PROJECT OVERVIEW

ATTACHMENT B

PROJECT NAME

Quality Home Care

HWPP PROJECT NUMBER

2007D-36

PROJECT SUMMARY

Describe the major purpose of the project, the need and how it relates to the Health Improvement Model. Briefly describe the project’s implementation plan, methods to be utilized and involvement of affected communities. Detail the community-academic partnership plan. Specify the evaluation method that will be used to measure feasible, quantifiable and significant outcomes and the impact the project will have on the health of Wisconsin residents. Do not exceed this one page.

The primary purpose of the Quality Home Care Project is to develop and evaluate assessment tools to measure the quality of home care currently being provided in Wisconsin. The three key aims of the project are to: (1) adapt tools from existing research and develop quality assessment tools to measure the institutional, caregiver and consumer components of home care quality; (2) pilot the quality assessment tools; (3) evaluate the tools and make appropriate revisions based on the pilot results. Essential to the success of the project is incorporating input and perspectives from home care workers (caregivers), consumers (receivers of care in the home care system), home care institutions, policy-making organizations, the State of Wisconsin and other key stakeholders. Currently, there are no quality indicators for home care in Wisconsin. With significant increases in the number of older adults needing care expected and anticipated decreases in the number of home care workers, it is essential that the issue of quality be addressed now.

The health of the non-institutionalized elderly critically depends on the quality of the home care provided to them. Home care involves services such as help with bathing, grooming, meal preparation, and medication management. These apparently “simple” tasks are essential to quality of life; if simple tasks are not taken care of regularly and consistently, they can result in crisis. This effort will bridge the gap between pure research on quality and the actual delivery of good quality long-term care in Wisconsin.

The Health Improvement Model is addressed through the following factors: access to services for those who need quality home care in order to maintain quality of life and not be institutionalized; the prevention of intentional and unintentional injuries for home care consumers through enhanced quality of care; the social and economic factors of home care workers and consumer that influence health; a focus on people over age 65; prevention of disability related to chronic illnesses (quality of life); capacity building; workforce.

With no home care quality indicators existing in Wisconsin, this project will convene a “Quality Assessment Workgroup” of those in the state who are concerned with or vested in home care quality indicators (3 meetings); review national, state and local efforts to develop quality indicators; identify and develop consensus around a set of indicators; obtain an outside evaluation of draft quality tools; pilot the tools; evaluate the tools based on the pilot.

The primary outcome of the project is the development and evaluation of the home care quality assessment tool. As part of the tool development process, a report will be written on key quality indicators in home care and a quality assessment workgroup will be convened to provide regular input on the project. Lastly, the partners will conduct an end-of-project partnership evaluation, as well as regular assessments throughout the project.

This is a new partnership. Each of the partners brings a different skill set needed to make the development of the tools possible. The partners have met once in person and numerous times via conference call. Elements of the environment for partnership and the commitment to partnership principles were evident in those meetings. While some of the partners have worked together previously, the specific cadre of partners has not previously functioned formally. The phone and in-person meetings have begun the process of building relationship, assessing needs and resources and developing compatible goals. The plan for our future partnership development includes implementing this program, assessing the effectiveness of the tools for improving outcomes and collaborating with additional stakeholders.

Small changes in the kind of care provided can have a big effect on the health of the client whether that client is home-bound or institutionalized. A home care quality assessment tool will provide the mechanism for those vested in the home care industry statewide to improve care and therefore improve quality of life for Wisconsin residents.