

## **The Message Heard Around the World**

*by Lori Griswold, Ph.D., M.S.G.,*

*GRISWOLD SPECIAL CARE* is excited and encouraged to see the increased attention given to home and community based services. For many years, *GRISWOLD SPECIAL CARE* has worked nationally and locally to help consumers be heard who want to stay home instead of move into a facility. The message has been translated into some very exciting research and demonstration projects designed to enhance current state long-term care systems so that consumers can access home and community based services and also have more control over the services provided. We thought you might like to know about some of the federally funded grant initiatives designed to improve the current long-term care system by embracing home and community based services and consumer choice.

Since 2001, The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) have funded over \$125 million to 48 states, 2 territories and Washington, D.C. A number of different research and demonstration grants are based on The New Freedom Initiative to "remove barriers to community living for people of all ages with disabilities and long-term illnesses." Some of the grant categories include "Real Choice Systems Change Grants," "Aging and Disability Resource Centers," "Demonstration to Improve the Direct Service Community Workforce" and others. Please note that each state has different grants awarded based on their submissions and approvals. A few of the grants under the Real Choice Systems Change Grants include: 1) Money Follows the Person, 2) Independence plus Initiative, 3) Community Integrated Personal Assistance Services and Supports and more. As these titles reflect, the projects are taking a serious look at the current systems and how better to involve the consumer and his/her choices for services. Topics getting increasingly more exposure are consumer direction (increasing consumer involvement in services) and awareness to nursing home alternatives.

For more information or to see what federally funded programs might be underway in your state or region please visit the CMS web-site at: [www.cms.hhs.gov](http://www.cms.hhs.gov). You may also want to contact your state offices on aging, health or disabilities if you are interested in other possible initiatives that your state is pursuing in the areas of home and community based care and consumer choice.

It is clear that the current demand for home and community based care and consumer choice will pale in comparison to what it will be like when the baby-boom population begins to need services. Since its inception in 1982, *GRISWOLD SPECIAL CARE* has had a consumer driven model of care and we are delighted to see initiatives that further include the consumer and his/her choice for home and community based services and look forward to "real choice systems change" within many states in the very near future. As always, *GRISWOLD SPECIAL CARE* continues to work on legislative and advocacy efforts on behalf of Clients and Caregivers. Please let us know if you have a message that you want to be heard. Please contact Dr. Lori R. Griswold at the Corporate Headquarters if you would like more information (1-888-777-7630 or e-mail: [lori@griswoldspecialcare.com](mailto:lori@griswoldspecialcare.com)).