

ALMOST HOME

ALMOST HOME, a PBS documentary chronicling a year in the life of a retirement community implementing “culture change”, will be aired on public television stations nation-wide on Tuesday, February 21, 2006. NCCNHR is a national partner organization for this project. The broadcast of the program will take place in conjunction with community events in various localities around the country. The documentary and events surrounding its broadcast will bring much needed national attention to “culture change.” This program provides an opportunity for ombudsman, advocates, residents, and family members to add their voices to the issues surrounding culture change and how they see its impact on the quality of care and quality of life for residents in long-term care facilities.

The Almost Home website, www.almosthomedoc.org, has information on the public television stations organizing community events, essays, interviews, discussion guides, resources, and additional film clips. If you would like to organize an event prior to February 21, 2006, the airing date, DVD's are available at no charge prior to the broadcast by contacting Lauren Burke at laburke@uwm.edu or at 414.229.2890

NCCNHR encourages you to participate in the community events already organized if one is available in your area. Some other ways you may want to use the airing of the program include:

1. Publicizing the program to your family or resident council and discussing the program DVD at family council or resident council meetings to illicit reaction to the program and to “culture change”.
2. Ombudsman programs solicit feedback from ombudsmen and the public about their reaction to the show and how “culture change” would impact the residents they serve.
3. Screen the DVD at your next advocacy group meeting and discuss ways your group can be involved with culture change at facilities in your communities.
4. Use your groups' listserv or email lists to solicit reaction after the airing of the program on February 21.
5. Reach out to other organizations such as state legislative groups working on senior issues, provider groups, QIO's, and legislators, to make people aware of the program. Use this opportunity to have an open dialogue with these groups about “culture change” and if and how it can happen at facilities in your area.

These are just some suggestions. Please be creative about how you and your group may want to use this opportunity to bring the advocate voice to “culture change.”

Watch **ALMOST HOME**, Tuesday, February 21, 2006 at 10 p.m. ET. (Check local listings.)