Akron/Canton Area Agency on Aging
Regional Community-Based Care Transitions Program

Affinity Hospital, Aultman Hospital, and Mercy Medical Center in Stark County; Akron General Medical Center, Summa Akron City Hospital, Summa Saint Thomas Hospital, Summa Barberton Hospital, and Summa Western Reserve Hospital in Summit County; Robinson Memorial Hospital in Portage County; and Summa Wadsworth Rittman Hospital in Medina County.

OUR TARGET POPULATION

An expert panel comprised of representatives from each hospital was convened by ARHA to examine the causal issues surrounding the readmissions data. The panel assessed the readmissions issue and decided to target patients with primary diagnoses of AMI, HF, and PNEU. Further, data indicated Lack of patient compliance with the discharge plan (e.g., medication management); and lack of timely follow up with medical professionals as key causes. The expert panel’s review and their conclusions lent themselves to the Coleman Model (CTI) coaching intervention, since these root causes stem from discharge planning that is well-designed, but limited in scope.

OUR IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

All 10 respective hospitals participating herein have agreed to utilize the evidence-based CTP™ model to provide care transition coaching to appropriate patients discharged from the hospital. This model is based on Care Transition Initiative of Dr. Eric Coleman of the University of Colorado. We will also incorporate best practices learned through our other care transition experiences.

Being designated as an Aging Disability Resource Center (ADRC) by the Ohio Department of Aging, as well as having experience in care transitions coaching, A/C AAA is in a unique position to achieve multiple goals:

• Reduce hospital readmissions;
• Help patients access long term care;
• Achieve nursing home diversions; and
• Combine A/C AAA expertise on community-based care with the Transitions Coaching program, thus empowering patients to better manage their own chronic conditions remain in the community.

In addition, by expanding A/C AAA services to consumers who are not currently eligible for care through government programs, both dual-eligible and non-Medicaid older adults are provided home and community-based options as well as offered Chronic Disease Self-Management Programs.