Busy Summer at PACE

Ursula Robinson, LCSW, MHA
Executive Director

We have been very busy at Triad. We had our Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and the North Carolina Division of Medical Assistance (DMA) onsite audit July 16 - 19th. The audit included a review of medical records, reports, observations and more. We haven’t received the results, but as you know, I am very proud of the care we provide at PACE. The lead auditor Commander Ray Tookes said, “You all are the model program.”

Additionally, we just completed our Adult Day Health audit to increase the number of participants we can care for daily. On top of those things we are serving as a testing site for the National PACE Association to try things here that they can take to other PACE programs around the country!

Now, you have an opportunity to share feedback as part of the annual satisfaction survey. Surveys were mailed to caregivers several weeks ago with a pre-stamped envelope. Many participants attending the day center will have face-to-face interviews with representatives from Vital Research, an independent research firm. If you have received the survey, mail it back as soon as possible. Hearing from you is so important as it gives us an opportunity to improve and make changes as needed.

September is National PACE month. We are planning several different activities to increase the awareness of PACE services and support. We will have an open house and other events. A schedule will be included in the September newsletter. We want our community to know that we are proud to be a caring solution for older adults. AARP did a study on Aging in Place and determined that older adults want to be independent for as long as possible and they want to be in their home or the home of family and friends. They want choices about their living arrangements as they age, and they want access to services. PACE wants what older adults want. We are glad to have expanded our building, so we can care for and support more older adults as their needs change. If you know of anyone who can benefit from PACE services, have him or her (or the family member) to contact our information line at 336-550-4046.

Ursula
Heat and Older Adults

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, older adults are more prone to heat related health problems. Why? Older adults do not adjust as well as others to sudden changes in temperatures. The CDC reports that older adults are more likely to take prescription medications that affect the body’s ability to control its temperature or sweat.

As you know, we have already experienced several hot days this summer. August and September temperatures have reached 80 degrees or more in recent years. Here are a few tips to help:

- Stay in air-conditioned buildings as much as possible. If your home doesn’t have air conditioning, make sure you have a fan to circulate the air.

- Wear loose, lightweight, light-colored clothing.

- Drink more water than usual UNLESS your doctor limits the amounts of fluids you drink. If so, ask him or her how much you should drink in hot weather.

- Seek medical help if you have symptoms of heat-related illness such as muscle cramps, headaches, nausea or vomiting.

Sources: National Center for Environmental Health
Centers for Disease Control

NEW STAFF ROLES

Recently we created a couple of new positions and hired additional staff to support participants and the growth of the organization. We have been fortunate to move several current employees to new or interim roles to better serve PACE needs.

Anastacia Bason
Interim Transportation Coordinator

Bill Holder
Safety Coordinator

Brianne Martindale
Recreational Therapy Coordinator

Tabitha Mathis
Rehab Tech

Portia Montague, CNA
Activity Aide

Tammy Sneed, CNA
Activity Aide

Belinda Rampp, RN
Clinic Nurse

Participant Advisory Committee

September 5, 2018
November 8, 2018
1:30 pm – 2:30 pm
PACE of the Triad Conference Room
Family caregivers are encouraged to attend this meeting.
Welcome New PACE Faces

Rickey Burns
Office Assistant

Araina Dalton
Activities Specialist

Elizabeth Davies, CNA
Certified Nursing Asst.

Deanna Hendrix
Medical Admin./Medical Records

Natalean Herbin, CNA
Certified Nursing Asst.

Andri Sosebee, MSW
Social Worker

Important Reminder for August!

Last month we mailed annual caregiver satisfaction surveys to primary family caregivers. If you received the survey, please put the completed survey in the self-addressed envelope provided. Vital Research, an independent research firm, will come to PACE and interview several participants. If you do not want to participate, let us know. The results are anonymous.