

## **MANY THINGS NEED TO BE CONSIDERED WHEN MAKING HOUSING DECISIONS FOR YOURSELF OR A LOVED ONE.**

### **Frequently asked questions:**

#### **How do I start my senior housing search?**

Start with your family and friends. Ask people you know if they could recommend a community to you. Go to the Senior Linkage line to research senior housing options, using their online search tool.

Call Senior Linkage Line at 1-800-333-2433 to request a Senior Housing Directory.



#### **What senior housing options are there?**

For a detailed description of your housing options, please research the link below from:

The Metropolitan Area Agency on Aging.

<http://www.tcaging.org/findinghelp/housing.html>

The Alzheimer's Association offers a Senior Housing Finder at:

[http://www.alz.org/we\\_can\\_help\\_senior\\_housing\\_finder.asp](http://www.alz.org/we_can_help_senior_housing_finder.asp)

#### **What steps must I take before moving into assisted living?**

Start your search early. Some communities have lengthy waitlists and it is always better to determine your options before a crisis makes a move necessary. Tour a number of communities. Once you have decided on a community and you have reserved an apartment there are a number of steps you will go through before moving in.

Starting October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2011, the Minnesota Department of Human Services requires those planning a move to a residential building registered as housing-with-services to complete a Mandatory Consultation. Call Senior LinkAge Line at 1-800-333-2433 to complete the interview. After completing this short interview process, you will be given a verification code number that you must provide the staff of the building where you want to move. This Mandatory Consultation must be completed before you sign the lease. In addition, a doctor's order is needed from your primary physician before you can start receiving home care services in an assisted living or memory care assisted living setting. A nursing assessment is offered before your move to assisted living to determine what your care needs are and the estimated cost of home care expenses. Communities typically require a lease signing before you are allowed to move belongings in.

#### **How do I pay for senior housing?**

Most communities are private pay. However, there are a number of county programs in place to help low-income seniors pay for housing and/or services. In an independent senior apartment setting seniors may qualify for The Section 8 Rent Assistance Program, HUD 202/8 Program, or Tax Increment Financing (TIF). In an assisted living setting, lower income individuals with limited assets may qualify for the Elderly Waiver (EW), Alternative Care Grant (AC) or Group Residential Housing (GRH). Please contact the county for more details about eligibility and locations that may offer these programs.

Washington County Intake and Information Line: 651-430-6459

Dakota County Economic Assistance: 651-554-5611

### **Does Medicare pay for senior housing?**

Medicare is a federal program which helps pay for certain care expenses for those over the age of 65, as well as for younger disabled persons. In some circumstances, Medicare will pay for some home care expenses. Medicare does not provide financial coverage for routine care in assisted living settings, or in nursing homes.

### **Will my long-term care policy apply to the cost assisted living?**

It is recommended that you call your long-term care policy to inquire what requirements must be met for you to utilize your insurance benefits in an assisted living community. Typically, the resident must be evaluated to determine their needs. In addition, the facility you choose typically needs to meet certain licensure and services requirements specified in your policy.

### **What is a Health Care Directive and do I need one?**

<http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/fpc/profinfo/advdir.htm>

### **Estate Planning Questions?**

Search for an Elder Law Attorney at:

The National Elderlaw Foundation at [www.nelf.org](http://www.nelf.org)

The National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys, Inc. at <http://www.naela.org/public/>

### **VA Benefits**

For Veterans Health Administration Contact Information go to:

<http://www2.va.gov/directory/guide/state.asp?State=MN&dnum=ALL>

For information on the Compensation and Pension Service go to:

<http://www.vba.va.gov/bln/21/index.htm>

### **Can I use my Medicare Hospice benefit in an assisted living community?**

Yes. Hospice is provided to people in their home, where ever home may be. For more information go to:

<http://www.medicare.gov/Publications/Search/Results.asp?PubID=02154&Type=PubID&Language=English>