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NEWS RELEASE

Mouth Care Matters Phase II Grant Awarded to Iowa CareGivers by Retirement Research Foundation For Immediate Release

Iowa CareGivers, (IC), the non-profit, non-partisan and independent voice for Iowa's direct care workers, is pleased to announce it was recently awarded a \$126,573, 18-month grant from The Retirement Research Foundation (RRF). Grant funding will support Phase II of the popular evidence-based Mouth Care Matters (MCM) oral health training program for direct care staff such as home care aides and nursing assistants as well as, nurses, social workers, dietitians, and other staff.

The goal of MCM Phase II is to increase access to optimal oral care for older Iowans in home and community based service (HCBS) settings through systemic changes that integrate and sustain good oral care practices. Tested will be a model for integration of the comprehensive MCM Program into home and community-based settings which builds upon the accomplishments of Phase I. Included in the program are: MCM training for nurses or direct supervisors of direct care staff; training of the direct care staff; in-services; ongoing technical assistance in the utilization of oral health assessment policies and procedures; and oral health campaign toolkits. The provider partners include Home Instead, Senior Housing Management, and Western Home Communities including the Madrid Home. The evaluation will be led by the University of Iowa's National Center for Family Centered Practice, the University of Iowa College of Dentistry, and the Iowa Healthcare Collaborative.

Naomi Stanhaus, Program Consultant, RRF, said, "The Retirement Research Foundation places a high priority on supporting initiatives that focus on long-term systemic change to improve the quality of life for older people, and we believe that MCM has the capacity to accomplish that."

"The Retirement Research Foundation is one of the first private foundations devoted exclusively to aging and retirement issues. Their mission is to improve the quality of life for older people. They have a long and impressive history of supporting many worthwhile initiatives and we are honored to be selected to receive the MCM Phase II grant," said Di Findley, Executive Director of IC.

The mission of Iowa CareGivers is to enhance care and support of Iowans by providing education, research, recognition, and advocacy for those who provide direct care. The organization's purpose is to support the direct care workforce so they, in turn, are there to support Iowans and their families in times of need. IC's programs and services include statewide and regional educational conferences; website, social media and newsletters; mentor, leadership and other training opportunities; recruitment resources; research studies and recognition programs. Visit www.iowacaregivers.org for more information or call 515-223-2805.

