



## **Better Communication, Better Healthcare**

### **Future Vision for Development**

#### **Recommendation**

It is recommended that the State of Illinois and all hospitals consider the development and implementation of a system of Transitional Care Nurses. Both the nurses in hospitals and the nurses who work in the organizations that provide residential services for people with Intellectual Disabilities could be educated. Those residential service providers who have nurses on staff may choose to have their nurse(s) receive the education and certification for Transitional Care Nurse in caring for the individuals they serve. Because of their experience in working with the unique needs of people with Intellectual Disabilities, the benefits would be even greater. A Transitional Care Model developed by Naylor and Associates in Pennsylvania has shown benefits in reducing hospital readmissions, improving outcomes after discharge from hospitals, and improved satisfaction with care.

#### **Goal**

The goal of the Transitional Care Nurses system is to:

1. Enhance the effectiveness of the health care delivery team.
2. Provide services designed to streamline plans of care.
3. Interrupt patterns of frequent hospital or emergency department use and health status decline.

To these ends the Transitional Care Nurse would collaborate with physicians and others in the healthcare team to coordinate inpatient and discharge plans. The Transitional Care Nurse would monitor the individual after discharge and educate direct care staff to supporting the new health needs of the individual. The Transitional Care Nurse would also accompany the individual on his/her first post-discharge visit with the physician.

#### **Objective**

The Transitional Care Nurses system will reduce hospital visits for conditions that could be treated in the outpatient setting, which not only reduces costs, frees up resources, but also allows for a more successful life for the individual, and increases direct care staff confidence in their work.