

Long Term Care Providers Recognized: Clatsop Care Center, Emerson House and Mennonite Home

The Surveyor Provider Forum* designed its first Innovative Practices Program this fall and issued a call for applications from long term care providers in licensed assisted living, residential care and nursing facilities. The Innovative Practice Program took shape from the Forum's desire to share quality practices. Specifically, the program is built around recognizing providers who have taken initiative to design and implement inventive and innovative practices, and their willingness to share their successes and what they have learned for the benefit of residents, staff, families and regulators. The program's formal goals are to 1) identify providers who illustrate creativity and commitment to quality through a selected area of care, program or service, and 2) formally recognize those providers who deliver these exemplary care or services to their peers, surveyors and customers. The practice selected for the 2007 Innovative Practice Program was activity or life enrichment programs.

The applications were reviewed by a diverse committee including representatives from the provider trade organizations, Department of Human Services, Making Oregon Vital for Elders (Oregon's culture change coalition), academia, activity professionals, private consultant, the office of the Long Term Care Ombudsman and the Oregon Gerontological Association. The reviewers used a set of criteria identified by a work group from the Surveyor Provider Forum. Applications were evaluated individually against the criteria rather than against one another.

Three providers were determined to have met all the criteria and were thereby named Innovative Practice Champions. These three are Clatsop Care Center, a nursing facility in Astoria, Emerson House, a residential care facility in Portland and Mennonite Home, a nursing home in Albany. They were awarded certificates from the Department of Human Services, Seniors and People with Disabilities and introduced at both the Oregon Health Care Association's annual convention in Portland on September 11 and the Alliance of Senior and Health Services' fall conference in Newport on October 3.

* The Surveyor Provider Forum is a group of surveyors, providers and representatives from the provider trade organizations who meet every two months to discuss questions, concerns and issues relevant to long term care. The Forum began in 2005 and is convened by Seniors and People with Disabilities, the Office of Licensing and Quality of Care. Membership on the Forum is voluntary and requires an attendance commitment of a minimum of one year.