

# THE LONG TERM CARE DISCUSSION GROUP

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A VOLUNTARY INDEPENDENT GROUP THAT MEETS SOLELY FOR THE PURPOSE  
OF EDUCATING THE POLICY COMMUNITY ON ALL FACETS OF LONG TERM CARE

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**Thursday, July 23, 2015  
11:00 a.m. Eastern Time**

**America's Health Insurance Plans (AHIP)  
601 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20005**

**Improving Care and Quality of Living  
Near the End of Life**

**Speakers: Judith Peres, Clinical Social Worker & Policy Consultant  
and  
Marvin Figueroa, Staff of Sen. Mark Warner**

In September 2014, the Institute of Medicine (IOM) released a major report identifying deeply entrenched problems concerning the type of health services and long term care Americans receive toward the end of their lives. Entitled *Dying in America: Improving Quality and Honoring Individual Preferences Near the End of Life*, the report also offers recommendations for change.

In addition to pressure caused by the rapidly rising number of elderly people with complex needs, the IOM documents an American health care system that "is increasingly burdened by factors that hamper delivery of high-quality care near the end of life, including:

- 1) barriers in access to care that disadvantage certain groups;
- 2) a mismatch between the services patients and families need and the services they can obtain;
- 3) increasingly inadequate numbers of palliative care specialists and too little palliative care knowledge among other clinicians who care for individuals with serious advanced illness; and
- 4) a fragmented care delivery system, spurred by perverse financial incentives, that contributes to the lack of service coordination across programs and unsustainable growth in costs."

At this session, Judy Peres, one of the IOM "Dying in America" Committee members, will provide an overview of the report's findings and recommendations and discuss developments in the surrounding policy environment. Marvin Figueroa will discuss

prospects for legislative change including “The Care Planning Act” introduced by Senators Johnny Isakson (R-GA) and Mark Warner (D-VA). The bipartisan legislation is designed to give people with serious illness the freedom to make more informed choices about their care, and the power to have those choices honored.

**Judith Peres** is an expert consultant in the nursing home and palliative end-of-life care areas and a clinical social worker serving Medicare beneficiaries. Her career spans more than four decades in both health policy and direct clinical work. She recently worked as a senior policy analyst at the Altarum Institute’s Center for Elder Care and Advanced Illness. She also worked for five years with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services in the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation.

**Marvin Figueroa** has served as a legislative aide for Sen. Mark Warner since 2011, and is now the senior advisor on education and health care. He received a Master’s Degree from Harvard University, and a Bachelor’s Degree in Political Science from Vanderbilt University. Figueroa was born in Honduras and raised in the Bronx.

Please RSVP to Jenifer Allen at [jenifer.allen@ltcg.com](mailto:jenifer.allen@ltcg.com)

***PLEASE NOTE: AHIP has enacted new security procedures. You MUST RSVP, by end of day May 1<sup>st</sup> to the meeting, so we can pre-register you to enter our office. When you arrive, please give your name to the front desk. They will check you in and give you a badge. You can then proceed to the 5th floor. If you do not RSVP, you will need to register and show a photo I.D. card at the front desk before you proceed to the AHIP office.***

**Long Term Care Discussion Group Co-Chairs:  
Susan Coronel, John Cutler, Hunter McKay, Karl Polzer, Jill Randolph, and  
Eileen J. Tell**

**Long Term Care Discussion Group meetings are intended as forums for candid discussion. Dialogue and comments made during these meetings should be treated as off the record.**

***For more information about the Long Term Care Discussion Group, and to access materials and information relating to previous meetings, visit [www.ltcdiscussiongroup.org](http://www.ltcdiscussiongroup.org).***