- Ways that a transition specialist or peer can help individuals return to their communities of choice
- Steps to take when an individual expresses an interest to return to community living from an institution

## **The *Money Follows the Person* Program: Facilitating Return to Community-based Settings**

Webcast Recorded on: Thursday, February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2017

[http://www.albany.edu/sph/cphce/phl\\_0217.shtml](http://www.albany.edu/sph/cphce/phl_0217.shtml)



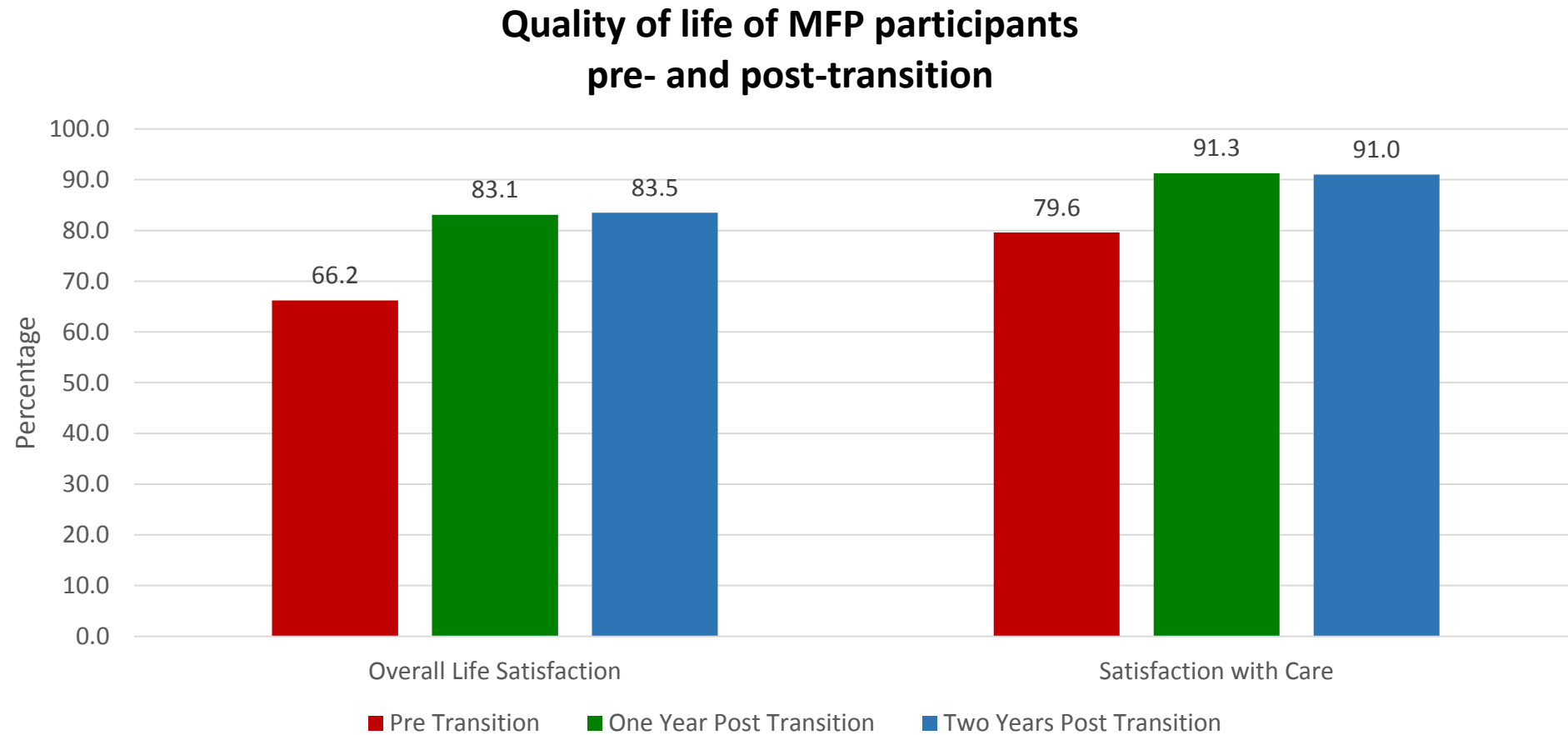
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# Outreach and Education

- *Open Doors* Outreach to Nursing Facilities
  - Dedicated outreach/education team travel statewide
  - Outreach and education on Section Q and LCA referral to all nursing facilities in the state over a 2 year period
  - Additional sessions available upon request
- Preliminary Outcomes
  - Clarification of definition of “Active Discharge Plan” helpful
  - 95% more likely to refer to *Open Doors* after participating in the presentation

# Improvements in Quality of Life



Source: Mathematica's analysis of MFP Quality-of-Life surveys and program participation data submitted to CMS through May 2016.



# Referral to the LCA for Section Q



## Open Doors is the LCA\*

- Open Doors provides transition assistance to individuals who wish to transition from long term care facilities to community settings.

## MDS Section Q

- If an individual responds “yes” to Question 0500 providers **MUST** refer them to the Open Doors unless there is an **ACTIVE\*\*** discharge plan.

## Referrals:

- Call NYAIL/Open Doors at: 1-844-545-7108
- Access referral form at: <http://www.ilny.org/programs/mfp/transition-center>
- Fax: 518-465-4625
- Email: [secq@ilny.org](mailto:secq@ilny.org)

\*[https://www.health.ny.gov/professionals/nursing\\_home\\_administrator/dal\\_nh\\_16-10\\_mds\\_version\\_3\\_section\\_q.htm](https://www.health.ny.gov/professionals/nursing_home_administrator/dal_nh_16-10_mds_version_3_section_q.htm)

\*\*<https://www.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/mds-guidance-2016.pdf>



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# Resources

- Open Doors: <http://ilny.org/programs/mfp>
- DOH MFP webpage:  
[https://www.health.ny.gov/health\\_care/medicaid/redesign/nys\\_money\\_follows\\_person\\_demonstration.htm](https://www.health.ny.gov/health_care/medicaid/redesign/nys_money_follows_person_demonstration.htm)
- Public Health Live broadcast about MFP: [http://www.albany.edu/sph/cphce/phl\\_0217.shtml](http://www.albany.edu/sph/cphce/phl_0217.shtml)
- HHS Guidance on MDS Section Q: <http://www.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/mds-guidance-2016.pdf>
- NYS DOH Dear Administrator Letter about LCA:  
[https://www.health.ny.gov/professionals/nursing\\_home\\_administrator/dal\\_nh\\_16-10\\_mds\\_version\\_3\\_section\\_q.htm](https://www.health.ny.gov/professionals/nursing_home_administrator/dal_nh_16-10_mds_version_3_section_q.htm)
- Olmstead Housing Subsidy information: <https://ilny.us/programs/ohs>





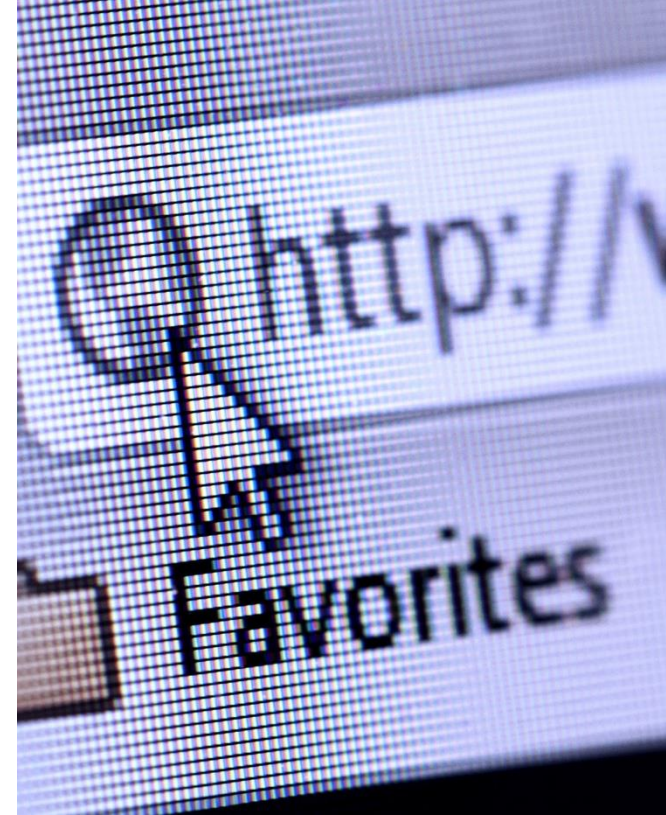
# Contact Us

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