



[Important Dates](#)

[A Note From Cathy](#)

[Words from Tammy](#)

[Question of the Month](#)

[Noteworthy](#)

Issue 36, April 2016

# TM COMMUNICATOR

## Important Dates

- May 3, 2015 (2:00 - 4:00pm) - Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Money Follows the Person national team visit. Transition Managers, Nurse Reviewers, and Quality of Life Staff round table  
Medicaid Office - Elder Street Office (3232 Elder Street, Boise, ID 83705)

## A Note From Cathy

As we are well into another wonderful Idaho Home Choice year, I would like to remind you of a few things that we need to keep in mind when working with participants and billing for our time and services;

- Please remember to send complete and readable receipts with Request for Payment forms.
- Please remember to spend ONLY \$75 on groceries.
- Please remember that each expenditure is reviewed for risk and potential federal audit.
- Please remember that you are the conduit to the \$2000 each participant is approved for. The only way to access those funds is through an approved Transition Manager who has agreed to be reimbursed for all expenses.
- Please remember to budget time and money for potential situations that may arise in the 365 days following discharge.

## WORDS FROM TAMMY

Since perception can vary from one individual to another, I thought it would be a good time to share a story with everyone about one of our participants. This young gentleman (under 40 years old) has quadriplegia and a traumatic brain injury. He had been in a skilled nursing facility since March 2012 but very much wanted to live independently. He was becoming depressed watching those around him become sicker, and as the days went, many passing away. When he found out about Idaho Home Choice, he was very excited about the possibilities. The odds were stacked against him, however, as no one else thought he had any chance or option of living independently. The discharge planner at the Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF) said there was no way he could make it on his own. The nurse reviewer had significant concerns about his health and safety and recommended that he remain in an institutional setting. The IHC Transition Manager agreed he had the right to try, but she too thought he would most likely fail. His mother even proceeded to obtain emergency temporary guardianship of him to stop him from moving out of the SNF. She was awarded the temporary guardianship and was successful at blocking his move. He was heartbroken. He remained in the SNF but was adamant about petitioning the court to be his own guardian. Three months had passed and the Temporary Guardianship expired. His mother failed to prove he needed a guardian and, subsequently, he became his own guardian. He began the transition process once again. His baseline Quality of Life Survey indicated he wanted to enjoy simple things like eating what and when he wanted and staying up as late as he wanted. He ended up transitioning out of the SNF on July 31, 2013. Everyone involved was sure that he would fail at this transition and most bet that he would not make it even a month. He chose provider agencies in his community to help with his daily care needs. Recently, I received a 24-month Quality of Life Survey on this gentleman and was filled with surprise to read the report. He is still living in the community in the original apartment he had obtained through the Idaho Home Choice program. He is doing great! His survey indicates that not only is he happy but very happy! He is in charge of his own life and has embraced independent living. I am confident that all of the individuals who worked with this gentleman only had his best interests at heart, but their perception of him was very different than his own perception of himself. While we only wish the best for all of those we serve, it is important to remember that respecting individual autonomy is sometimes the best service we can give.



### Question of the Month: *Can I lend a participant money?*

NO! This breaks the rule of giving or receiving money from a participant. Maybe it's as innocent as helping a participant purchase something while the two or your are out shopping (even if they pay you back as soon as you return from the outing)... It can potentially be misconstrued and that would put your professional reputation and the Idaho Home Choice Program into question. Avoid all potential for fraudulent interpretation by simply refraining from these actions.

### Noteworthy!

~ **Thanks to you, we are on schedule to meet our 2016 Benchmark goals!!** ~

**As of 4/12/2016**

**We have transitioned...**

**350**

[Back to the Top](#)

