

**A Report to the  
US Senate Special Committee on Aging  
April 2003**



# **the Assisted Living Workgroup**

**Assuring Quality in Assisted Living:  
Guidelines for Federal and State Policy,  
State Regulation, and Operations**

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**A Report  
To The  
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From The  
Assisted Living Workgroup**

**April 2003**

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# ***Acknowledgements***

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Cover artwork, titled "*All American*," was done by Lamberto Hechanova a resident of a long term care residence in Jamaica, New York.

# ***Assisted Living Workgroup Participating Organizations***

## **ACCREDITING ORGANIZATIONS**

CARF-CCAC  
Joint Commission on Accreditation of  
Healthcare Organizations

## **AGING/LONG TERM CARE ORGANIZATIONS**

American Geriatrics Society  
National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys  
National Adult Family Care Organization  
National Association of Professional Geriatric  
Care Managers  
National Council on Aging  
Pioneer Network

## **CONSUMER ADVOCATES**

AARP  
American Bar Association Commission on Law  
and Aging  
Alzheimer's Association  
Consumer Consortium on Assisted Living  
Center for Medicare Advocacy  
National Association of Local Long Term Care  
Ombudsmen  
National Association of State Ombudsman  
Programs  
National Association for Continence  
National Citizens' Coalition for Nursing Home  
Reform  
National Committee for the Prevention of Elder  
Abuse  
National Committee to Preserve Social Security  
and Medicare  
National Senior Citizens Law Center  
NCB Development Corporation, The Coming  
Home Program

## **DISABILITY COMMUNITY**

National Multiple Sclerosis Society  
Paralyzed Veterans of America  
United Cerebral Palsy

## **HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS**

American Academy of Home Care Physicians  
American Assisted Living Nurses Association  
American College of Health Care Administrators  
American Medical Directors Association  
American Occupational Therapy Association  
American Physical Therapy Association  
American Society of Consultant Pharmacists  
Consultant Dietitians in Health Care Facilities  
National Association of Activity Professionals  
National Association of Social Workers  
National Network of Career Nursing Assistants  
National Conference of Gerontological Nurse  
Practitioners  
National Hospice and Palliative Care  
Organization

## **PROVIDER ASSOCIATIONS**

American Association of Homes and Services for  
the Aging  
American Association of Service Coordinators  
American Seniors Housing Association  
Assisted Living Federation of America  
Catholic Health Association of the United States  
National Association for Home Care  
National Center for Assisted Living

## **REGULATOR ASSOCIATIONS**

Association of Health Facility Survey Agencies  
National Association for Regulatory  
Administration

## **STATE/LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

National Association of State Units on Aging

## **OTHER**

American Institute of Architects

# ***Assisted Living Workgroup Steering Committee***

AARP

American Assisted Living Nurses Association

American Association of Homes and Services for the Aging

American Medical Directors Association

American Seniors Housing Association

Assisted Living Federation of America

Association of Health Facility Survey Agencies

Consumer Consortium on Assisted Living

National Association of State Ombudsmen Programs

National Center for Assisted Living

National Citizens' Coalition for Nursing Home Reform

The NCB Development Corporation/Coming Home Project

Pioneer Network



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# ***Introduction***

As a result of the April 2001 hearing held by the U.S. Senate Special Committee on Aging, committee staff members asked assisted living stakeholders to develop recommendations designed to ensure more consistent quality in assisted living services nationwide. The primary directive was to be inclusive and permit any interested national organization to participate in the endeavor. Shortly thereafter, a core group of assisted living stakeholders extended invitations to numerous national organizations. Subsequently, the Assisted Living Workgroup formed with nearly 50 organizations representing providers, consumers, long term care and health care professionals, regulators and accrediting bodies. Meetings on assisted living and the development of recommendations began in Fall 2001.

The ALW identified overarching interests or principles that all topic groups were to consider. Those interests were:

- Quality Indicators
- Dementia Care
- Outcome Measures
- Accountability
- Regulations & Legislation
- Facility Size
- Research
- Best Practices
- Affordability

Much of the ALW's early work focused on developing the rules and processes under which the ALW would operate, including a four-stage approval process for recommendations. After much discussion, it was decided that a two-thirds majority vote of the participating organizations present (or through written proxy) at a full ALW meeting was necessary to move a recommendation forward to the next stage of the ALW's four-stage approval process. Many recommendations were significantly modified as they moved through the development stages. Each approved recommendation was voted on at least three times by the organizational representatives present at the full monthly ALW meetings.

The chapters in this report are organized by ALW topic group. In each chapter, both recommendations that received a two-thirds majority vote of the ALW participating organizations voting at the meeting and those that did not are included. Recommendations receiving two-thirds majority support appear first in each chapter; recommendations that did not receive two-thirds majority support follow.

Voting records are included for all approved recommendations and for those that failed in the last stage of the ALW voting process (on the third and final vote). Recommendations that failed earlier in the ALW process are included but do not have voting records. Finally, it should be noted that an organization was allowed to change its initial vote on a recommendation after the full report was compiled. However, the ALW determined that such vote changes would not affect whether the recommendation is listed as receiving a two-thirds majority.

The ALW also allowed participating organizations to submit supplemental positions on any recommendation published in this report. Supplemental positions were limited to 500 words and required a minimum of two organizational signatories.

Finally, the appendices at the end of the report include three additional resources. Many topic groups made recommendations for operational models or best practices that have been included as Appendix A. These recommendations were not voted on by the full ALW, but are included for the reader's information. Appendix B is a list of recommendations by topic group. Appendix C is a glossary of terms used in the report.

This report was requested by the U.S. Senate Special Committee on Aging, but is intended to be useful to a broad range of stakeholders, including:

- policymakers at the federal and state levels;
- agencies at the federal and state levels that are involved in service delivery, regulation, quality monitoring and enforcement, and providing public subsidies;
- consumers and their families;
- assisted living providers;
- health and long term care professionals, such as nurses, medical directors, pharmacists, social workers, activity directors, nutritionists, etc.;
- insurers, both public and private;
- financiers, both public and private; and
- public policy researchers.

### **Contact Information**

For further information about the ALW, please check the Web site, [alworkgroup.org](http://alworkgroup.org), or send an e-mail with questions to [info@alworkgroup.org](mailto:info@alworkgroup.org). Written inquiries can be addressed to Assisted Living Workgroup, 2519 Connecticut Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20008.

