



The National

CONSUMER VOICE

for Quality Long-Term Care

formerly NCCNHR

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# A WEBINAR ON THE REVISED NURSING HOME VISITATION GUIDANCE

March 12, 2021

# Agenda

- I. Introduction and Moment of Silence
- II. Overview of Revised Guidance
- III. Q&A with Evan Shulman
- IV. Initial Thoughts About the Guidance
- V. Next Steps

# Presenters

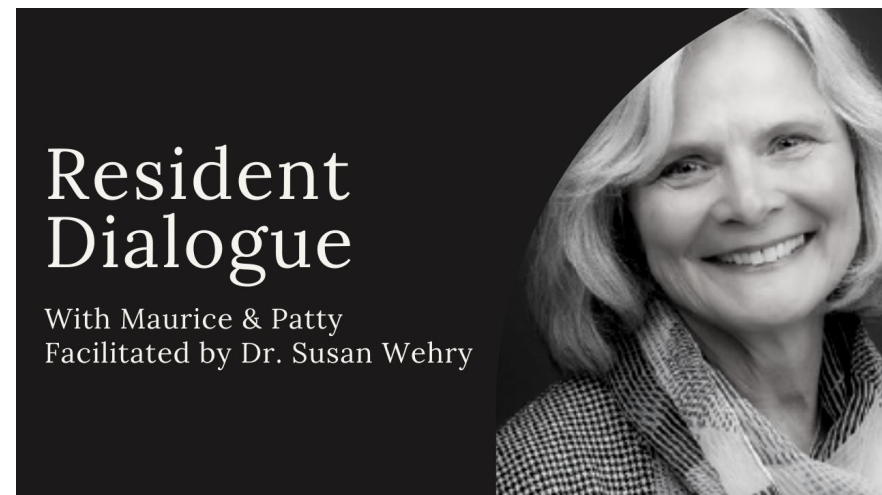
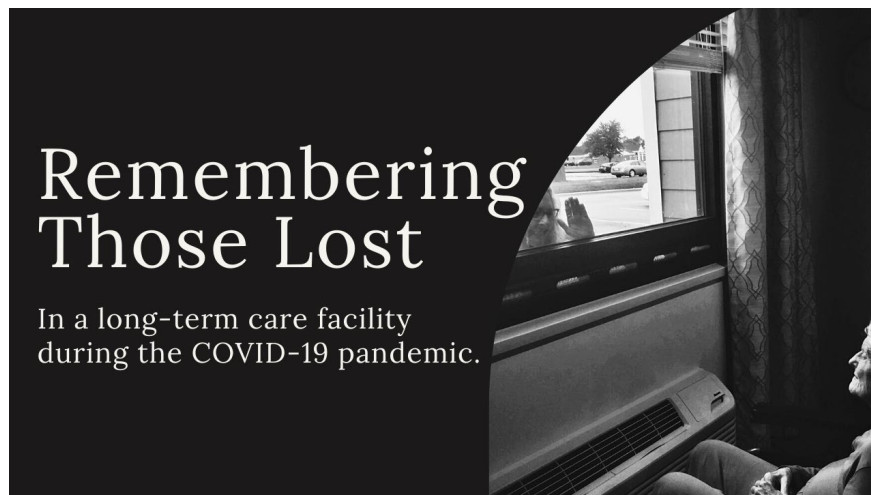
- Lori Smetanka, Executive Director, National Consumer Voice for Quality Long-Term Care
- Evan Shulman, Director, Division of Nursing Homes, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
- Jocelyn Bogdan, Program & Policy Specialist, National Consumer Voice for Quality Long-Term Care
- Robyn Grant, Director of Public Policy & Advocacy, National Consumer Voice for Quality Long-Term Care





# A Year of Lockdown and Loss Webpage

- Join us in honoring and remembering those we've lost and hear directly from residents and family members about their experiences during the lockdown.
- To view the full memorial video and a resident dialogue facilitated by Dr. Susan Wehry, visit:
  - <https://theconsumervoice.org/issues/other-issues-and-resources/covid-19/year-of-lockdown>



# Overview of CMS Revised Visitation Guidance



Evan Shulman

Director, Division of Nursing Homes  
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid  
Services

# Initial Questions from Consumer Voice



- Enforcement
- State Implementation
- Essential Support  
Person/Compassionate Care
- Outbreaks
- Quarantine

(Put your questions in the Q&A box)



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# MARCH 10 CMS GUIDANCE: INITIAL THOUGHTS

Thank  
You!

# Positive Change #1

An outbreak or a county positivity rate over 10% will NOT bar all residents from having visitors

- Visitation will be limited only for:
  - Unvaccinated residents, if the nursing home's COVID-19 county positivity rate is >10% **and** <70% of residents in the facility are fully vaccinated
  - Residents with confirmed COVID-19 infection
  - Residents in quarantine

## Positive Change #2

A confirmed case of COVID within the past 14 days will NOT shut down visitation for all residents

- If a case of COVID is confirmed in a particular unit or area and the first round of outbreak testing finds no other cases on any other units – visitation will be shut down for that unit only



# Other positives



In general, visitation is not tied to vaccination for residents

Visitors are not required to be vaccinated or tested

Personal touch is permitted

- Residents who are fully vaccinated can choose to have close contact
- Must wear a well-fitting face mask and perform hand hygiene before and after





# Concern #1

- No establishment of an Essential Support Person
- Allows facilities to take actions that would prevent visits for providing care/support

## Concern # 2

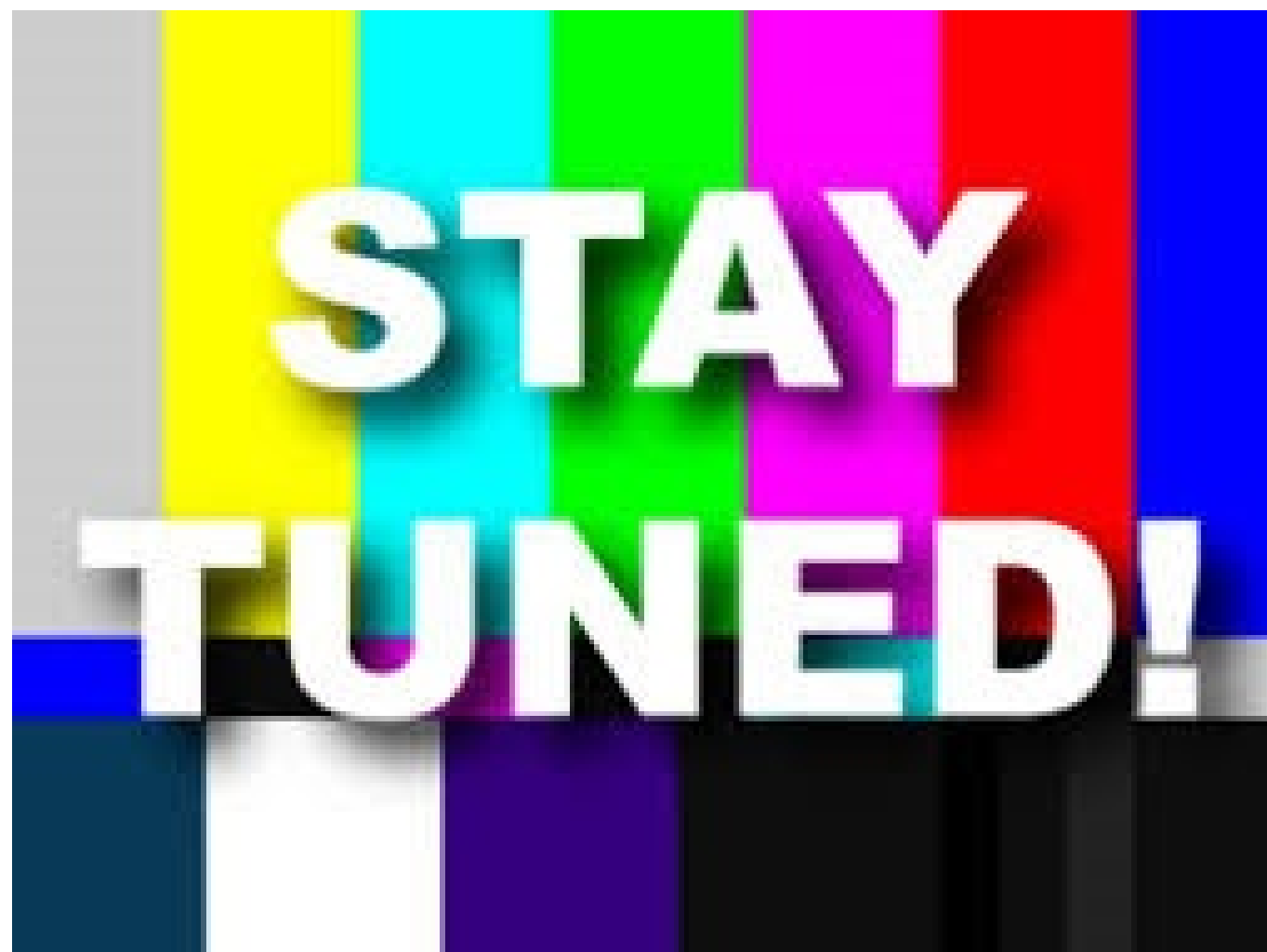
- *Shoulds!!*
- Inadequate or lack of enforcement

**WHERE DO WE GO  
FROM HERE?**

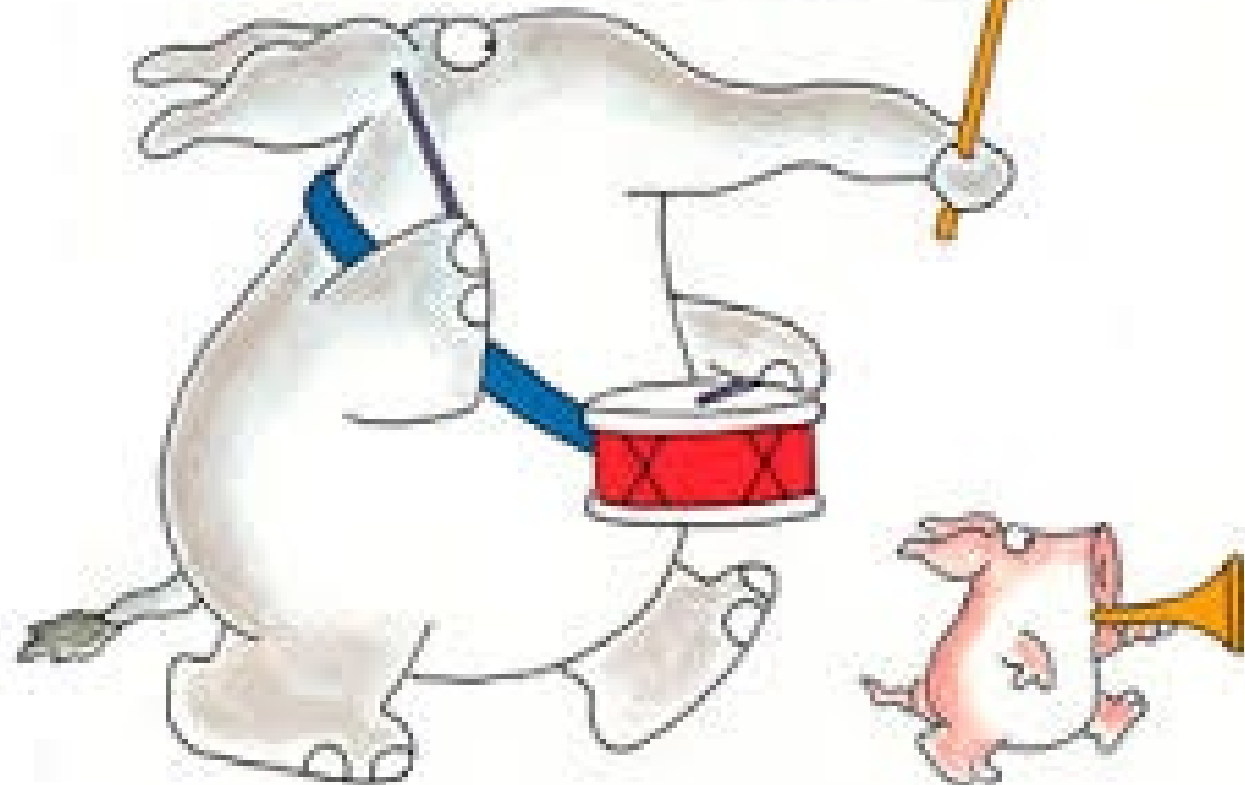


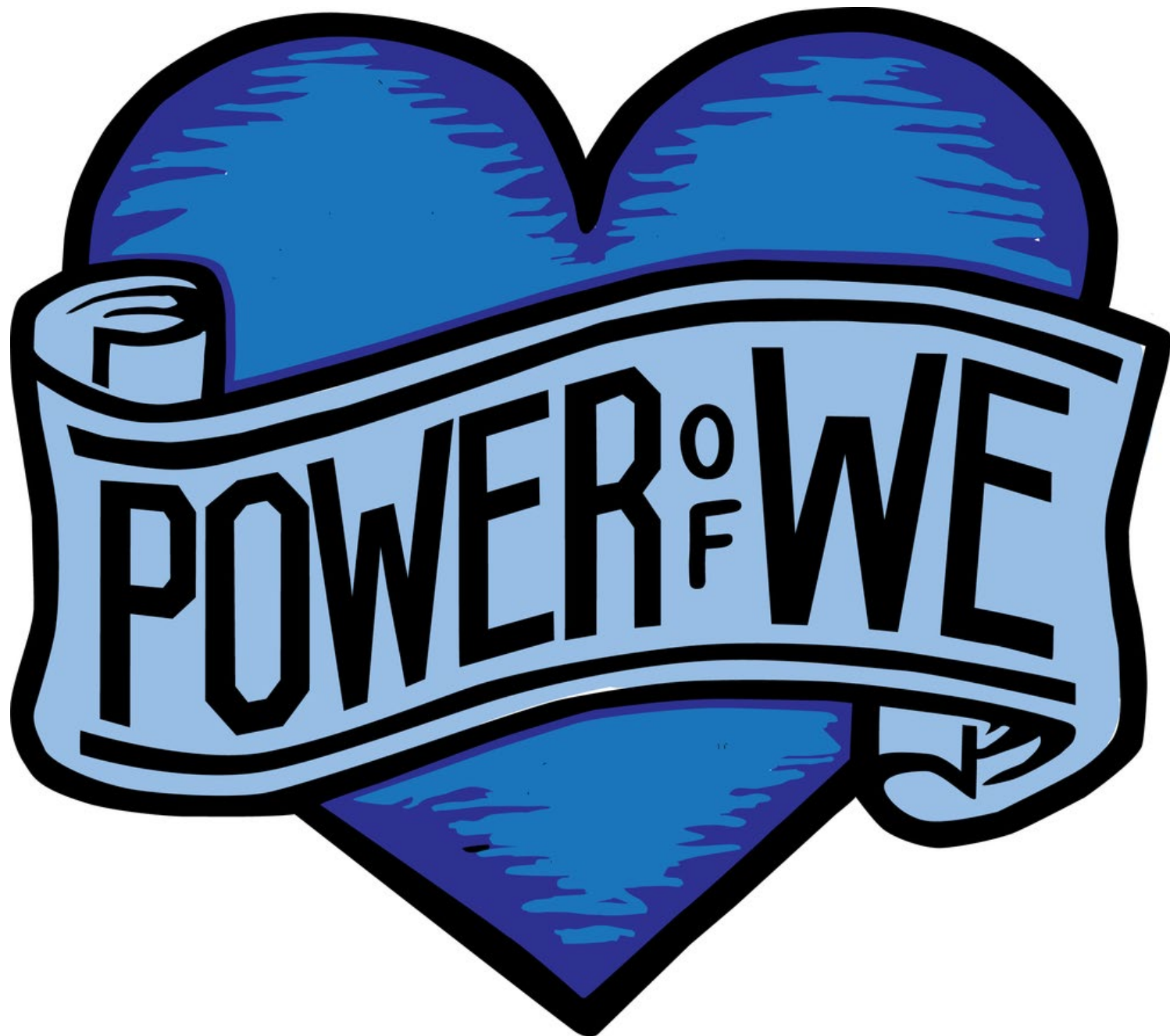
# Next steps

- Take a deep dive into the guidance
- Inform and educate about the revisions
  - Webinar!
- Educate and equip residents and families to use the guidance
- Re-assess and determine our national advocacy goals and strategies



YAY, YOU!











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