

The Importance of Celebration

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By Dr. Robert A. Fazzi

Given all that is happening in home care, what words would you use to finish the following well-known song? 'Tis the season to be...

For many home care professionals, it's hard to think of any jolly words to use with this song. It is even harder to think of celebrating. As we enter the new era of the Medicare Interim Payment System (IPS), many home care administrators are now saying, "What's to celebrate?" Maybe a lot!

The Need to Celebrate

It is true that many home care agencies are facing incredible challenges. It is also true that even during challenging times, there is much that should be recognized and celebrated. Now more than ever, staff deserve the chance to reflect on what we truly have to be thankful for, what makes us special, and what really matters.

We need to celebrate what truly is important: The dedication of nurses, aides, and our therapy professionals who are out in the field every day making a difference in lives of homebound patients; office staff who are working to the max to keep their agencies humming along; supervisors and managers who are bustling so that services will continue, even during difficult times; and board members who are giving their time and creativity for the betterment of the agency and the people it serves.

Celebration, particularly during this season of important events, provides us with the opportunity to do more than simply recognize the season. Celebrations offer us the opportunity to honor people, to mark significant events, or to remember important anniversaries. Through celebrations, we feel connected to our families, our cultures, our communities, and our history. Celebrations bring us together and give us a focus larger than our daily routine.

And what better time to think about celebration than the holidays, a time of thanksgiving and spiritual reflection? You can celebrate the season. Celebrate the contributions of your staff. Have staff from different cultures and ethnicities share their traditions. Use food, humor, or storytelling. Decorate the office. Have some form of seasonal party. Whatever you do, you want the celebration to be something that staff feel good about and that strengthens their appreciation of their agency.

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