



REPLICATING JAMES MADISON UNIVERSITY'S CAREGIVERS COMMUNITY NETWORK: INTERIM REPORT

Joint Commission on Health Care
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PURPOSE OF STUDY

- 2009 JCHC Study: Improving Aging-at-Home Services & Support for Culture Change Initiatives
 - Policy Option Adopted:
 - Include on the JCHC 2009 work plan a staff study of the feasibility of replicating James Madison University's Caregivers Community Network in other areas of the Commonwealth.

COMPONENTS OF THE CAREGIVERS COMMUNITY NETWORK

- CCN is an innovative program that addresses the need for affordable caregiver services by partnering with James Madison University.
 - CCN is housed in JMU's Institute for Health and Human Services and is administered by the Nursing Department.
 - Most of the budget needs of the program are provided in-kind by the University (i.e. office space, supplies, and fiscal management and marketing services).
 - Students (as part of an elective course offered by the Nursing Department) and community volunteers are trained and then assigned to a family that has requested services.
- Services provided for frail elders and their caregivers on a sliding fee scale*:
 - Personalized in-home companion care on a regular basis that provides respite for the caregiver
 - Errand running, such as picking up prescriptions, groceries or dry-cleaning to aid the caregiver
 - Educational workshops and support services
 - Telephone consultation to supply caregivers with support, caregiver tips, referrals and other resources

*71% of clients are low-income and receive services free of charge.

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REASONS FOR POSTPONING STUDY UNTIL 2011

- The results of this year's study indicate that it is feasible to replicate the Caregivers Community Network program at other universities or colleges across the state; but some start-up funds will be needed, along with guidance from JMU's CCN staff during the development stage.
- JCHC planned to introduce a budget amendment during the 2011 Session to provide general funds for five demonstration grants to replicate JMU's Caregivers Community Network at other colleges or universities.
- However, it was determined that the demonstration grants need to provide two years of funding to give the schools adequate time to develop and implement the program.
 - First Year: Create and organize the specific components of the program, including a program evaluation plan, a new course in the Nursing Department and student enrollment.
 - Second Year: Implement the program for one full year.
- As a result, the study will be held until next year to correspond with the beginning of the next two-year budget cycle.

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